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THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SUNDAY BILLS

It will be remembered that last spring it was feared that Congress would pass a Sunday bill for the District of Columbia. On April 6 a bill did pass the House of Representatives, and it is now pending the third reading in the Senate. This could very quickly be passed when it comes to the final issue, unless most earnest efforts are put forth in remonstrating against it at once. We shall do all we can to have the final action deferred until after we are granted a hearing.

The Sunday measure now pending before the Senate, is entitled: "An Act Requiring Certain Places of Business in the District of Columbia to be Closed on Sunday." This bill is doubtless introduced as a feeler or a forerunner to another that has been introduced in the House, the title of which is: "A bill to Further Protect the First Day of the Week as a Day of Rest in the District of Columbia." This last is a very much more stringent measure than the former. The text of both of these will be found in the Review of Dec. 15.

It will appear evident to all that

these are very dangerous measures, and that, should they become law, they would give great prestige and influence for similar legislation throughout the whole country. In fact, that is the object of the manager of the International Reform Bureau, for he desires this as a first step, and then, after the states are marshaled into line, he desires to bring their combined influence to bear upon the Congress of the United States for a national Sunday law. We believe that such a result would not be far distant in view of the sentiment that exists in the minds of legislators. But we think that this may be retarded if we unitedly put forth earnest efforts in remonstrating against these proposed measures.

I would say that, in harmony with a recent recommendation of the General Conference Committee, petition blanks have been prepared by the Religious Liberty Bureau, which are now being sent out to all of our Conference tract societies with instructions to forward on to their respective churches for the purpose of securing signatures to the same as quickly as possible. Those of our people who may be scattered, can obtain these petitions by making application to their state society or to the Religious Liberty Bureau. We desire that these petitions should be sent in to us just as soon as the signatures have been secured, for we desire to have a continual stream flowing into Congress while these measures are pending.

A series of Religious Liberty leaflets is being written by Elder W. A. Colcord, the secretary of the R. L. Bureau, four of which will soon be ready for distribution. These can be secured from your Tract Society or from the Review and Herald, 222 N. Capitol St., Washington, D. C.

We shall be glad to have our people inform us of any items of interest regarding religious legislation in

their respective localities, and would suggest that when sending any newspaper or magazine article, they either send a marked copy of the paper, or give the name and date of it on the clipping. K. C. RUSSELL,
Chairman Religious Liberty Bureau,
Takoma Park Station,
Washington, D. C.

OBJECT LESSON WORK

A little over a year ago my wife and I came to Indiana to engage in Object Lesson work. We have had many pleasant experiences. I recall many instances where it was thought books could not be sold, but by persevering effort and a good supply of courage, the Lord gave us success far beyond our expectations. We often met with those who were backward in understanding the work and who met with excellent success when induced to begin it. When we came together after the work was done and an opportunity was given to tell the experiences, it was easy to tell who had met with success. They had been doing something for Jesus and their hearts were warmed. Many have allowed precious time to go to waste. "Man often fails of doing his duty, leaving undone a vast amount that a close connection with God would have enabled him to do." R. & H. Dec. 1, 1904. I am sure there are some who have not done all they desire to do. Some one who did not buy a book last year will desire to purchase one this year.

It will be remembered that a great missionary campaign was inaugurated this last fall, which shall know no cessation until this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be carried to every nation, tongue, and people, and that such varied and effective plans be developed in every conference and church as will assign a special place in this movement to every man, woman, and child among us. The

sale of Object Lessons is to be a part of this campaign.

In a special testimony we have the following: "The plan for the circulation of Christ's Object Lessons is not of human devising, but God's plan." "He signified that the book be a gift to the schools. Thus far it has done its work, and God has signified his approval of the self-sacrificing efforts of his people. Shall we mar his plan? No! No! until the Lord shall come and our present system of schools work is ended by our entering a higher school, Christ's Object Lessons are to stand as a gift to our educational institutions.

Now brothers and sisters let the work go forward. We have been selling this book in connection with others here in Martinsville. We are of good courage. C. J. BUHALTS.

SUNDAY LAWS

There are now two Sunday bills before Congress for the District of Columbia, and one has already passed the House of Representatives. If the Senate passes these laws, it paves the way for all other oppressive laws, for which fallen Protestantism is clamoring.

Time was, when such measures came before Congress, our people were alert, and ready to put forth a strong effort in opposition to these encroachments upon our liberties; but because there has been but little open persecution of late, our people have gone to sleep right on the brink of ruin, and the loss of liberty. Steadily, but silently have the Sunday law advocates been working, educating the people in wrong principles, until many of our legislators are drunken with the wine of Babylon, and are ready to grant these religious zealots any request that is made.

