

reported last year. The number of churches reported in each District was: First District, 6; Second District, 21; Third District, 13; Fourth District, 16; Fifth District, 16; Sixth District, 23; Seventh District, 12.

If the enrolment of churches as given by the District Meetings in 1897 was correct, there should now be one hundred and fifty-six (156) churches in the Conference, forty-nine of which have not been heard from this year. A score of them have been silent several years.

The reported churches have 8,539 members. Estimating the unreported membership on the basis of last year, the total membership of the churches at this date is 12,352.

Thirty-one (31) churches report additions of members aggregating 271; thirty-one (31) churches report losses aggregating 137; forty-five churches either report no change in membership, or say nothing about it.

Among the reported gains and losses were 57 transfers of members from and to Free Baptist churches, which do not effect the total membership; four members were expelled; 25 members were dismissed to join other denominations; and twenty-four members were received from other denominations.

All the Districts but two had net gains; the First District had no change of membership; the Fourth District had a net loss of five members.

**BAPTISMS.**—The number of baptisms reported is one hundred and ninety-six (196)—41 less than last year. The baptisms are reported from thirty-one (31) churches, and from Districts as follows: Second District, 23; Third, 46; Fourth, 9; Fifth, 46; Sixth, 34; Seventh, 38.

The net gain for the year is 134—the same as last year.

**MINISTERS.**—During the year two ministers died—Rev. E. B. Gray and Rev. Thos. Connor. These brethren beloved had finished their work, and rejoiced that they were called home. Suitable reference to their lives and labours will be made part of the Conference record during this session. One brother—S. J. Case—was ordained according to instructions given its Executive by Conference at the last session. The ordination took place in St. John, West, June 27th last. Revs. C. F. Rideout, W. R. Reud, W. C. Kierstead, E. S. Parker and S. J. Case are out of the Province—Bro. Rideout owing to poor health, Bro. Reud because of Mrs. Reud's health, Bro. Keirstead pursuing his studies at the Chicago University, Bro. Parker pursuing his studies at Bates College, and Bro. Case teaching in the New Hampton, N. H.