

MAKING THE COUNTRY SUNDAY SCHOOL A SUCCESS

VII.—Some Ways of Working in the Sunday School—Plans to Promote Giving, Attendance, Church Attendance, the Social Features, Etc.

ONE feature of the Sunday school work, and a most important one, is the plan of regular, systematic giving in the classes. Training the school to give is no little part of the superintendent's duties in the modern Sunday school. There are several devices to encourage giving on the part of the pupils, such as the glass bank, the iron man bank, etc., etc. In the school which the writer attends an iron man bank is used, and it is a pleasure to watch the children as they drop their pennies and nickels in his hand and watch him bow his thanks as they do so. If you have never tried this plan, or something similar to it, endeavor to put it in operation this year and watch your collections grow. You will be surprised and delighted at the results. Another plan, and an old and tried one, is the mite box collector. I now recall one Sunday school which raised by this plan a large part of the organ fund. Another excellent device is the collection thermometer, which has given good results wherever used.



MR. WRIGHT

Another plan for raising funds for the expenses of the school is the school and department birthday system. Why should not birthdays be celebrated? Few families there are that do not keep birthdays. The example was set far back in olden times. The Sunday school, being a family, has joy at birthdays. The practice of giving as many pennies as one is years old is an excellent one, and one of which the class or the school never tires. In some schools they have a regular birthday celebration, once a month, or once a quarter, when all who have had birthdays in that time meet and deposit their pennies in the birthday bank. The usual custom, however, is to celebrate the birthdays on the Sunday following. Ordinarily there will be few Sundays, if any at all, when there happens to be no birth to celebrate.

Some Sunday schools have adopted what is known as church attendance helps. These in the hands of a good committee appointed by the school for this special purpose will prove a great help. Other schools use in the Junior department what is known as pledge cards which are used to aid in securing the attendance of the juniors at the church service. Some schools have what are called "Leagues of Worshipping Children", which is a plan to encourage church attendance of the children. Other schools have a "Messenger Service." This is an organization of picked boys whose work is to aid the school in one or more departments and in various ways.

Some schools have what is known as "Booster Post Cards" for increasing the interest in the work. Others have a standard of excellence to be reached as an incentive to greater efforts on the part of the pupils. In one of the leading denominations in the South this standard of excellence consists of ten things required, some of which are normal diplomas for the teachers, the school graded, to be perennial, under church control and to hold regular teachers' meetings. The Sunday school board gives to all schools meeting these requirements the Al award for one year, and these schools have honorable mention in the Sunday School annual of that denomination.

Another way to promote interest in the work of the school is to have a banner which is to be competed for each month or quarter as is desired

by the school. The class making the largest collection for the period or leading the school in any special activity is known as the Star Class, and keeps the banner until it is won by another class. Some schools have more than one banner, one for collections, one for new scholars and still another for attendance.

Another way of working in the Sunday school is to have ice cream suppers if in the summer or fall, and oyster suppers in the colder weather. These occasions are always announced sometime beforehand, and it is always a source of much happiness to the pupils to look forward to these.

