

part of the country, and also of the care and labour expended by the conveners, secretaries and treasurers of the various committees, some of whom are ministers of large congregations, and most of whom receive no remuneration for their services beyond a vote of thanks from the General Assembly, and the approval of their own consciences. There is more or less mission work done in all the Presbyteries. The principal fields in the Western section, however, are the Muskoka and Parry Sound districts, north of Toronto; the islands in the Georgian Bay, Lake Huron; stations on Lake Superior separated by hundreds of miles from each other, and lastly, Manitoba and the great North-West. It would seem that some of our hardest mission fields have proved to be good schools for missionaries. During the past year Rev. Hugh Mackay, who had laboured long and faithfully in Manitoulin Island, was transferred to the North-West to take part in the work among the Indians, while Rev. John Jamieson, two years missionary at Magnetawan, was removed, at the call of the Foreign Mission Committee, to take part in the work at Formosa. A \$10,000 church is in course of erection at Port Arthur, head of Lake Superior, where Mr. Herald continues his acceptable labours. Mr. McWilliam gives an excellent account of his work at Prince Albert, on the Saskatchewan, to which place he has been unanimously called as pastor. Mr. Baird is making steady and encouraging progress at Edmonton, near the foot of the Rocky Mountains. Rev. James Robertson continues his arduous and valuable labours as Superintendent of missions in Manitoba and the North-West. His report is full of interesting details. Seventeen new fields, with 80 preaching stations were organized during the year. Eighteen new churches were built and a number of others enlarged, at a cost of some \$40,000; more than two-thirds being contributed by the people and the balance being advanced on loan by the Church and Manse Building Fund. Six or seven missionaries of last year have been, in the meantime, inducted as pastors of settled charges. During the year, in this part of the mission field, there were employed *forty-nine* ordained ministers, *twenty-two* students, and *four* catechists. Nine of the fields supplied by students in the summer were

occupied by elders during the winter. Adding the two ministers in Winnipeg, those at Kildonan, Portage La Prairie and Brandon, and the three professors in the College, the staff maintained by the church last year numbered *ninety-two*. 45,000 immigrants are said to have settled in Manitoba and the North-West last year; the number expected this year is still greater. The report reminds us that the next few years will largely determine the religious future of the country. "Half a continent is now thrown open for settlement, and the pressing work of our church is to give the new settlers the gospel." The receipts for the year are, for Home Missions, \$45,287.12, and for Augmentation of stipends, \$21,505.64. The whole amount subscribed for the Church and Manse Building Fund is \$95,319.26, of which is paid, \$32,645.80. The total advances from the fund on buildings for the year was \$12,290. The efforts of the sub-committee on Augmentation, Rev. D.J. Macdonnell, convener, were crowned with success. Not only has the minimum stipend of \$750 and manse to every minister in the Western section of the Church been secured, the committee have in hand a reserve fund of \$17,000 wherewith to commence operations next year.

PROFESSOR FORREST and Mr. J. K. Blair spoke for the Eastern section. Thirteen ordained ministers and ten licentiates had been employed in Home Mission work under the direction of the Committee. Besides these, thirty-eight students were employed during the summer months, in all 65 labourers, who conducted religious services at 140 stations, nearly one-half of which are situated in the Presbytery of St. John, N.B.—the Muskoka of the East. Financially and otherwise the past year had been the most successful mission year they ever had in the East. They had added 25 per cent. to the communicants in the mission stations, and nearly doubled the number of scholars in the Sunday-School. The receipts for Home Missions were \$4,233.60, and for Supplements \$5,166.10. Hitherto the General Assembly has usually heard of debt. During the preceding year, by a special effort, the debt on the supplementing fund was paid; last year commenced with a balance of \$628, and closed with a balance of \$2,159.66 in the treasury. When both