

REPORT OF THE FOREIGN MISSION COMMITTEE.

In presenting the annual report of the Foreign Mission work of the Church, your Committee regret that they are not able to make a more encouraging statement. The missionaries have been labouring on steadily and faithfully in their various fields; but no very brilliant results have yet been achieved. They have gone forth bearing precious seed, but the time of harvest, which faith assures us is certain, is not yet.

At the close of the last meeting of Synod, your Committee took immediate steps to carry out the instructions given them. Advertisements were inserted in the *Record* calling for volunteers prepared to labour in the British Columbian and Red River Missions. But while there is reason to believe that the notices were useful in calling attention to the demand for labourers, they failed to draw forth any response. In the month of October, a sub-committee was appointed to look out for, and, if possible, to secure missionaries for these fields. After frequent correspondence in various quarters by the members of this sub-committee, your Committee, were led, in April last, to call to the British Columbian Mission, Rev. Edward Graham of Woolwich and Hawksville, a gentleman whom they regarded as well qualified for the work. This call was duly prosecuted before the Presbytery of Guelph, but proved in the issue unsuccessful. Mr. Graham feeling unable to decide between the competing claims for his services, left the matter wholly in the hands of the Presbytery, which decided, perhaps not unnaturally, to retain him at Woolwich and Hawksville. This result your Committee deeply regret, as it cannot but discourage the faithful band of Presbyterians in New Westminster, who since Mr. Duff's return to Canada have been nobly sustaining religious services among themselves, while pleading earnestly that a minister may be sent to them.

Your Committee also regret that they have not been able to make any appointment for the Red River. The attention of several gentlemen has been specially drawn to this field; and while it has received from most of them very favourable consideration, it has not as yet been accepted by any of them.

The Committee has, at present, the names of several ministers before them who are disposed to regard Foreign Mission work favourably. And had not the discouraging experience of the past taught your Committee that hopes which seem well founded may readily disappoint, they would confidently expect that with the Synod's approbation clearly expressed, there need not be any further delay in supplying both British Columbia and Red River.

At Nanaimo, Rev. R. Jamieson has been labouring with fidelity and assiduity in the interesting but comparatively limited field which he occupies. The average attendance on Sabbath, is reported about thirty. In the congregation there are twenty-one families and twenty-two communicants, and a Sabbath School attended by twenty-four scholars. The amount contributed during the year is \$679.78. Of this sum \$225 was paid for the rent of the Manse for five quarters, and \$231.28 was paid to the Foreign Mission Fund of the Canada Presbyterian Church, making, in all, a sum of \$456.28 contributed towards the support of their pastor. Mr. Jamieson's congregation has suffered much from the stoppage of the coal works, on which Nanaimo is largely dependent, and also from the general commercial depression felt throughout the colony. There is reason to believe that better days are now beginning to dawn on British Columbia, generally. Mr. Jamieson says that "those best acquainted with the country have an increasing confidence in its mineral, and even in its agricultural resources." Information also received from other sources fully confirms this hopeful view. And your Committee impressed with the necessity of sustaining a work already so well begun, in what, we trust, is yet destined to form an important Province of the Dominion of Canada, are of opinion that all due effort should be made to send a second missionary to British Columbia.

Your Committee, however, being well aware that the work on the Pacific coast can only slowly reach a self-sustaining position, and considering that

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