I fear we as a people but faintly sense the peril we are in at the present time. Our brethren at Washington are doing all in their power to stay the tide, and ask that the petitions sent out be widely circulated, and as large lists as possible of names be sent in as quickly as they can be gathered.

Congress will only be in session six weeks, and these bills are liable to come up at any time for consideration. Shall we not be minute men and arise at once to the emergency and do our duty, rolling up a large

list of petitions, that they may be placed in the hands of the proper persons to assist in staying the tide of evil which is about to envelope us, and thus warn also, those who are honest and seeking after truth?

Over seventy ministers of Washington are conducting a campaign in favor of better Sunday observance. Our ministers in Washington have addressed to these clergymen an open letter, setting forth a brief Bible argument upon the origin of the Sabbath, its perpetuity, Christ's relation to it, it being the "Lord's Day," how the change was brought about as foretold in the Scriptures, and God's warning against accepting a counterfeit Sabbath. This open letter was published in the Washington Daily Post, the most popular paper published in Washington. And it is creating quite a stir. Many of our people desired that this letter be printed in tract form for general circulation, and it has therefore been printed and can be secured at 50 cents per hundred. This tract contains the Sabbath question in a nut shell, and should go into every home in the land. A million of these tracts are being printed. Thousands should be scattered in Indiana. For only half a cent you can place a clear cut exposition of the Sabbath question before your friends and neighbors. Shall we not scatter them by the thousands here in Indiana? Let the order pour in at once, and let the clear rays of light upon this subject shine forth. Our Tract Society has ordered several thousand copies of this tract, and will be ready to fill orders as soon as they are received.

Let us awake brethren and sisters and give the message to our neighbors and friends without delay—and let us do our duty in the circulation of the petitions; and if possible, enlighten Congress along these lines, and stay if possible this present attempt, which will mean much opposition to our work when our publishing house is to be established in the limits of the District of Columbia.

Let us act promptly and wisely.

W. J. STONE.

WANTED:—The address of Brother Wilhelm, formerly of Michigan City, Ind. Inform L. F. Elliott, 66 Bates Street, Logansport, Ind.

Subscribe for the Reporter.

\$49,988.19

The above amount is still required to supply the appropriation of \$100,000 voted by the General Conference Council of October, 1903, for the Washington building fund. We believe that the many loyal friends of the message will rejoice to know that we have passed the half-way point in answering this call to supply the necessary means to build up the work in Washington. In the closing struggle of the great conflict, it is certainly most encouraging to know that God is directly leading this people; that he has planted the headquarters of this work at the heart of the last great nation of history and prophecy. He has placed the work on vantage ground. He has called us to establish a fortress at the highest point of the world's civilization.

We rejoice at the liberal offering that has been made for foreign missions. Now that this offering has been taken, and we are just at the commencement of another year and just at the beginning of the last half of this great work, we believe there will be one grand and united effort made that this work may be quickly finished. If each one who has already given could simply repeat what he has done, the amount needed would be sent in immediately. But there are many thousands who have been hindered from helping in this work thus far, who will gladly help on the last half of the work. Are there not those in the Indiana Conference who will help us to open up the closing part of this work with donations of from \$500 to \$1,000, or even more?

The Washington Training College was opened Nov. 30. About forty students were in attendance, and there is prospect that many more will attend when the buildings are more nearly completed. The school starts absolutely free of all debt, and we have something in hand toward the General Conference offices and sanitarium, which must shortly be erected.

A great agitation and combined effort is being made by the ministers' association of Washington in the interest of the enforcement of Sunday observance. The Lord has given us wonderful blessings during the week of prayer. Now, just now, is the time to work for Washington. Send all donations to W. T. Bland, 222

North Capitol St., Washington, D. C., or, if preferred, through the tract society channels.

"O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; . . . Say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God. Behold the Lord will come . . ." Isa. 40:9, 10. Please read also, Isa. 35:3 4, and Rev. 18:1.

J. S. WASHBURN.

INSTITUTE WORK--Continued

GEOGRAPHY WORK

Geography is the study of the earth as the home of man. The importance of teaching the subject of geography from a Christian standpoint will be seen when we consider that the large majority of the textbooks of today are filled with the theory of evolution.

In the Bible only do we find a true record of the creation of the earth and all that it contains, hence the necessity of basing our geography study upon God's word and laying a foundation as solid as the word of God itself. The first chapter of Genesis is the key to all science study, and when our children are taught to unlock all sciences with that key, we need have no fear of wrong theories finding an entrance into their minds. This true foundation can not be laid too early; for it is surprising to find how much of the evolution theory is taught in the very first year of school.

