

Our Home Work.

In spite of the "hard times" most of the congregations throughout our church have had, as the annual reports of many of them show, a successful year financially. Nominal Christians may begin to economize at the Lord's House when economy is rendered necessary, not so the real Christian, and the backbone of our congregations is made of such.

Student The College sessions are drawing to a close. The students will soon be going out to the various Home Mission fields for the summer. Stations that have had but little preaching will be made glad once more. The silent Sabbaths will become vocal with praise. It is a good thing though there is sometimes a dearth of preachers in the Home Mission field in winter, summer brings them, like the song birds, back again. May they all have heaven's own melody in their song.

Help from Rev. C. W. Gordon, formerly of Scotland, Banff, went to Scotland to study during the present winter. While there he has been trying to deepen the interest in our great Home Mission field (with its growing population from Scotland and almost every other land), and with grand results. He has received pledges from a number of congregations, some fifty or sixty in all, to contribute £50 sterling each, per year, for three years, to support a missionary in the North-West. In addition to this the U. P. students are taking up the same field as the work of their Missionary Society for this year, which will mean not only added income, but largely increased interest in this work.

LETTER FROM REV. DR. ROBERTSON.

IN reply to numerous inquiries permit me to state that the Home and Foreign Missionary, in the matter of salary, stands on a wholly different footing. The Foreign Mission Committee pledges itself to pay the whole salary of the Foreign Missionary, and pays it punctually and in full. The Home Mission Committee simply makes a grant of \$200 or \$300 to help a mission field to support its missionary, and holds itself liable only for that amount. Should hail, frost, drought, or any other cause render the people of the mission field unable to pay their share of the salary, the missionary must bear the loss. It is true that the Committee has occasionally come to the help of missionaries with families, who have sustained severe losses, but its straitened finances has prevented either frequent or large aid being given, and hence men have been obliged to abandon the field. Had the Committee a surplus of \$3000 or \$4000 to meet special claims, it would make a vast improvement in its work and put new life into many a

missionary. The minimum salary is low enough, but when the missionary loses one, two or even three hundred dollars of it, how is he going to live? If congregations put the means in the hands of the Committee it can safely be trusted to provide for the missionaries.

Thanks are due to several congregations, young people's societies, and members of the Church for aid given and promised. The people will respond if all the facts are before them. It should not be forgotten that the field is extending every year, that more fields are supplied now during winter than formerly, and that hence the ordinary expenditure is increased.

The Rev. C. W. Gordon, formerly of Banff, is addressing audiences in Scotland about the Western Mission field, and receiving encouragement. He is getting pledges from several congregations to contribute £50 a year for three years to support a missionary. This will help the revenue in coming years and deepen the interest of the Scottish people in the work. Interim reports of an encouraging kind have been received, but the work will not be completed till towards the end of March.

Mr. James Morrow, a graduate of Belfast, has broken ground in the Wetaskiwin mission 40 miles south of Edmonton. There are a good many Scandinavian as well as Ontario settlers in the district. Wetaskiwin promises to become a good centre because of the large area of good land in the neighborhood and because of the market of the Beaver Lake Country. Missionaries have also gone West recently for Green Valley, Welwyn and Upper Chilliwaak.

Arrangements have been made with the Rev. John Kovacs, a Hungarian minister now in Pennsylvania, and he is entering on work among his countrymen in Assinibia in April next. About 50 families accompany him from the United States.

For the scattered colonies of Scandinavians, Icelanders, Germans and other nationalities now uncared for, our Church should be prepared to make provision. Our aim must be not to minister to descendants of Scotch and Irish people only, but to all whom we can reach that are without ordinances.

Because the lines are less rigidly drawn in the West than in many other parts of the Dominion, unions are more easily effected. One missionary writes, "When I came here nearly four years ago, there were within the limits of my charge 2 — ministers and 1 — minister, now all denominations have come in with us and are working harmoniously." Two churches have been built and a manse is to be undertaken next season.

If practicable an ordained missionary should be sent in to explore the country north of the Thomson River next spring and report. If some wealthy member of the Church would guarantee \$500 for the purpose it would be money well spent. There are thousands of people in the district wholly uncared for by any Christian body.

Favorable accounts continue to be received from the points where the Rev. Mr. Fowler is conducting evangelistic services.