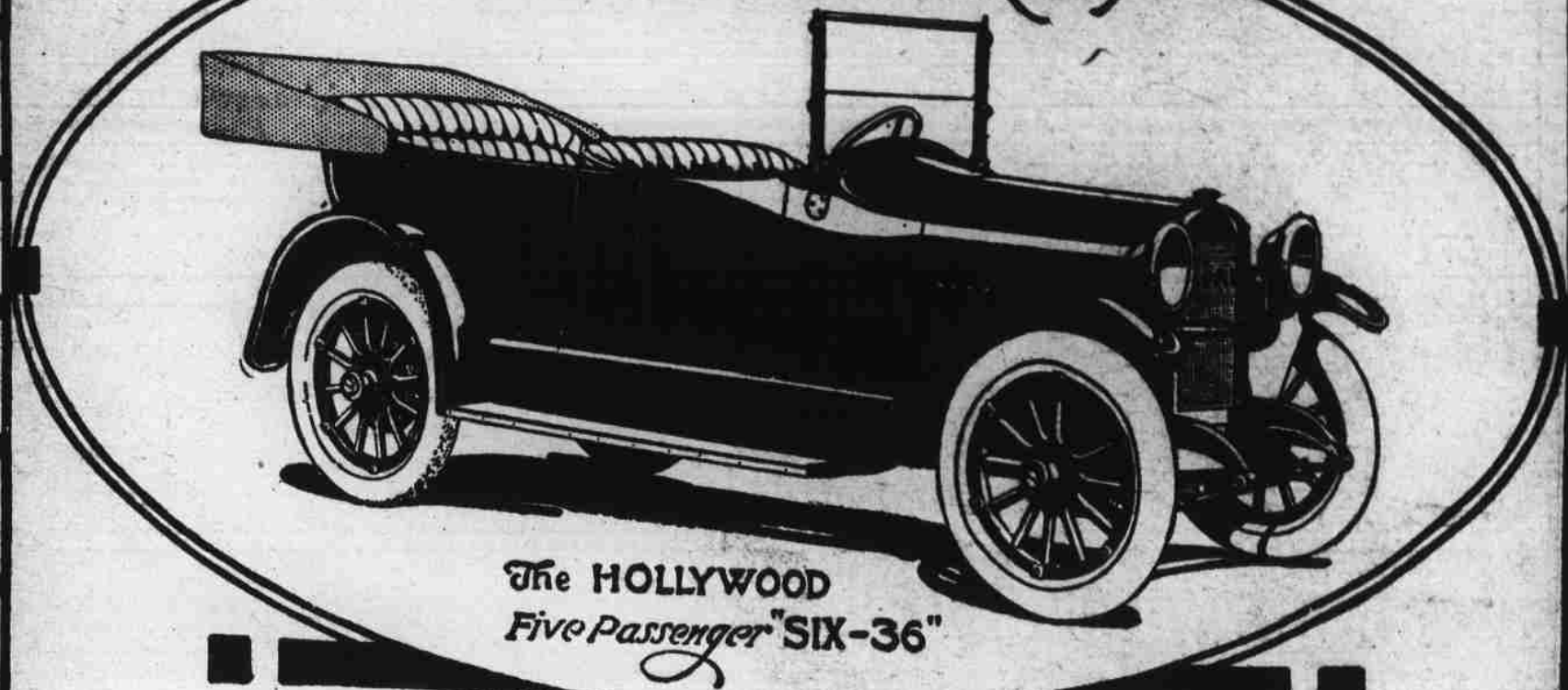
Another way of working, and the last one which we shall mention here, last, but by no means least, is the custom of having, at stated intervals or otherwise, picnics when the whole school takes a holiday and gives the little ones a good time. Sometimes we have class-picnics in the school. In this case the teachers should always attend to look after the welfare of the pupils.

In the next letter in this series of articles on the country Sunday school we shall treat, at least in part, of the work of the Sunday school and of its importance in the proper solution of the problems which confront us in our efforts to better existing conditions around and about us.

C. C. W.

"Well, Dinah, I hear you are married."
"Yassum," said the former cook, "Ise done got me a man now."
"He a good provider?"
"Yassum, he's a mighty good pervider, but Ise powerful skeered he's gwine ter git koted at it."—The Birmingham Age-Herald.

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Grade Market Potatoes Carefully

THE Progressive Farmer keeps insisting, and all marketing authorities insist, upon the importance of careful grading in the marketing of all farm products. A new bulletin just issued by Cornell University gives advice to New York potato growers which all Southern growers will find it will pay them to keep in mind when offering potatoes for sale.

"Owing to the low prices which farmers received for their potato crop during the past season, and the present poor condition of the crop, this fall is a particularly opportune time for careful sorting and grading. By sorting out tubers showing evidence of blight at digging time, much further infection by contact may be avoided. By grading the tubers into standard grades and discarding or feeding the culls, the consumer will get a better product which ought to result in a stimulated sale. There are numerous potato sorters now on the market which make two or three grades of market potatoes besides culls. These machines are not expensive and may be used in the field at the time of picking up the crop making it possible to haul direct from the field to market. The standard first grade established by an especially appointed commission at Chicago and recognized by most of the potato buying and selling exchanges of the country includes all tubers which will pass over a chain mesh of 1-7/8 inches diameter."

Don't overlook "The Prisoner of Zenda."

"I Buy 'em by the Buckle"



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