The period of childhood is often termed the "faith age." Should we not then in the early period of life seek above everything else to establish faith in God's word?

A solid foundation having been laid, we are ready to lead the minds of the children to a further study of the earth. While they should be made familiar in the study of geography with the relation of the earth to man, with the natural forces, animal and plant life, climate, location, divisions of land and water, how they contribute to, and how modify the life of man, etc., the chief aim of study should be to see a great world peopled with human beings in need of the gospel to save them from their sins and to discover means whereby their condition may be made better. Our study of the different countries should be from a missionary standpoint. It is possible to teach children in such a way that

every time they look at a map they will see souls longing for help in the countries represented on the map.

Dear reader, are you not anxious that your children shall have an education every part of which shall be obtained from a Christian standpoint? The Christian teachers of Indiana are this year endeavoring before as never to impart such an education.

LANGUAGE WORK

Webster says, "Language is any means of communicating ideas." The great work before the children and youth of Seventh Day Adventists is to communicate the truth to all the world. To do this in the most effectual manner, they must become familiar with the best means of doing it which involves a study of language.

The aim in our language work this year could not be better expressed than to quote from *Education*. "In every branch of education there are objects to be gained more important than those secured by mere technical knowledge. Take language, for example. More important than the acquirement of foreign languages, living or dead, is the ability to write and speak one's mother-tongue with ease and accuracy; but no training gained through a knowledge of grammatical rules can compare in importance with the study of language from a higher point of view. With this study, to a great degree, is bound up life's weal or woe. The chief requisite of language is that it be pure and kind and true,—"the outward expression of an inward grace." God says: "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." And if such are the thoughts, such will be the expression.

The best school for this language-study is the home; but since the work at home is so often neglected, it devolves on the teacher to aid his pupils in forming right habits of speech.

The teacher can do much to discourage that evil habit, the curse of the community, the neighborhood, and the home,—the habit of back-

biting, gossip, ungenerous criticism. In this no pains should be spared. Impress upon the students the fact that this habit reveals a lack of culture and refinement and of true goodness of heart; it unfits one both for the society of the truly cultured and refined in this world and for the association with the holy ones in heaven.

These words need no comment. The careful reader will see that language work from this standpoint can not be done without the co-operation of heavenly agencies and the best results can be attained only when the home co-operates with the school.

NETTIE A. DUNN.

Secretary of Institute.

ARE WE AFRAID?

The following from a private letter illustrates a point which is well worth considering:

"I went down to Mr. — on an errand, and he and his wife began the conversation upon Bible themes. He asked me several questions which I could not answer, but I told him that I would furnish him tracts that would. One of his questions was, 'Who changed the day?' This family is probably the wealthiest in our community. 'Now,' said he, 'you people have always been afraid to mention the truth to me, and because of this, I have been afraid of you, too.'"

Is it possible, dear reader, that such a statement as this may be made about us when it is too late to answer satisfactorily? Is not this an incentive to us to go to our neighbors and friends with the message and delay no longer? W. J. STONE.

READING MATTER WANTED

We can use any of our good literature to advantage just now, and especially any of the recent "specials" of the SIGNS and SOUTHERN WATCHMAN; also complete or broken sets of the FAMILY BIBLE TEACHER. We would urgently request any one having this literature about their homes to send it postpaid to the undersigned at once. Don't be afraid of sending too much,—so it is clean and un mutilated.

L. F. ELLIOTT.

66 Bates St., Logansport, Ind.

Subscribe for the Reporter 25 cents.

NEWS and NOTES

Elder J. C. Harris is holding meetings with the church at Waldron with some interest.

Brother Hagle reports several ready to go into an organization at Morocco where he has been holding meetings.

"The Review is growing better every issue," writes one of our sisters. Surely every Sabbath-keeper ought to have it.

Brother A. C. Ford is having excellent success in the canvassing work in his district. The canvassing work in the state looks more hopeful than it has for years. There is room for many more to engage in this work.

Our good sister Boggs of Argos, Indiana, has been passing through a great trial. Her husband, Joel L. Boggs, died Dec. 16. The funeral was preached by A. H. Zilmer. Our mourning will be turned to joy by and by.

Elder Stone was with the 1st Indianapolis church in their quarterly meeting Jan. 7th. A large number took part in the service. It was the first occasion of the celebration of the ordinances in the new church building.

Are you assisting in securing names to the petition against the Sunday bills now before Congress? If not, will you push this matter in your locality at once? If you have not received a petition, write to our office for one.

It was arranged on very short notice to hold a canvassers institute at South Bend, for the benefit of those living in the northern part of the state. Brother Blosser, Brother McCuaig and others will be present as instructors.

