

tions of Covehead, East St. Peter's, and Brookfield, which the Committee, after careful consideration, have not been able to recommend. In the Presbytery of Victoria and Richmond, Mabou at present vacant, has been added. In the Presbytery of Cape Breton, Glace Bay is withdrawn, having become self-sustaining, and Cape North, at present vacant, has been added. In the Presbytery of Halifax, Noel has been added. As to the amounts granted in the Presbytery of St. John, Londonderry receives \$20 additional while Bocabec has asked for \$25 less. In the Presbytery of Victoria and Richmond, \$50 has been granted to Baddeck in place of 80 as before. In the Presbytery of Cape Breton, Cow Bay asks for \$40, in place of \$80 as before. In the Presbytery of Pictou, \$80 instead of \$60 has been granted to French River. In the Presbytery of Halifax, the grant to Annapolis has been reduced by \$30, the Annapolis section of the congregation having assumed that amount. The grant to Lawrencetown has been increased by \$20, the Committee having gone as far as they could to meet the wishes of the Presbytery. In the Presbytery of Lunenburg and Yarmouth, the grant to Mahone Bay has been reduced by \$10. To sum up, the whole amount asked for is \$3805.00, an increase of between three or four hundred dollars upon the grant of last year, but as there are a good many vacant congregations on the list it is not probable that the grant of last year will be exceeded. The amount, however, is sufficiently large. It is true, as already reported, that very considerable aid may be expected from abroad, but the effect of this should be to stimulate rather than check the liberality of the Church, and the Committee feel that keeping this foreign aid out of view altogether, the most earnest and active efforts on the part of Presbyteries, and Sessions, and members of the Church will be needed to meet our obligations, and to preserve unimpaired this right arm of the Church's strength.

There is one matter, which for some years has forced itself upon the Committee's notice. We refer to the practice of Presbyteries dividing congregations, the effect of which division being to make two weak congregations take the place of one strong one, and either, or perhaps both becoming dependent upon the Church at large. We do not wish, of course to tie up a Presbytery's hands, and there are exceptions to every rule, but we would recommend,—

1. That the Synod enjoin Presbyteries to use every effort to secure that when congregations are divided they should be self-sustaining, or, at least, there should be a strong probability of their becoming so within a reasonable time.

2. That any Balance against the Scheme be defrayed from the funds of the Home Mission Board.

3. That the powers given to the Committee by previous Synod be continued.

4. That an allowance be made to the Secretary of \$50 to defray necessary expenses.

All which is respectfully submitted.

GEORGE CHRISTIE, *Convener*.

THOS. SEDGEWICK, *Secretary*.

Action of Synod.

The list was accepted, and \$80 farther voted for Cove Head.

The recommendations of the Board were accepted:—

1. To enjoin Presbyteries to use every endeavour to see that, when new congregations are erected, they should be self-sustaining, or at least there should be strong probability of their becoming so, within a reasonable time.

2. That any balance against the fund be defrayed from the funds of the Home Mission Board.

3. That the powers already given to the Committee be continued.

4. That the sum of \$50 be allowed to defray the necessary expenses of the Secretary.

Agreed that the thanks of the Synod be given to the Committee and Secretary for their excellent Report, and for the good work which they have so earnestly and so successfully prosecuted for the Church.

Aged and Infirm Ministers.

Rev. G. Patterson read the Report of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, showing that the sum in fund amounted to \$3157.85.

It appeared that the scheme had not been followed out in all the Presbyteries.

The Report was received, and the diligence of the Committee approved. The Synod then reaffirmed the resolution of last year: "That the Synod renew their injunction to those congregations which have not contributed to this scheme, to do so as early as possible, authorize the agent of the schemes of the church to give his aid as far as convenient, direct the attention of Presbyteries to the subject, and remit the matter to the Committee to prosecute the work of collecting.

Deceased Ministers.

Rev. G. Patterson from the Committee appointed by Synod, submitted the Memo