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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

While the refusal of the Augmentation Committee to make new grants is to be regretted, it must be apparent to all that such was the only course that could be adopted in the circumstances in which the Committee finds itself. With a deficit on hand it would be imprudent to add to the liabilities unless an early response be made by the Church. It now devolves upon the ministers particularly and on the office-bearers, to arouse the people to the facts of the case and should that be energetically attempted it is not too late yet to gather in funds, in these times of business revival, to enable the Committee to meet the more urgent of the applications at present held in abeyance.

Mr. Thos. Yellowlees has drawn attention to the need of public support more generally than has been given, to the benevolent work begun for the cure of consumptives. Ponder his words: "Surely when so much money is being raised, and properly so, to send missionaries to the Klondike, to China, to India, and to the islands of the sea, we should remember the cries for help at home. There are scores of families in this city with hearts crushed because of the presence of this demon consumption in their homes, many of them unable to bear the expense of sending their sick ones to a sanatorium, and yet would only be too glad to avail themselves of such an opportunity were it possible. Should not some public effort be made as citizens, should not the City Council endeavor to supplement private generosity in aiding

institutions already inaugurated or seek to set on foot some project which will stimulate citizens to manifest a deeper interest and a warmer sympathy on behalf of this class. We have our homes for the homeless, our hospitals for the sick, our shelters for the aged and feeble, but so far no provision whatever has been made as citizens on behalf of the class of whom I write."

The settlement at Knox Church, Galt, last week indicates the beginning of a happy ministry. The congregation is said to be the second largest in the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and it has had a succession of noted pastors. Rev. Robert E. Knowles, the newly settled minister has been heartily welcomed and the hope seems well-founded that the prestige of the church will not suffer but will be enhanced under his pastorate. The proceedings were evidence of harmony and good-will, and the field being particularly inviting, Mr. Knowles' prospects, as has been said, are bright and encouraging.

The time ought to be opportune for a general movement for the extinction of Church debt. The end of the fiscal year gives temporary relief from the collections and contributions for special missions, and the managers in each congregation which is weighted down with debt ought now to inaugurate some plan by which substantial reductions can be made. Church debt is a great disadvantage to the proper work of a congregation and it ought to be regarded as an evil to be got rid of as soon as possible. Now that the trump of good times has sounded sinking funds ought to be opened generally to gradually wipe out the mortgage debts.

Senator Bernier made a statement in the Senate the other day which proves the necessity of vigilance in the case of the Manitoba School Settlement. When the question has been taken as settled and the arrangement practically acquiesced in by the minority, the Senator raises a side issue which if not firmly met may cause future trouble. He urges that the proceeds of the sales of school lands in Manitoba should not be handed over to the Manitoba Government without a guarantee from the latter that the minority shall receive a share. It is presumed that under the settlement there is no minority having a public status, but that there is one public system of schools, aided and controlled according to statute and this view must be unanimously accepted if unity is to be attained.

A meeting is announced for Thursday 11th instant of the General Assembly's Sabbath School Committee, which will convene on that date at 10 a. m., in the Central Church, Toronto. The Convener appeals to the interest of the members of his Committee in the work entrusted to them, for a large attendance, it being impossible to reimburse them for travelling expenses, the size of the