

hibits returns from 129 of them. One more return has come to hand since the Table was printed, of the 8 remaining blanks all except one belong to vacant congregations. This is a very satisfactory approximation to completeness.

The return which came too late for insertion is from Summerside, and its contents are too gratifying to be passed by without further notice. The following are the leading items:—families 100, accessions to the roll 30, manse \$150, stipend paid \$760, building, \$650, total contributions, \$1766.

The general condition of ministerial support as exhibited in the table, will be better understood if we distribute the returns under four heads, as they represent city, town, rural, or supplemented congregations. Omitting returns that are unsatisfactory in consequence of the congregations having been vacant there remain 120 which may thus be classified:

3 city congregations:

Aggregate support, \$13280 average, \$1657½.

15 town congregations:

Aggregate support, \$14537—average, \$969.

68 rural congregations:

(Self sustaining), aggregate support, \$43874, average, \$645.

29 supplemented congregations:

Aggregate support, \$15030—average, \$518

Manse and supplement are included. In making up this estimate it has been assumed that congregations will implement their engagements. But where there was reason to suspect that a congregation was sinking hopelessly into arrears, only the stipend paid was included in the estimate. The city congregations are in Halifax, St. John, N. B., and St. John's, Nfld. The towns in the list are Charlottetown, Summerside, Truro, Yarmouth, Lunenburg, New Glasgow, Pictou, Dartmouth, Harbor Grace, Windsor, Sydney and St. Stephen. The supplemented congregations are nearly all in the country, only two or three of them being composed principally of a town population. The range of support varies, in cities, from \$2600, (Fort Massey) to \$1200, (St. John's Church) both in Halifax; in towns, from \$1240 (Truro) to \$700 Knox Church, (New Glasgow); in the country, from \$940 (Stellarton) to \$120 (Goose River) the two next lowest in this class being \$380 (Chipman) and \$393 (Wallace); and from supplemented congregations, \$834, (Cow Bay) to \$280 (French River.) In this last class there are four others below \$400, viz.:—New Mills, \$260, Dundas, \$320, Londonderry, \$350, and Port Hastings \$398.

The total contributions exceed those of the preceding year by \$18675; and the average rate per family by \$1.50.

Respectfully submitted,

ALEX. MCKNIGHT.

The thanks of the Synod were tendered to the Committee for their labor in compiling the Statistics, and in order to secure complete returns the following motion by Rev. J. K. Smith was adopted:

“That the Synod direct the attention of Presbyteries to the law of the Church on this matter, as set forth in Chap II. Sec. II. sub-section 17, of the Rules and Forms of Procedure, with instructions to report annually to Synod their diligence in the matter.”

### PUBLIC EDUCATION.

The following Report of the Committee on Public Education, was read by Rev. C. B. Pitblado:—

#### OUR INTEREST IN THE WORK.

Your Committee in submitting their Report, desire to record their firm conviction that there never was a period in the history of these Provinces when the subject of Public Education demanded more serious consideration and more decisive action on the part of this Synod than at the present time. A wave of agitation on this subject is rolling over Christendom. It has reached this Dominion and involved us in a struggle, on the issue of which the preservation of our constitutional rights and religious liberty largely depends. The people of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces cannot afford to view this struggle with indifference. It is one in which their best interests as citizens and church members are intimately involved. To be true to ourselves and to our past history, the cause of education will ever maintain a very prominent place among the various subjects which occupy the attention of this Synod. We trust we have imbibed some thing of the spirit of our forefathers, which induced them to plant school-houses and church edifices side by side, and to make teachers co-workers with preachers in promoting the cause of Christianity. We should not only follow, but improve on the example which has been set before us, in putting forth the most strenuous efforts to secure the best possible education for the generations that are yet to come.

As citizens we have an immediate and abiding interest in our educational institutions. They are intimately connected with all the ramifications of our social life, and upon their character very largely depends the prosperity of our country. Ignorance is for nations, weakness, stagnation and vice; education of the right kind is power, progress and virtue. It is therefore not only a right that we enjoy, but a duty that is incumbent upon do us as citizens, to what