

Co-operation.

In the effort which the Committee of the Twentieth Century Fund is now making to complete the canvas of the churches, the most hearty co-operation is necessary. Will the pastors and Sunday-school secretaries return their pledges as soon as possible, and thus greatly aid the speedy completion of the good work.

North West Results After 20 Years.

With the first year of the twentieth century the North West Baptist Convention completed the second period of ten years as a Convention, and the record is one to make us most grateful to Almighty God. In 1891 there were 34 churches in the Convention, 20 only of which reported statistics for the year. Of these 34 churches 27 were in Manitoba, and 7 were in the Territories, and the total membership was 1,600. To-day there are 81 churches, 52 in Manitoba and 29 in the Territories, while the membership has increased from 1,600 to 4,678. In 1891 there were 12 churches that owned places of worship, and the total value of property was about 20,000. There are now, either finished or in course of erection, 53 church buildings, and the value of the church property is about \$140,000. In 1891 there were at work in the Convention 16 ordained pastors and 12 students, while at the present there are 43 ordained and 26 unordained missionaries at work. In 1891 the churches were raising about \$25,000 for all purposes, now they are raising over \$54,000. Truly the little one is becoming a thousand.

On account of the failure of the crops last year a less encouraging report than usual might be expected from our North West. But the year has been one of unusual encouragement. Of the work in particular we cannot speak, but we have pleasure in reporting 9 new churches established, 14 new buildings in course of erection, nineteen new men added to the ministerial staff, 20 new preaching stations opened up, and a net increase membership of 559. With great joy our brethren announce the dedication of the first Gallican Protestant Chapel in Canada, and expect soon to announce the organization of the first Hungarian Baptist Church.

For Brandon College the year has been one of marked progress and development. The total enrolment for the year was 108. The new building is expected to be ready for occupation at the opening of the next session. Up to the present the subscription for the building and its furnishings has reached a little over \$38,000.

With the representatives of other years, we wish to join in emphasizing the importance of present devotion—in gifts and labor—to this great field. This is the day of opportunity. Others see it, if we do not. In every way the great Roman Catholic Church is striving to possess the land. By systematized emigration from Quebec, and through the efforts of a representative in Europe, they are endeavoring to obtain the ascendancy in what will be the wealthiest and most influential part of Canada. Do we realize what it means for them to succeed; if so, then let us give and do, and give and do at once.

Missions in New Brunswick.

The space allotted me will permit of only the bare statement of a few facts concerning our Home Mission work in New Brunswick.

1. Home Mission work in N. B. is being prosecuted to-day along lines somewhat different from those along which it was prosecuted a few decades ago. Then the work was distinctively of an aggressive character—the planting of interests in communities hitherto without the saving agency of a Baptist church. Now, for the most part, it is the fostering of mission churches already established, which we are called upon to do.

2. The men and women who constitute the churches and congregations on these mission fields are persons who give in many cases much more largely according to their means than their brethren in the larger and more favored churches and communities. They are moreover intelligent and pious, as well as benevolent and it is only the accident of a circumscribed constituency which makes assistance from their sister churches a necessity in order to sustain gospel ministrations in their midst.

3. With one or two exceptions there are no parsonages on these Mission circuits—the pastor and his family having to accept whatever accommodation may be at hand, such quarters often being straitened, uncomfortable and sometimes inconveniently located. It is easily perceived therefore that there is urgent need of a fund from which loans and gifts may be made toward supplying suitable parsonages on those fields and it is probable that at least a portion of the amount realized for our Home Mission work from the Twentieth Century Fund, so called, will be set apart to form a parsonage fund.

4. The preaching and pastoral work on these mission circuits is being done by most worthy and consecrated men—men who, instead of looking for easy pastorates with convenient surroundings and good salary, choose to give themselves to these needy sections, spending and being spent for the Lord.

5. The pastors who minister to these Home mission

interests receive no adequate remuneration for their services—Notwithstanding the money grants made to these churches toward their pastor's support—grants small but as large as funds will admit—notwithstanding generous contributions by the people themselves, the support given our mission pastors is exceedingly small. Indeed so small in most cases are their salaries that though most rigid economy be maintained, many of these noble, self-sacrificing men along with their families have to endure privations of various kinds, and sometimes even with best management debts accrue.

6. Do you not account it shameful—sinful that these devoted brethren should be called to pass through such experiences? Surely, to whom do you make such sin chargeable? To ourselves as Baptists—Is there a remedy? Yes—Where is it to be found? I foretell your answer—It is with the stronger and more favored churches.

7. If pastors well paid and congregations comfortably housed will give place to more of the spirit of neighborliness and approach unto the New Testament measure of giving or even to the measure of giving practiced by some on these mission fields, the shame, the privation and the sin will cease forthwith because ample provision will be at hand for the needs of this work and not for this only but for all our denominational enterprises.

8. The Twentieth Century Fund movement is designed to encourage such neighborliness and benevolence throughout our Baptist constituency hence with interest and hope our Home Mission Boards look upon this movement which, without reference to plans for its prosecution, has been commended by Convention and endorsed by the various associations.

9. But seeing that the contributions toward this fund are to extend over four years and that 50 per cent. of it goes to Foreign Missions—10 per cent. to Grande Ligne and 10 per cent. to Missions in North West and British Columbia—all worthy interests—leaving only 30 per cent. for Home Mission work in these Maritime Provinces, many of us feel that even with all that may be hoped from this movement, special and supplemental contributions must be made to our Home Mission work in New Brunswick if it is to be prosecuted with vigor and our missions pastors treated as they should be by the denomination at large.

So while commending the Twentieth Century Fund movement—apart from any plan or plans for its conduct—I specially commend to the sympathetic consideration of the churches of New Brunswick one interest which it includes—our Home Mission interest in this province.

