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## Making the Sunday School a Success

### IV.—The Observance of Special Days.—These Increase Interest and Offer an Opportunity for Each Class of Pupils to Participate.

Christmas recognize the supreme importance of attracting the children to the Sunday school and so bringing them directly under an influence to which, perhaps more than to any other one human instrumentality, the church of the future must owe its existence. "The Sunday school is the nursery of the church," is an old but none the less true saying. Statisticians tell us, if I mistake not, that at least 90 per cent of all the accessions to the churches of this country come from the ranks of the Sunday school. If this statement be true, and it has not been questioned, how very important it is to make the Sunday school services so attractive that the children may be pleasantly entertained as well as instructed.

Among the many ways of keeping up the interest of the children in the work is the observance of special days in the school. Among those which I shall mention here as being worthy of observance is; first, "Anniversary Day." Much may be done through remembering anniversaries to encourage class and school loyalty. Helps have been prepared by the Sunday school publishing houses which make the work of preparing for these occasions simple and insure large results.

Another special day is known as "Anti cigarette Day." This day is now officially recognized by the International Sunday School Association, and the time for its celebration for each year well advertised in advance. Buttons have been prepared by some of the Sunday school supply houses to be worn by the boys on these occasions. In some respects the wearing of this button is more satisfactory than simply signing the pledge. The wearer shows his colors, while the pledge is not seen by others.

**SPECIAL DAYS FOR THE YOUNG FOLKS**  
Another special day is "Boys' Day." The introduction of this feature in the schools has proved quite a decided success, arousing interest, increasing attendance and adding to the membership. On "Boys' Day" the boys and young men have charge of the general exercises, and each feature introduced is on the masculine order. It is customary on these occasions to send announcements and invitations to old friends and absentees to be present. Badges are given to those who, on the previous Sunday, will promise to work for the success of the occasion will help in securing visitors and in rounding up absentees, etc. etc.

"Girls' Day" is another occasion which quite a number of schools of late are celebrating. On these days the girls and young ladies have charge of the work and each feature introduced is such as they usually delight in. The "Girls' Day" colors are blue and white. Booklets containing suggested exercises for these and for "Boys' Day" together with appropriate decorations may be obtained for almost a song.

Perhaps one of the most important of these special days is "Children's Day." This is observed on the second Sunday in June of each year, and is, in all probability, the most generally observed of all the special days named. On these occasions the star feature is the exercises by the children and younger members of the Sunday school and the collection which is usually taken at the close of the program is forwarded to the mission boards of the denomination for the purpose of purchasing Bibles to give to those who are unable to buy them.

Another special day which is observed in nearly all of the schools is Easter. This day is ordinarily observed with appropriate exercises consisting of recitations, declamations, readings and songs pertaining to this holy festival.

Another special observance in the average Sunday school is "Missionary Day." This, unlike the others which have been mentioned, is observed each quarter in the year. It is customary for a committee to have general

charge of this work and to see that it is always conducted in the interest of missions, the pastor being expected to be present and make a talk. The funds obtained are sent to the mission boards of the denomination participating.

The last Sunday in September is usually chosen as "Rally Day." This is the time for a grand round up after the summer vacation. This occasion, if properly managed by the superintendent and teachers, can be made a gala day for the Sunday school. I want to urge its observance in places where it never has been tried, as I feel that much good may be accomplished by the proper observance of this special day.

Other special days commonly observed in the Sunday school are as follows:

**Red Letter Day.**—All special occasions of the Sunday school may be called Red Letter Days. It is common however to provide an occasional day when some speaker or singer or other attraction is secured and to advertise this as Red Letter Day.

**Temperance Day.**—This, like Missionary Day, is observed once each quarter in the year.

**Valentine Day and Washington's Birthday** are celebrated in a great many schools on the Sunday nearest February 14 and February 22, respectively.

Some schools celebrate Thanksgiving Day usually on Sunday following the last Thursday in November. Frequently the day is celebrated by an evening entertainment.

**Tag Day.**—The success of this day in the interest of various enterprises has led to a number of Sunday schools to take it up as a means of encouraging visitors, etc.

**Home Department Day, Visitors' Day, Promotion Day, Cradle Roll Day and Decision Day** are observed by many Sunday schools, the latter frequently once each quarter.

**On Mothers' Day** the school pays tribute to mothers, and the members of the Mothers' Department endeavor to impress the school with the importance of the Mothers'.

**Flag Day (or Patriotic Day)** is usually celebrated on Sunday following the 14th day of June (National Flag Day). Frequently a patriotic evening entertainment is given during the week of flag day. Another and the last special day I shall mention, is Christmas. No school should think of closing the work of the year without a Christmas tree and appropriate exercises.

