

control, the membership has decreased, but the funds of the Church show a slight increase. Under the circumstances, this last fact is most encouraging. In the western portion the case is very much better, as also in Alberta and Saskatchewan, where both funds and membership have shown a satisfactory growth.

THE INDIAN WORK.

Looking north from Winnipeg we find that, notwithstanding the fact that three of the most important missions have been for some time without missionaries, the work has been maintained with one exception (at which place we have an efficient local preacher) by native teachers and by native local preachers, and up to the present there has been no falling off—rather an increase. A great advance has been made in the arts of civilization by many of the natives, those of Fisher River living in comfortable houses.

Your Committee cannot but regret the desultory manner in which the day-schools have been conducted, owing to the fact that on the termination of a teacher's engagement a successor has not always been appointed. Efficient, godly teachers should be kept there, the salary attached to the position being always sufficient to entertain the hope that none other would be employed. We feel sure if these schools could always be supplied with such teachers, the result would appear in an almost immediate improvement in the Indian children.

Looking West among the Crees and Stoneys we find the progress made has been very satisfactory, the membership having everywhere increased. Both Sabbath and day-schools are better attended than formerly. The Orphanage at Morley, begun a few years ago, has clearly proven that taking the children away from vicious associations and throwing around them civilizing and Christian influences is the true method of mission work among the Indians. Returning to their own homes after such a training a small percentage doubtless will fall away, but a large number will grow up Christians and become a blessing. Already the tribes are seeing the advantage of such institutions, and if the means were forthcoming they could be greatly multiplied, seeing the cry constantly comes, "Give us a school," "Send us a teacher." Even paganism begins to feel the influence of such institutions. White Cap has lately appeared both before the missionary and Government officials, with offers of Indian help and faithful attendance if they could only have a school. The Blood Indian work, from the beginning, has been exceedingly difficult, as a suitable interpreter could never be secured. Consequently our missionary was compelled to learn the language, so that up to the present time it may be said these people have scarcely had the Gospel in their own tongue. We are glad to note that the Government is inaugurating a more liberal policy in respect to Indian schools, and we believe that with a well developed system, a new era has dawned for the Indian. Your Committee is of the opinion that it is of great importance that the Conference be put in possession of the fullest information respecting all its work at the earliest possible moment in its Annual Sessions.

But inasmuch as there are certain matters of information not provided for in our Conference Schedules, the Superintendent of Missions prepared on his own responsibility a special form of report, and sent a copy to each

minister and presented it in and forwarded it to him, turning to him, the valuable information. But we regret that we did not furnish the necessary information to recommend that the Conference should furnish the Superintendent with the state of the

Your Committee has quickened and deepened the fervor that blesses labor, and we have spiritual life throughout.

Altogether we have most abundant cause for thanksgiving.

May a doubt be coming year.

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