We were very sorry to have so many mistakes creep into our last published report of pledges to the school. A thorough investigation will be made, and we will endeavor to get a true report and publish it in the near future.

Brother U. S. Anderson is at home for a few days, but will return to Hartford City to follow up the interest awakened by his meetings. Twenty-one had been added to the church during the meetings, and he has hopes of others.

Elder Roberts is soon to begin a series of revival meetings with the Olivet Chapel church.

Elder Curtis had an appointment to be with the Ligonier church to hold their quarterly services. He will go from there to South Bend to spend a few days at the canvassers institute now in session there.

Sister Niehaus reports that three of her Bible readers at Martinsville have begun the observance of the Sabbath, and our other workers there are reporting some converts. Let these workers be remembered by all our brethren and sisters in their prayers.

A sister writes:—"I take great pleasure in enclosing a draft for \$100.00 for the Board of Missions. I began asking the Lord at the beginning of the week, to indicate to me how much I should do at this time, and from the first my mind has been held at this sum, and I praise him for the privilege. With all my heart I hope to see our missionary treasury filled."

Are you a paying subscriber to the Reporter? At the close of the Sabbath, and Sabbath service, at the 1st Indianapolis church, Jan. 7th, Elder Stone and Brother Bigelow took over twenty subscriptions for the Reporter. Why should not every Adventist in the state take the Reporter and pay for it and keep informed as to the progress of the work in the state?

ACADEMY NOTES

Several new students came in for the Winter Term.

Mrs. Martha Murphy, our oldest student, fifty-four years old, is again at her post.

Elmer Buck of Antigo, Wisconsin, has gone home, but will return in April to remain during the summer.

Charles Allen and Reese Maxwell are doing good work in the printing office under the instruction of H. A. Stone.

Our new engine is installed and is doing excellent service. Edgar Myers and Harry Byers are engaged in erecting a house for it.

Our Young People's Society has begun a home missionary campaign in this county, and asks the prayers of all the sister societies in Indiana, that they may prove themselves workmen that needeth not to be ashamed.

To obey is better than sacrifice.

Death before dishonor or transgression of God's law, should be the motto of every Christian.

The influence of every man's thoughts and actions, surround him like an invisible atmosphere which is unconsciously breathed in by all who come in contact with him.

TITHES FOR DECEMBER, 1904.

Akron	.....
Angola	.....
Anderson	..... 7 64
Auburn	.....
Bass Lake	.....
Barbers Mills	..... 7 05
Boggs town	..... 80 90
Brookston	.....
Connersville	..... 1 60
Corunna	.....
Denver	.....
Dana	..... 16 00
Evansville	.....
Elnora	..... 8 00
Elwood	..... 9 81
Etna Green	..... 12 00
Farmersburg	..... 16 18
Fort Wayne	.....
Franklin	..... 2 40
Frankton	.....
Grass Creek	..... 30 71
Glenwood	..... 11 00
Greenfield	..... 11 14
Hartford City	..... 25 95
Honey Creek	..... 14 50
Huntington	..... 4 11
Idaville	..... 34 49
Indianapolis	..... 82 59
Individuals	..... 63 32
Iuwood	.....
Jefferson	.....
Jonesboro	..... 11 75
Kennard	.....
Kokomo	..... 27 05
LaFayette	..... 2 25
Lebanon	.....
Ligonier	..... 22 25
Liuton	..... 19 46
Logansport	.....
Michaels	..... 12 21
Mechanicsburg	..... 12 00
Marion	.....
Michigan City	.....
Middletown	..... 8 74
Morocco	.....
Mt. Vernon	..... 39 55
Mt. Zion	..... 64 69
Muncie	.....
New London	..... 5 00
Noblesville	.....
Northfield	.....
New Marion	.....
North Liberty	..... 2 00
Olive Branch	..... 6 05
Oliver Chapel	.....
Oolitic	..... 13 90
Patrickburg	..... 17 50
Peru	..... 9 07
Petersburg	.....
Pleasant View	..... 11 05
Princeton	..... 3 87
Richmond	..... 11 33
Rochester	..... 2 60
Rocklane	.....
Salem	..... 2 00
Second Indianapolis	..... 23 69
South Bend	..... 7 00
South Milford	.....
Terre Haute	..... 23 05
Unionville	.....
Wabash	.....
Waldron	.....
Walkerton	.....
Waterloo	.....
West Liberty	..... 9 79
Windfall	.....
Wolf Lake	..... 281 50
Total receipts	..... \$ 1088 74

We are glad to see the good tithe report for December. Bring the tithes into the store house, saith the Lord of hosts.