

FIRST INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH IN SALEM MAY BE OUTCOME OF EFFORTS OF LESLIE MEMBERS

There was something more than when the congregation met and presented the good pastor and his wife and Mrs. H. N. Aldrich and family with tokens of their esteem. A dream of one of the members at Leslie church a few days ago.



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LESLIE METHODIST CHURCH

of the minister's church family of three years ago may be the reality of tomorrow. Sandwiched in with the evening's entertainment was the quarterly conference of the church, conducted by the district superintendent, Dr. T. B. Ford. He wanted to know what the church was going to do with the \$5,000 funds which had

been apportioned to it, providing the church would match the sum on a 50-50 basis and build a Sunday school temple and community building combined, to meet the growing needs of the church and the community which it serves. Silence reigned supreme for a few moments until one of the officials of the church and Sunday school, who lives in South Salem, got to his feet and spoke in behalf of the need of such an addition to the church property, and wound up by saying that he would give \$500 for such a project. This added spice to an otherwise very commonplace business meeting, and in a few moments a committee was appointed to investigate and report at a later meeting of the congregation and officials of the church.

Something Must Be Done.

The congregation realizes that something must be done, and those who have been wondering whether such a thing might be possible sometime in the future, as well as those who have thought such a thing impossible for years to come, are now wondering if it might not be possible before another year has rolled around.

They admit that it is not impossible. Three years ago the Sunday school had to meet in the church auditorium, because the basement was unfinished. Since that time things have been moving.

First, a class room for the Live Wires, a then small group of mature young people of the Sunday school, was provided, and which at the same time provided a meeting place for the Epworth league. At the same time the church kitchen was remodeled, gas connection made and the whole basement wired for electricity. Next came street paving and sidewalks and the church and parsonage grounds now have cement sidewalks and paved streets on both

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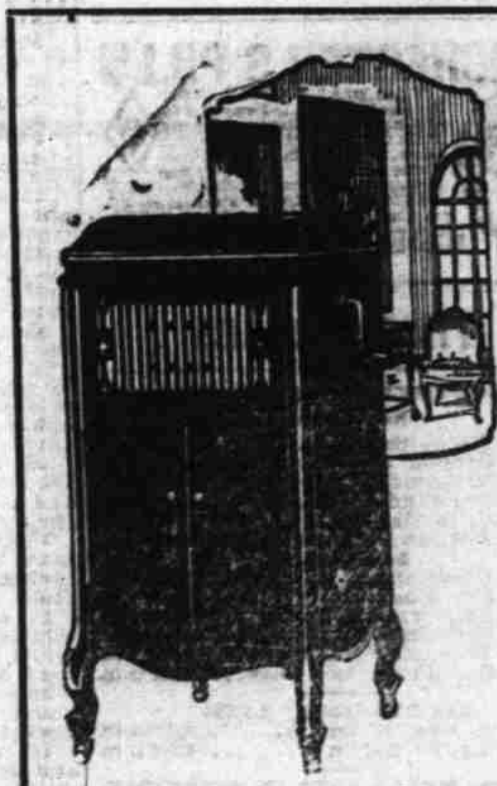
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ten part of the Sunday school is now housed in the old church building, which is very much in need of repairs, and must be repaired if used longer. The balance of the Sunday school meets in the basement of the church, and although last Sunday was a rainy, disagreeable day, it was full almost to its capacity. While the teachers and officers of the Sunday school are anxious to see the Sunday school room, they are at a loss to know what to do with the increased growth without new accommodations. Their mature class of young people—the Live Wires—has a membership of nearly 100 and is still growing.

The high school classes have an average attendance of over 30, and the classes of younger ages are going equally as well, so that in order to properly care for the business on hand and to take care of the natural growth, added equipment, added space and added responsibilities must be assumed. During the past three years, or in other words, during war time, the church and Sunday school have had a steady growth, as will be shown by the following figures: Church membership three years ago, 175; church membership today, 264; Sunday school enrollment three years ago, 311; Sunday school enrollment today, 450.

New Residences Planned.

With the increase in population now coming to Salem, with added industries, which means added homes, South Salem, one of the most beautiful residence sections of Salem, will receive its full share, no doubt. In fact several new residences are in contemplation at the present time. These will add to the responsibilities as well as the opportunity for large service, to Leslie church. While no definite assurance is given that the church will go ahead with its plans this year, it is at least considering the matter seriously, and the committee investigating the matter is composed of men in whom the church has great confidence, as well as men of constructive vision, and who are most anxious to see this community work go forward.

PEOPLE'S CHORUS TO MEET MONDAY

Effort Is Being Made to Bring Membership Up to Three Hundred

The People's chorus will meet for regular practice Monday evening at 7:30 in Waller hall, on Willamette campus. Dr. John R. Sites formerly of the Boston Symphony orchestra, is director and ably fills the position.

Blas Holman, of Willamette college of music is the accompanist. The People's chorus is non-denominational and every one who loves to sing is to consider himself or herself personally invited to become a member. The choirs of the churches of the city, no matter what their belief or creed, are urged to join.

No expense is attached to membership save that of the music used, and so far this amount has been less than \$1.

"Why not join the People's chorus and help to put Salem on the map, musically?" said an enthusiastic yesterday.

"With the exceptional musical talent which there is in Salem, there is no reason why a choir of at least 200 voices should not at once get together and give Salem the benefit of their talent, while gaining such enjoyment and benefit personally."