

retires from the list of missions, with expressions of gratitude for the help hitherto received.

The CHINESE work in Victoria has encountered difficulties of various kinds, but most of these have been overcome, and it is believed the mission is now on the highway to success. The missionary reports "a marked improvement in the moral tone of Chinatown," which is saying a great deal. "The graver offences are steadily on the decrease." Blackmailing has been discontinued, and for the past nine months the importation of girls for base purposes is "entirely stopped." Four have been baptized during the year, and about a dozen others have professed conversion who have not yet joined the Church, but will do so. The present membership is twenty.

Arrangements have been made for the erection of suitable buildings for the Girls' Rescue Home in Victoria. When they are ready for occupancy, this department of the work will be handed over to the Woman's Missionary Society.

At NEW WESTMINSTER a Sunday-school and a week-night school have been steadily maintained, and the good seed has been faithfully sown. Here, as well as at Victoria, the Chinamen contribute towards the expenses of the school, and even extend some help to a similar school in Vancouver. At the latter place eleven Chinamen have been baptized since Conference.

Through the kind offices of Dr. Wenyon, of the Wesleyan Mission at Fatshan, the Secretary has been put in communication with a native convert, who has already done good service as a teacher and preacher, and the probabilities are he will come to the work on the Pacific coast. In this connection it may be stated that application has been made to the Dominion Government for a remission, in the case of the native missionary and his family, of the capitation tax levied on all Chinamen entering the Dominion; but the application has been refused, the customs authorities claiming that the Act is specific, and that they have no power to make any exception. As a result of the working of this most unjust Act the Missionary Society will have to pay \$250 tax, in order that a Christian Chinaman may enter the Dominion to preach the Gospel to his fellow-countrymen. But it is hoped that, on further representation, a rebate will be allowed.

The INDIAN work continues to receive careful attention from the Board. This work has features that are very perplexing. The policy of the Government in treating the Indians as minors has a most injurious effect upon character, preventing, as it does, the development of a spirit of self-reliance, without which the civilization of the tribe can never be thorough or abiding. Practically the policy of the Church has been too much like that of the Government. Every-

thing has been done *for* the Indians, and consequently very little is done *by* them. The bands in Ontario, and some of those in the North-West, live upon fertile reserves, where ordinary industry would yield a good return, and it is high time they were learning to be financially independent in their educational and religious work.

In spiritual results the Indian missions are fairly prosperous, some of them decidedly so. In times of sore trial the "fruit of the Spirit" has been manifest in patient endurance of suffering, and in triumph over death. On several missions of the Port Simpson District an epidemic of scarlet fever swept away the children and young people by hundreds; but many of them were enabled to praise God in the furnace, and with their latest breath bore witness of Christ's power to save. Of the visitation on the Naas River, the missionary writes:—

Many happy, joyful deaths, cheered us amid the gloom. A young man, formerly a native agent, saw the heavens open and said, "I see the place I am going to at Thy right hand." Jessie Calder, daughter of Victoria, said to her parents, "Don't weep, I shall not be lost to you; I am going to Jesus." Young children, too, ere they die, spoke wondrous words as saints ripe for glory, bidding their friends meet them in the better land. It was a great trial to your missionary to be laid aside for six weeks at such a time, but God is good, and greatly helped the sorrow-stricken village; and we and the Indians were greatly comforted, just at this time, by the arrival of the Chairman, who had forced his way through the ice to reach us.

In the FRENCH WORK there has been no marked advance during the year. On some of the missions, however, Quarterly Boards have been organized, and efforts made to place the work upon a more permanent basis. The decision of the Board to push the work along educational lines is being carried out. A large Institute, to accommodate 100 resident pupils, is in course of erection in a western suburb of Montreal, and will, when completed, become a most important auxiliary to our French work.

Of the HOME WORK not much need be said. Its history has been an inspiration to the Church, and will continue to be so. Its importance in the future can hardly be over-stated. By this agency alone can a life-giving gospel be carried to the hardy but poverty-stricken fishermen of Newfoundland and Labrador; by this agency alone can we meet the spiritual needs of the new settlers in the older Provinces; and by this agency alone can we pre-empt the great North-West for Christ and truth. Other departments of our mission work are important, and deserve all the help we can give, but in no department will investments yield better returns than in our Domestic Missions.

The numerical summary for the past year is as follows:—