

gratuitously this labour of love, the warm reception he met as the Society's representative, and the heartiness with which the friends in Manitoba have taken up the work of the Society have been very encouraging to the Directors. The Board is in correspondence with an influential clergyman asking him to undertake the office of Agent, another colporteur has been appointed, and there is every prospect of having the operations of the Society carried on with vigour in that part of its field. The interesting report sent by Mr. Ross to the Board was published in the April number of the *Record*, and some of the details of Mr. Taylor's work in Algoma and Manitowish will be found under the head of colportage.

BRANCHES.

Eighty nine of the stronger Branches were asked to do their work for the year without the help of an Agent, if they felt confident that they could do so without disadvantage. Forty-three undertook to do so. Two of these have failed to fulfil what they had undertaken; but nearly all the others have made very satisfactory returns, several sending handsomely increased contributions. Notably is this the case with Guelph, which sent \$620 free; which is \$180 more than last year, and \$100 more than in any former year, thus placing itself next in rank to Brantford, which has so long led the van in zeal and liberality for the Bible cause.

There can be little doubt that this large increase from Guelph is due to the care with which the Committee of that Branch has attended to the outlying parts of its field during the past year or two. The Board of Directors therefore is much encouraged by the fact that a number of Branches are giving attention to the working of sub-branches, or in some other way canvassing the outer parts of their fields. The importance of this is very great, as there can be no doubt that there are many interlying sections, in which the formation of new Branches would increase the Agency expenses without producing commensurate results; but where nevertheless the people would gladly do their share in helping to give the Bible to the world, if only their attention were drawn to this duty and privilege.

The Depositories of the Branches are very generally reported as being in a satisfactory condition, although there are here and there a few exceptions. One of the Agents says in his report "In every instance I found the Depositories well cared for and highly prized," and then goes on to speak of the trouble taken by those who have charge of them being well worthy of recognition. The Directors have always recognised the value of the services of these friends to the cause, and they desire here to express to them their very hearty and especial thanks.

New Branches have been formed at Atwood, Brandon, Burrard Inlet, Caledon East and Mono Road, Frankford, Glenarm, Huntsville, Portage-la Prairie, Rodney, Springville, and Wellington; and new Depositories have been opened at Fort Chippewyan, Rheinland, Thessalon River, and Victoria Harbour. On the other hand eight Branches have been reduced to the rank of mere Depositories, Yorkville has been absorbed in Toronto and three other Branches have been struck off the list and two Depositories closed. This makes the present list 403 Branches and 25 Depositories.

AGENCY.

The visitation of those Branches requiring such help was assigned to the Permanent Agent and eighteen Provisional Agents. The general tone of the Agents' reports is encouraging, and the immediate results of their work are satisfactory. Of course in the visitation of such a large number of Branches there have been some failures through want of proper arrangements being made by the local officers, and it must be admitted that Bible