

### Woman's Missionary Work in the Northwest.

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The country west of Lake Superior is distinctly a Home Mission field and in extent and possibilities must be considered as one of the greatest fields in the world for the enterprise of the Church in home work.

There was a time (doubtless) when the West seemed to be almost a Foreign Field to the Eastern Church. The going forth of John Black nearly fifty years ago to the far Red River was a more difficult undertaking than sending missionaries to-day to China or Korea. But now that East and West are linked by rail, and the sons and daughters of the Eastern and Maritime Provinces are scattered all over the West, communication is easy, and the task of interesting the whole Church in Western work should not be difficult.

It may seem somewhat strange to say that notwithstanding the constant presence of the Home Mission question amongst themselves the women in the Western congregations are in very few cases organized into societies for aggressive Home Mission work. So far as I know at the present time, Augustine church in Winnipeg has the only regularly organized Woman's Home Missionary Society in the West.

This particular Society has existed for some years and holds its meetings on the same day with the Foreign Mission Auxiliary. Most of the ladies who take hold of missionary work in the congregation are members of both Societies and so the meetings are held consecutively in the afternoon of the first Tuesday in the month. Papers are read on certain points in the work and letters from Home Missionaries are often received and discussed.

Considerable financial aid has been given to some of the weaker fields by this Society and generally the givings for the year are about equal to the amount contributed by the Foreign Missionary Auxiliary in the congregation. There is not the slightest antagonism between these two auxiliaries and we wonder that the plan is not more generally adopted.

Though there is not a regular Home Missionary Society in many congregations, almost every church has a Ladies Aid Society, which is generally one of the most active of organizations. These societies raise a considerable amount of money in various ways during the year, most of which is devoted to some part of the congregational work but some of which is at times devoted to help some city or other mission.

There is, therefore, a sense in which these are helping considerably in Home Mission Work by assisting the work of the congregation and thus putting it in a position to give more to work outside its own bounds.

The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society is the largest and most active of all the women's church organizations in the West. Almost every established congregation has an auxiliary and many of the mission fields as well. There is no lack of scope for our efforts and no difficulty in having news of thrilling interest for the meetings.

The amounts contributed are generally liberal and the experience is that those who take most interest in the work of Christ abroad are the most ready to bear their full share of the burden at home.

The work amongst the Indians of the Northwest is one of great interest. Wonderful transformations have been wrought by the missions and by the industrial and boarding schools. These are carried on by as devoted a band of men and women as can be found in any mission field at home or abroad.

The several Foreign Missionary Auxiliaries of each Presbyterian Society undertakes each year to furnish certain kinds of clothing for the Indians and the work engages many willing hands.

The Indian who once dwelt in tepees and subsisted on the precarious proceeds of the chase are now for the most part dwelling in neat houses of their own construction and are supporting themselves by farming and stock raising. The most hopeful part of the work, of course, is that amongst the young and it is pleasing to know that so much is being done for them with such good success.

Another interesting Woman's Missionary Society is an undenominational organization in Winnipeg called the Victoria India Orphan Society. It is under Presidency of Lady Schultz (Episcopalian) and has ladies of all denominations amongst its members. It came into existence through the special interest aroused on behalf of the orphan children of India in the time of the great famine two years ago. The Society carries on its work of child saving in India in connection with our Presbyterian Mission at Dhar by consent of the General Assembly's Foreign Mission Committee, and has done considerable work at that point. The work is undoubtedly a good one, and as the ladies composing the Society are very devoted to the undertaking it is likely that it will be carried on with good success while present arrangements and methods prevail.