

our congregations on such a Sabbath in January next as may be most suitable to the convenience of sessions, and that the fund be afterward maintained by donations, legacies, and collections at such times as the Synod may determine.

3. That the Committee be directed to prepare a short circular to be read by each minister on intimating the collection.

The committee have also drawn up a series of rules for the future management of the fund, which they are prepared to submit to Synod.

All which is respectfully submitted,

GEORGE PATTESON, *Con.*

On the above report being submitted to Synod, it was resolved, "That the report of the Committee be received and their diligence approved; and that in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee, a fund be immediately established for the support of aged and infirm ministers."

It was resolved, "That the Committee be authorized during the current year to invite subscriptions from ministers and donations from the more wealthy members of the church."

In accordance with the above resolutions the Committee would now bring the matter before the Church. It is hoped that each Presbytery will take action to have the scheme wrought out within its bounds. The Committee were also "authorized to meet, and to relieve any case that may come under their notice during the year." One such case at least has been brought to the notice of the Committee, which will require early action. It is hoped therefore that Presbyteries will move in the matter without delay. Mr. A. H. Patterson, at the Bank of Nova Scotia Agency, New Glasgow, has consented to act as Treasurer and any contributions may be forwarded to him.

We subjoin a copy of the rules which have been drawn up for the management of the fund. These are now sent down for the consideration of Presbyteries, and it is possible that some modification of them may be found necessary or advisable.

GEORGE PATTERSON, *Convenor.*

RULES.

For the management of the Aged and Infirm Ministers Fund of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces.

1. The fund shall be under the management of a committee of to be appointed by Synod.

2. The object of the fund shall be to provide for the support of those ministers disabled either by age or infirmity from the active duties of their office, whose congre-

gations are either unable to make such provision, or can only do so inadequately, while maintaining ordinances among themselves.

3. The fund shall be maintained by donations, legacies, and collections throughout the church as often as the Synod may determine.

4. The mode of admission to the benefit of the fund shall be by the minister applying through his Presbytery, and being duly recommended by them.

5. As the fund is not intended to relieve congregations from their duty to their aged and infirm ministers, or to supersede their efforts for their support, it shall be the duty of Presbyteries before recommending any applicant to be placed upon the fund to use diligence with his congregation, that they make such provision for his support as their circumstances will admit. And they shall not recommend the case, unless it appear that his retirement from ministerial labour is owing either to old age or ill health which disables him for the duties of an active profession, and is likely to be permanent, or these causes combined. Being satisfied on this point the Presbytery certify the same to the Committee, reporting at the same time their dealings with the congregation and the result.

6. On the Committee receiving such a certificate from the Presbytery, they shall place his name on the list of annuitants, unless they shall be dissatisfied with the action of the Presbytery, in which case they shall have the power to bring the matter under the notice of Synod.

7. In the case of those duly recommended by a Presbytery, and no objection offered as in the last rule, the applicant shall be entitled to receive the sum of \$200 annually, payable in four quarterly instalments, on the 1st of January, April, July and October, commencing on the first of these dates succeeding the receipt of the Presbytery's certificate.

8. In special cases where a minister's health may be impaired but not so much as to require his retirement from the active duties of a profession, the Committee may grant him half the above annuity, payable in the same manner, to be increased to full annuity should his infirmity increase.

9. In the case of a minister taken upon the fund for sickness thought likely to be permanent and afterward recovering his strength sufficiently to engage actively in the duties of a profession, the Committee shall have power to discontinue the annuity.

10. In the case of a minister disabled for a time by sickness from active duty, the Committee shall have discretionary power to grant temporary relief to an extent not exceeding the regular annuity.