

a special committee was appointed to examine into the whole matter, especially the financial aspect of the question. This committee endorsed in substance the former recommendation, but the Assembly, at one of its closing sessions, decided that in the meantime the publication of its helps be continued as last year, and that the matter, as above, be referred to Presbyteries to consider and report to next Assembly.

These Lesson Helps are, by competent judges pronounced excellent, and it is hoped that our S. Schools will, as far as possible, adopt them.

Another subject considered this forenoon was the Report of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, presented by Messrs. H. H. McPherson for the East and J. K. McDonald for the West.

In the East the receipts from congregations were \$1,437, from interest on endowments \$1,487, and from ministers' rates \$1,132. There were paid in annuities \$3,716; and but \$157 is due the treasurer as against \$308 at the first of the year.

There are now 19 annuitants. Revs. Dr. McCulloch and J. B. Logan died during the year, and Revs. Dr. Isaac Murray and H. B. Mackay have been added to the list.

In the West the receipts from congregations were \$7,666, from interest on endowments \$5,655, from ministers' rates \$2,353; and a balance on hand of \$945 at the beginning of the year is now a deficit of \$211.

There was paid \$14,571 to seventy-five annuitants. Four of those on the list, Revs. Thos. Alexander, John Scott, D.D., John Porteous, and A. W. Waddell, died during the year; and Revs. Alex. Sutherland, Prof. Gregg, D.D., Geo. Bell, LL.D., W. S. Ball, John James, D.D., J. S. Burnett, David Wishart, and Wm. Lohead, have been allowed to retire and receive benefit from the Fund.

Some of these aged men have served the Church for forty or fifty years on salaries that only sufficed for the time, and the \$200 that they now receive from the Aged Ministers' Fund is a large part of their dependence in their old age. Surely such a Fund should be generously supported!

Saturday afternoon was variously spent. There was no session of Assembly. Some rested; some saw the city; many went out to preach on Sabbath in churches near and far; some visited Niagara; a large number, together with many of their hosts, enjoyed a sail on the lake in a steamer kindly provided by the good friends in Toronto; while a few had special committee work to which they must attend.

Sabbath morning dawned bright, beautiful. No street cars disturbed the quiet. Conductors and motormen were enjoying their Sabbath rest. Long may Toronto enjoy this unique distinction!

The Assembly Sabbath services are increasing in number. At first there used to be morning and evening services. Then a special afternoon service for children was held. For the past few

years there has been added an Assembly communion service at 4 o'clock; and this year, for the first time, a C. E. service was held after the evening sermon. It, too, has probably come to stay, so that the day is well filled.

At Toronto Revs. A. Robertson, of New Glasgow, N.S., and J. Herdman, of Calgary, preached morning and evening. Dr. Bruce, of St. John, N.B., and others, addressed the children's gathering. The Moderator, assisted by Drs. Sedgwick, Laing and Robertson, conducted the communion services, while the C. E. meeting was presided over by Rev. R. D. Fraser and addressed by several, including Miss Sinclair of India. The other 24 Presbyterian Churches of Toronto and neighboring towns and cities, as well as many of sister denominations in the city, were supplied by members of Assembly.

On Monday morning were considered the reports on the Widows and Orphans' Funds.

That of the West paid in annuities \$15,875, but the income was \$3,590 short of the expenditure. Three widows were removed by death during the year and six added to the list of annuitants, which now numbers 93. Ministers are urged to connect themselves with the Fund and pay the rates.

In the East the Fund is practically a mutual insurance fund, supported by the ministers, for the benefit of those who join it and pay the rates. There are 20 widows, and 20 orphans, under 18 years, receiving aid from it. Its financial position is satisfactory.

A second subject on Monday forenoon was a proposal from the Synod of Manitoba and some of the farther Western Presbyteries for the appointment of a Central Committee to apportion the missionary funds of the Church among the several Schemes rather than that each Committee, as at present, should get all it can for its own work. Far into the afternoon the discussion extended, taking in the whole range of "Home" work in the North-West, of "Foreign" work among the N. W. Indians and Chinese, and the "ways and means" for both. The general feeling was that more machinery would not be helpful, that it is better that each Committee should keep its work thoroughly before the Church, that an intelligent Christian people should apportion their own givings, and the work be carried on as these givings will admit. It was at length decided to send the matter down to Presbyteries to consider and report to next Assembly.

The remainder of the afternoon was taken up with the Church and Manse Building Fund in the North-West, presented by Dr. Robertson. When this grand scheme began its work 14 years ago, there were only 18 churches and 3 manses belonging to our Church between Lake Superior and the Pacific. Since that time this Fund has helped to erect 269 churches and 56 manses,