

Canadian Missionary Link.

Published in the interests of the Baptist Foreign Missionary Societies of Canada.

VOL. XXXVIII.

TORONTO, JULY-AUGUST, 1913.

No. 11-12

THE SOCIETY'S CONSTITUTION.

(Continued.)

In this series of articles have been discussed already the conditions of membership, the object and the standing in relation to other denominational organizations of the Foreign Mission Society. This month we are to discuss how and by whom the business of the Society is carried on.

Since the Society as a whole meets only once a year in Convention, it is manifestly impossible that the Society as a whole do all the business in connection with the enterprise. Some smaller body, which can meet whenever necessary and devote whatever time is necessary, must do routine business, must deal with emergencies and must formulate plans and schemes which shall be submitted to the Society, at its annual Convention, for endorsement and approval.

This "smaller body" is known as the Board of Managers, and its members are elected by the Society at its annual meeting. The only exception to this is that when a vacancy occurs between the annual meetings the Board itself may elect someone to fill the vacancy till the next annual meeting, when the place is filled in the regular way. The number of Board members to be elected is placed at not fewer than 24, and not more than 40. At present there are on the Board the full number of elected members. In addition to these, all the officers of the Society and all the Associational Directors, which are appointed by their own Associations, are ex-officio members of the Board. But

all of these forty are not elected each year. They are divided in five classes of eight each, one class retiring each year, the members, of course, being eligible for re-election, if the Society so desires.

Nominations are made in writing and also in open Convention. This plan, in contrast with that of appointing a Nominating Committee, is thought to have the advantages of allowing each member of the Society an adequate opportunity to present any name she wishes, and is generally credited with electing a Board whose members shall represent all the districts of our constituency, and so be thoroughly representative. It has some disadvantages, however, and one—one which can be overcome with a little care—is a possibility of unconsidered and unsuitable nominations being made on the spur of the moment. This Board, when elected, has serious business before it. Among the most necessary qualifications for membership, aside, of course, from the indispensable one of consecrated interest in the cause, are perhaps wisdom in counsel, ability to formulate plans, and first, last and always, a willingness to work. There have been reasons given for nomination such as: "She is such a lovely woman," or "We have no one from our district," or "She is so generous," or "The Board is a good place to train her." There are places many and needy waiting for each one of these classes of women, but we think the Board of Managers needs other qualifi-