My next letter in this series of articles on the country Sunday school will deal with organized classes in the school.—C. C. W. in Progressive Farmer.

## Some Planting Suggestions

The beauty of a shade tree depends upon its normal and symmetrical growth. In order to insure this, before planting cut off the ends of all broken or untillable roots; remove all side branches save upon evergreens, so that a straight whip like stalk alone remains. Dig holes at least two feet in diameter and one foot deep in poor soil. Break up soil in the bottom of the hole to the depth of the length of a spade blade. Place two or three inches of fine top soil, free from sods or other organic matter, in the bottom of the hole. Spread the roots of the tree as evenly as possible over the bottom of the hole, and cover with two or three inches of fine top soil. Tramp firmly with the feet and fill the hole with good earth, leaving the surface loose and a little higher than the surface of the surrounding soil. When the work of planting is completed, the tree should stand about the same depth it stood before being transplanted.

In order to secure symmetry of growth, trees must be allowed unrestricted area for development. At least 40 feet should be allowed between trees intended to occupy the ground permanently. Quick-growing temporary trees may be planted between the long lived ones to produce immediate results, but these should be removed as soon as they interfere with the development of permanent trees.—United States Department of Agriculture.

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## A Thing For Pride—And Shame

Defending the action of the tax commission in raising county assessments, Governor Craig sharply calls the attention of the people to a fact that is at once a matter of pride and shame to the State.

We are, as he truly says, the people among all civilized and progressive States who are least burdened with taxation.

It only needs that a North Carolinian go to another—any other State, almost—and he will note first of all that public matters are done on a scale far more lavish than obtains at home. He will find ten offices, to one that North Carolina maintains. He will find that positions of equal honor and importance pay in other States from twice to four times what they pay in this State. He will note that, for an equal amount of work, it requires elsewhere far more elaboration of plant and expense in the number of men and their salaries to do it.

From the governorship to the humblest public school position, he will discover that a like service is paid for here far less liberally than elsewhere, that public officials here work harder and more enthusiastically for the small pay than the run of like officials in other States for greater pay. And in the light of liberality that is marvelous to the economy that has been drilled into him, he will find himself wandering at what seems by contrast the penuriousness of his own people!

We should take pride in this state of affairs because North Carolina has almost always found men to do her work whose efficiency meant a personal sacrifice in doing it. We have a right to take pride in the fact that the State has done so much with so little; that at far less cost than is usual we have not only kept abreast of but gone beyond many other commonwealths. These be things for pride.

They are, however matters of shame when it is considered that what is glorious to poverty is ignominious to wealth. They are matters of shame when it is considered that economy can be stressed until it is niggardliness. They are matters of shame when it is considered that a rich State accomplishes its savings at the expense of hard sacrifices of earnest men and women. It is far from being wholly a matter of pride that we do so much for schools, when we consider that we pay school teachers an average salary that makes it a wonder how they keep soul and body together; that we have a university with a thousand students that is being conducted at a cost ridiculous according to the standards elsewhere obtaining among fresh water colleges of three hundred; that we think nothing of taking a ten or twenty thousand dollar man and asking him to work for the State for a comparative pittance. That work of this sort, is done, is glorious; but it is not glorious; for the collective person that we call the State to do business in that way,

As to taxes, it is with us as everywhere that real estate

pays out of proportion to its comparative value among subjects of taxation because of its visibility. The tax genius of the future will be the man who will solve the riddle of the dodger of taxes on personal property, franchises and incomes can frankly be made the sole source of revenue in common justice to all people. Meanwhile, as the Governor suggests, it is scarcely becoming in a people so little taxed by comparison to roar so loudly at the little they have to pay for the great return they get.—R. L. Gray, in Raleigh Times.

## A GREAT MEETING OF THE STATE FARMERS' UNION

Meeting in Durham, November 16-18, Promises To Be Most Useful Session Ever Held—Read Program Herewith.

The greatest meeting of the North Carolina State Farmers' Union ever held—that is what those who have seen the program predict that the coming big meeting in Durham will be. Read the program herewith and resolve to be on hand:

TUESDAY, 16th.

Morning Session, 10 a. m. (Public)  
Called to order by State President H. Q. Alexander.

Song, "America,"  
Scripture Lesson and Prayer, Rev. H. M. North, Pastor Memorial Church Durham.

Address of welcome, Hon. B. S. Skinner, Mayor of Durham, and Mr. J. H. Southgate, President Chamber of Commerce, Durham.

Response to Address of Welcome, By T. B. DeLoache.

Address, The South Carolina State Warehouse system; How it Works, Hon. John L. McLaurin, State Warehouse Commissioner of South Carolina.  
Announcements, "Meet One Another" Get Acquainted Luncheon Served in Hall to all Delegates.