B. N. NOBLE, Sec'y. H. M. Board of N. B.
St. John, West, Feb. 1st. 1902.

H. M. Board.

In the report of the H. M. B. of the Maritime Convention whose field of operation embraces the Provinces of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, the following is a brief summary of the operations of the Board of the past year, 1900-01. Of the 49 fields now on the roll, 30 have had regular pastoral labor throughout the year, 8 for the greater part of the year, 8 for a few months, and 3 have had but little. The aggregate of labor is 1,563 weeks. Preaching services 3,599, other meetings 3,045, religious visit 9,437, baptized 81, and received by letter and experience 52. The grants to the churches amount to \$3,718 94, viz., \$3,173 77 to 71 churches in Nova Scotia, and \$545 17 to 10 churches in Prince Edward Island.

Two new meeting houses have been opened, one at Murray River, P. E. I., and the other at Blue Mountain, Kings Co., N. S.

Three fields have been self-supporting, but on the other hand four fields have become dependent on the Board.

Some Missionary Facts.

Eugene Stock says, "We ought to evangelize the world. Christ told us to do it. A gentleman said to me one day he did not believe in missions because he had lived in many parts of the world and had found that it did not make much difference what religion a man professed, and he assured me he had seen good Buddhists, good Mohammedans, even good devil-worshippers and also good Christians. 'Yes,' I said, 'but you forget one thing. Either the Son of God came down to the earth to save men from sin or he didn't. It is a question of fact. If he didn't, then one of the religions you mentioned is a delusion and a fraud, and that is Christianity. But if he did come, then ought not men to know it, and ought not those who know it tell those who don't? That's missions.'" The reply of Mr. Stock is unanswerable.

GREAT RESULTS.

In the New Hebrides twenty-two male missionaries and two hundred and seventy-one native teachers labor amongst the eighty thousand inhabitants of these islands. The number of communicants is over two thousand,

whilst one thousand during the past year renounced heathenism. These simple Christians of the South Seas put us to the blush in their devotion and liberality. Last year they gave nearly \$3,000 to send missionaries to those who are still heathen and cannibals on the unevangelized islands. This is about a dollar and fifty cents a member, while a certain section of the Presbyterian church in the south (U. S.) gave last year an average of only sixty-five cents per member. It is doubtful if the Baptists on any part of this continent have done as well as even this during the past year, on an average.

In the Samoan group of islands in the Pacific Ocean, 4,000 miles from San Francisco and 2,500 miles east of Australia, there is a similar result. The earliest explorers found the people on these islands atrocious savages and cannibals, and one place, where twelve white men were slain by the natives, is known as "Massacre Bay." The first missionaries reached there in 1830 and very rapid progress was made in the Christianization of the islands. Heathenism is now a thing of the past, and there are several hundred villages in which native pastors are supported by the people. Three of the principle islands are called Manua, and the first governor of American Samoa says in his report to the home government: "Nearly every inhabitant of Manua is a professing Christian, and all the hill-sides resound morning and evening with hymns of praise to God." He says further, "While many people scoff at the work of the missionaries, I say without hesitation that they have done a wonderful and noble work among the natives of the South Seas, and through God's help have practically converted the whole of the Samoans. Through their faithful service these islands are now prepared to take advantage of good government and will advance wonderfully in civilization in the next few years."

"The Twentieth Century Fund" needs help. Inquiries are made as to what is being done, but no answer can be given since so little is known. It would be interesting reading if brethren who have this work in charge could give some information. It certainly ought not to be difficult to raise from twelve to fifteen thousand dollars per year for four years as a special thankoffering to the God of missions for all that has been done during the past century at home and abroad. In Foreign Mission work Baptists have been in the van of the Lord's hosts.

From Carey's day down to the present they have been conspicuous for aggressive zeal and endeavor. We do not want to take second place. Our desire should be to take front rank. The orders of the Great Captain are explicit and imperative. We are loyal to our Leader. This is one of the tenets of our faith. The fact is it is the reason for our existence as a denomination. We are not envious of the success which has attended other religious bodies, but we want to be more faithful to our Master than the most active of these. Every reason that can be given urges to the most self-sacrificing endeavor on our part. Brethren, let us push the Twentieth Century movement with all our might!

The results of all mission work by all religious bodies, as near as can be tabulated for 100 years—from 1799 to 1897—show a wonderful growth in missionary zeal and endeavor.

In 1799, there were six missionary societies among all Christians, now there are 367. Then there were 150 missionaries, now 15400 including women. Then contributions amounted to \$50,000, now, to \$4,513,970. This shows movement and movement of the right sort. No Baptist can afford to be out of the procession.

In the past 70 years three hundred of the Pacific Islands have been evangelized, and foreign commerce with them now amounts to more than twenty million dollars annually. The Zulu mission orders every year in farming implements more than it costs to establish the mission.

Praise God for such results. Let us give more and pray more for such a grand and blessed work.

Some people grumble about the cost of mission work. They ought not to be taken seriously. Look at the cost of the war in South Africa. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent to maintain the honor of Britain, to demonstrate to the world the integrity of Britain's empire, and that British and not Boer must be the dominant power in South Africa.

Nobody complains of the outlay in men and money to make this an accomplished fact, though many may regret the awful necessity. But when a few thousand are called for to establish the reign of the Prince of Peace in lands where the prince of this world aways the sceptre, then the cry is heard about the expense. Surely men do not think, nor can they pray very intelligently, 'Thy Kingdom come,' and say the things which are sometimes heard. The lack of a missionary spirit is the lack of the Christ-spirit—and where this is lacking there is no power, and where there is no power there is no success. There may be accretions, and that will be all. These count, but it is only in the count. They add nothing to the strength of the church of Christ.