

1889 Our Friend Levi L. Benson of Ohio, laid before the Meeting a desire that he felt to meet as many of our young people at 7 o'clock this evening as practicable. This concern was united with and the large meeting room designated for the purpose.

14 The Joint Central Committee on Firstday Schools, submitted their report upon the work accomplished by them during the past year, also statistics and much general information upon these schools within our Yearly Meeting. The report was as follows:

Baltimore, 10th Month 26th, 1889.

Report of Joint Central Committee on Firstday Schools To Baltimore Yearly Meeting:

During the past year the Central Committee on Firstday Schools have not been unmindful of the matter with which they have stood charged by the Meeting.

The concern has been considered and found to be one of great weight and as such has been fully appreciated by those who have labored in this field.

The Committee has been forced to stand the usual expense of supplying a literature for the schools throughout our borders and are glad to report that all the schools from which we have heard have used the Friends' Lesson Leaves, which have been furnished by the General Conference. In the preparation of these Lesson Leaves we are glad to report that a number of our younger members, have afforded valuable assistance.

We have received reports from nearly all of the schools. We find that of 16 schools reporting, 9 meet after meeting, while the other 7 meet before. The sessions of the schools vary from forty minutes to an hour and one half. A larger number than usual, four, report holding the school open during the whole year. The average length of time during which they are held is a little over seven months.

We are surprised to find that five meetings, where there are schools, have no monthly meeting committee to exercise a care or afford aid, comfort and encouragement to those who feel called upon to give their time and efforts to this work. Children of these schools generally attend meeting regularly, others say most, one says one half do, another three fifths, while a number say all do. Much the same report is made of the Teachers.

1889 Many of the meetings have Libraries from which the pupils of the Firstday Schools get books to read. In some instances Teachers report using Commentaries of the Bible, with Intelligence and Journal while in some the "Sunday School Times," "Christian Register," etc are used.

We regret to note that in Washington there is no longer any effort made to have a Firstday School.

In reference to the question whether Firstday Schools add to the attendance of meetings, one report states that three times as many children attend meeting during the sessions of Firstday Schools as during balance of the year.

Report of Joint Central Committee on Firstday Schools The Committee regret to note a want of care in keeping records of attendance, etc., as requested by them, as this makes it impossible to supply such a line of statistics as might be of use to help in suggesting what would aid when help may be needed.

Only one meeting reports holding Teachers meetings, every other Firstday one reports "no such meetings held." The Committee are of the opinion that much loss is suffered on this account and would respectfully urge attention to this important matter.

Upon consideration the Committee feel that more life and earnestness in this important matter would tend to build up Society and strengthen many weak places in that which is already built. It seems to the Committee that if organization of the Society of Friends is to be maintained this is necessary, therefore we would encourage zeal and hard work throughout our borders.

The Committee are also of the opinion that there should be on the Committee those who can give more time to this part of our Society's vineyard. Organizers are needed. Many schools languish for want of attention from those who have had experience in this kind of work, because those who have the matter in hand lack confidence in themselves and know not how to progress. It seems that there should be a Firstday School Committee in every meeting and that those who really feel interested in the work and appreciate the importance of it should constitute these Committees.

Herewith find a Statistical Table compiled from reports furnished.