

the consideration of the special committee on the Widows' Fund for the congregations of the late United Presbyterian Church, to be reported on at next meeting of Synod.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES ON WIDOWS' FUND AND FUND FOR AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS.—The reports of these two important committees were presented and were sustained. The general Widows' Fund now amounts to upwards of \$36,000; while for the special fund to be raised by the congregations of the late United Presbyterian Church there has been received about \$3,000, one-half of the entire amount to be raised in three years. During the year one new assistant has come on the fund, the widow of the late Rev. James Geggie.

The Fund for Aged and Infirm Ministers has also increased during the year. It was agreed to grant to the Rev. Joseph Young, of Brantford, \$100 per annum from this fund, and \$50 per annum to Dr. Cairns.

EXPENSES OF MEMBERS OF SYNOD.—On the report of a committee appointed at a previous diet, it was agreed that the attention of congregations be called by a notice in the *Record* to the duty of paying the travelling expenses of members of Synod, and that the Synod authorize the committee of accommodation to draw upon the Synod Fund to an amount not exceeding \$250 towards paying the expenses incurred by them in providing accommodation for members of the Court not enjoying the hospitality of private families while residing in Toronto.

REPRESENTATION OF SESSIONS IN CHURCH COURTS.—There were laid before the Synod overtures from the sessions and congregations of English Settlement and Bethel Church, on the representation of sessions in church courts, referring more especially to the case of two or more congregations under the care of one pastor. The Synod referred the overture to the committee already appointed in a book of forms. To the same committee were referred an overture on the Temporalities of congregations, and another on the subject of Citations and disjunctions from sessions.

CONGREGATIONAL SINGING.—The important subject of congregational singing was brought before the Synod by an overture from the Rev. R. Monteath. The matter referred to a committee, to consider what steps should be taken with a view to improve congregational singing throughout the church, and to report to next Synod.

HOME MISSION ARRANGEMENTS.—The Synod, after hearing the report of a Committee, re-enacted for this year the Home Mission regulations, and appointed a special committee to consider the whole subject, and to mature a plan to be sent down to Presbyteries before the month of November, Presbyteries to consider and report their views on the same before the 1st of April.

REPORT ON THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION.—A report was presented by the committee appointed last year. It was agreed to defer the consideration it until next Synod, and that in the meantime it be inserted in the Appendix to the Minutes.

STATISTICS.—An elaborate report on Statistics was received from the committee, drawn up by the convener, Rev. J. Gray, of Orillia. It presented many features of an encouraging character, but, on the other hand, set forth the sad fact, not only that the stipends of ministers are, in many cases, inadequate, but that in too many cases arrears have been allowed in the payment of the amount promised. This should not be so. The Report, with the Statistical Returns, will appear in the *Record*.

REPORTS OF VARIOUS STANDING COMMITTEES.—Reports were presented before the Synod closed from the committee on the *Home and Foreign Record*, the committee on the Finances of the Church, the committee on Sabbath Schools, and the committee on Sabbath Observance. These, with some other reports, were severally received and approved, and all the standing committees were appointed in the report of the committee appointed to nominate members. To the committee on Temperance was referred a memorial from the Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance.

STATED COLLECTIONS.—The stated collections were appointed as last year:—

For Synod Fund, on 3rd Sabbath of July.

For Widows' Fund and Fund for Aged and Infirm Ministers, 3rd Sabbath of October.

For Foreign Mission, on 3rd Sabbath of January.

For Home Mission, on 3rd Sabbath of April.