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Toronto, July 22, 1897.

CHURCH ESTIMATES.

The estimates for 1897-98 (Western Section) has just been issued. In transmitting them to the Church Rev. Dr. Warden impresses on Presbyteries and congregations the desirability of giving prompt attention to the matter and of losing no time in deciding upon the total amounts to be assumed and the apportionment thereof to the various Schemes. The estimates are as follows:

Home Missions.....	\$40,000
Augmentation of Stipends.....	30,000
Foreign Missions.....	77,694
Woman's Foreign Missionary Society.....	42,831
French Evangelization (including Pointe-aux-Trembles Schools).....	40,000
Colleges, viz.: Knox.....	12,000
Queen's (including deficit of \$9,000).....	13,000
Montreal.....	5,000
Manitoba (exclusive of amount from Synods of Manitoba and British Columbia)....	5,000
Ministers' Widows and Orphans' Fund (over and above Ministers' Rates and Interest from Investments)....	10,500
Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund (over and above Ministers' Rates and Interest from Investments).....	15,000
Assembly Fund.....	6,000
	\$337,025

The congregations in both Eastern and Western Sections of the Church contribute for French Evangelization, Manitoba College, and the Assembly Fund, the amounts named for the other schemes are for the Western Section alone.

Dr. Warden points out that an average contribution over the whole Church of \$2.00 per member would provide the total amount required for the schemes. Many congregations will, of course, greatly exceed this average. It is hoped that an earnest effort will be made to reach the average in every congregation.

Mission Stations, as well as congregations, are enjoined to contribute to the Schemes of the Church. This will be found helpful to them as well as to the work.

On more than one occasion the Assembly has recommended that Missionary Associations should be organized in every congregation. Where these do not exist the Assembly has appointed collections to be taken up during the current year as follows:—French Evangelization, Fourth Sabbath of July; Home Missions, Fourth Sabbath

of August; Colleges, Fourth Sabbath of September; Ministers' Widows and Orphans' Fund, Third Sabbath of October; Assembly Fund, Third Sabbath of November; Manitoba College, Third Sabbath of December; Augmentation Fund, Third Sabbath of January, 1898; Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, Third Sabbath of February, 1898; Foreign Missions, Third Sabbath of March, 1898.

Heretofore about two-thirds of the entire contributions for the Schemes of the Church have been received during the last three months of the ecclesiastical year. This renders necessary the borrowing of large sums of money to meet salaries and other disbursements, entailing heavy expenditure for interest. To obviate this, the General Assembly recommends all congregations to forward their contributions quarterly. The books of the Church close promptly on the 31st March, 1898. Heretofore the financial year ended on the 30th April. By order of the General Assembly this has been changed to 31st March. In our next issue we shall enter into some details with respect to these schemes, the statement having reached us too late for comment or remark this week.

EPWORTH LEAGUE CONVENTION.

The great gathering of the last week was an object lesson to the country. It was an unanswerable argument against the view that religious activities are waning—overborne by worldliness. While more than thirty thousand pilgrims from every State in the Union and from every province in the Dominion journey to a meeting place, to confer and to strengthen each other by mutual intercourse and encouragement, it may be taken for granted that the claims of the Master are not unheeded on this continent. While the young people—the bright, the intelligent and the active—openly profess their faith in Jesus as at this convention, the most timid may well take courage, for a testimony has been raised to the world, that Scripture precept and Christian example are still the most potent influences man can feel. And this truth is the more evident when the Christian Endeavor Convention at San Francisco is taken in conjunction with that at Toronto. These two meetings represent movements in our day of the very highest moment and no lover of mankind can help watching with keen interest the progress made by them.

Differences are to be noted. Studying the Epworth Society at close range, an observer would probably be impressed with the importance given to literary culture as an aim of the League. The syllabus of study evince this; so indeed does the studied rhetoric of the prominent speakers at the meetings. There can be no doubt the leaders have of set purpose directed the work of the League to this end. Much may be said in favour of this course. Sanctified culture is a high standard of life; to be sought and striven after, and doubtless the League keeps in view not merely a wide course of accurate reading, but reading that shall stimulate the spiritual side of man. The colleges may be depended upon for a smattering of science and languages; the church, through the Epworth League, will find her true function in creating an appetite for religious food and in supplying trustworthy means to satisfy soul hunger.

That this is kept in view is to be gathered from Rev. Mr. Crewe's report, where it is stated that prejudices are being overcome and that the testimony of pastors is that "those who have joined the reading circles are among the most consecrated and useful members." A double purpose is served: consecration is encouraged, and the great publishing interests of the Methodist church advanced.