Afternoon Session, 1:30 p. m. (Executive)

Report of Credentials Committee.  
Report of State President, H. Q. Alexander.

Report of State Secretary-Treasurer, E. C. Faires.

Report of State Organizer-Lecturer, J. Z. Green.

Announcement of Committees.

Night Session, 7 p. m. (Public)

Song—"Blest Be the Tie That Binds."

Address—The Rural Credits System We Need, John Sprunt Hill, Durham, N. C.

Address, The federal Warehouse Bill, Its advantages—Hon. A. F. Lever, Chairman Committee on Agriculture, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

WEDNESDAY, 17th.

Morning Session, 9:30 a. m. (Executive)

Prayer—State Chaplain.

Song—Farmers' Union State Song

Report of Executive Committee.

Election of Officers.

Unfinished Business.

New Business.

12:00 o'clock—Address: Creameries and Cream Routes Practical Cooperation for Local Unions—Alvin J. Reed, Dairyman, N. C., Agricultural Experiment Station.

Afternoon Session, 1:30 p. m. (Executive)

Reports of Committees:

(a) Committee on Warehouse and Warehouse System.

(b) Committee on Rural Credits.

(c) Committee on Education.

Reports of Special Committees.

4:00 o'clock—Visiting Durham Factories Under Auspices of Chamber of Commerce.

Night Session, 7 p. m. (Public)

Song—

Address: The Organization of Rural Communities—Dr. G. M. Cooper, Clinton, N. C.

Address: Race Segregation in Land Ownership From a Lawyer's stand

point—Hon. James S. Manning, formerly Judge N. C. Superior Court.  
Address: How Present Taxation Methods Promote Absentee Landlordism—Mr. R. F. Deasey, Editor "Journal", Monroe, N. C.

THURSDAY, 18th

Morning Session, 9:30 a. m. (Executive)

Song—Farmers' Union State Song.

Prayer—State Chaplain.

Report of Resolutions Committee.

Report of Efficiency and Reorganization Committee.

Miscellaneous and Unfinished Business.

Address: Marketing problem—Hon. Charles J. Brand, Bureau of Markets, United States Department of Agriculture.

Address—Charles S. Barrett President National Farmers' Union.

Afternoon Session, 1:30 p. m. (Executive)

Automobile Visit to State University—Given to All Delegates by Citizens of Durham and Durham County.

Tour of inspection of University grounds and Buildings, with General Meeting in Gerrard Hall.

Address of welcome

Response.

Concluding Business.

Song—"God Be With You Till We Meet Again"

Benediction—State Chaplain.

Visitors will return by way of Trinity College, reaching Durham in time to catch the 5:08 p. m. westbound and the 6:15 p. m. eastbound Norfolk & Western, and 5:40 p. m. northbound seaboard. It is hoped the delegates will arrange to leave on these trains Thursday afternoon, 18th.

The music of the sessions will be led by the Woodall-Holder Quartette, Cary.

## Farmer's Union State Song

The Program Committee of the North Carolina State Farmers' Union suggests the following "Farmers' Union State Song", partly adapted from a song by Mrs. James M. Atcherson. It can be easily sung to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne":

Tune: "Auld Lang Syne"

We're sons and daughters of the soil  
Of this old Tar Heel State,  
Where agriculture reigns supreme  
And men cooperate;  
Our Union fired with wondrous power  
Now bids us onward move;  
Cooperation is our theme,  
Our slogan—"To improve."

Chorus—

Oh, Carolina, state so dear!  
Let high our anthem soar;  
All Union men unite to sing  
Thy praises evermore.

We share whatever we have learned  
With forward-moving men,  
Who gives us of their ripened thought  
That we may learn of them.  
Improvement grows from year to year  
The fruit of hand and mind;  
For better methods, higher aims,  
Our forces we combine.

A band of comrade farmers true  
Our aim is brotherhood;  
To bring to every man and home  
The best of rural good—  
The best of crops, of tools and stock,  
Roads, schools, and social life;  
United buy, united sell,  
And silence hate and strife.

We love the country, made by God,  
Its homes made fair by man;  
We claim with pride our sturdy song  
Who boast the cheek of tan;  
We love our homes wherein we dwell,  
Our farms on which we toil;  
We'll build the best state in the land  
On Carolina soil.

## Ginners Report

The tabulation of the separate returns from the ginners for October 18 report shows your telegraph summary to be correct. There were 2485 bales of cotton, counting round as half bales, ginned in Bertie county, from the crop of 1915 prior to October 18, 1915, as compared with 2610 bales ginned prior to October 18, 1914.

Very respectfully,  
SAM L. ROGERS,  
Director.