

## Our Contributors.

### General Assembly.

#### THE DAY OF REST.

The General Assembly enjoyed the Sunday rest. The city pulpits were nearly all occupied by visiting preachers. Many pulpits at adjacent points were also filled by Assembly delegates. St. Andrew's church, in which the Assembly is meeting, was packed at both morning and evening services. Rev. Alexander MacKinnon of Lochmahew, Scotland, deputy from the United Free Church Assembly, was the preacher in the forenoon. In the afternoon the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed by the Moderator, assisted by Dr. Bryce of Winnipeg and Dr. Falconer of Picton. The offering of \$66 was devoted to the relief of the sufferers of the Frank disaster. In the evening a mass missionary meeting was held, from which many were turned away for lack of room. Thrilling addresses were delivered by Rev. J. J. Wright, White Horse, who represented the Yukon; Rev. Murdoch McKenzie, Honan, who spoke for foreign missions, and Rev. D. G. McQueen, Edmonton, a leader in home mission work in the foothills and on the plains.

#### FIFTH DAY.

##### Infirm Ministers' Fund.

When the Assembly resumed business this morning the first item was the report of the committee on the aged and infirm ministers' funds. The report was adopted, and it was resolved to make an effort to increase the endowment to \$225,000, to amalgamate the eastern and western sections, and to extend the age limit for connecting with the fund from fifty five to sixty years, with proportionate increase in rates beyond the present age limit.

##### WIDOWS AND ORPHANS' FUND.

Dr. Warden presented the report of the widows and orphans' fund, western section. It was the most satisfactory in the whole history of the Church. There are 126 ministers' widows on the fund, receiving annuities of \$150. Last year there was reported a deficit of \$3,883. This deficit has been wiped out, and a credit balance of \$2,021 remains. The committee hope to increase the annuity to \$200. Rev. E. A. McCurdy of Halifax, reported for the eastern section a most prosperous year for this fund. The number of annuitants is 17, and the committee closed the year with a credit balance of \$4,534, and reduced the rates from \$14 to \$12.

##### NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Judge Forbes and Dr. Fotheringham, St. John, extended a very hearty invitation from the congregations of that city, and asked that the Assembly be held next year in St. Andrew's church there. The invitation was accepted, and the date was fixed for the first Wednesday in June, this earlier date being selected owing to the meeting of the Pan-Presbyterian Council in Liverpool, which will open on June 21st.

##### CHURCH PUBLICATIONS.

From the reports submitted the Sunday School helps and papers are meeting with

a steadily increasing demand. The editors are doing their work well. Mr. W. W. Miller, Portage la Prairie, and Mr. John Charlton moved the adoption of the report, warmly commended the publications, and advocated their loyal support by the Church as a means of increasing the interest of the young people in the Church and in the development of Canadian sentiment.

The Presbyterian Record, an admirable publication, edited by Rev. E. Scott, now reaches over 50,000 families of the Church, and has a working balance of \$12,000.

##### THE PROBATIONER'S SCHEME.

At the afternoon sederunt Dr. Torrance of Guelph, convener of the Committee on the Distribution of Probationers, presented his report. The committee had to deal with 27 Presbyteries, and during the year 83 vacancies reported for supply. Settlement has taken place in 41, leaving 43 still on the roll. Rev. J. H. Ratcliff, of St. Catharines, in supporting an overture from the Presbytery of Hamilton, praying for the abolition of the scheme, characterized it as a dismal failure; and Rev. J. S. Hardie, of Listowel, while paying a high tribute to Dr. Torrance, contended that the scheme was a hopeless failure. Rev. Dr. Duval of Winnipeg, moved that the overture be remitted to the Synods of Toronto and Kingston and of Montreal and Ottawa for a fuller expression of opinion to be reported to next Assembly. This motion by Dr. Duval was adopted.

##### THE FRENCH WORK.

Dr. Scrimger, of Montreal, the principal of the Pointe aux Trembles School; Rev. Clay, of Victoria; Rev. Patterson, of Buckingham, and Rev. Chas. Tanner, of the Presbytery of Quebec, championed the scheme of French evangelization. The work has been carried by thirty-one pastors and ordained missionaries, seventeen students, evangelists and colporters and seventeen teachers in forty-one counties in Quebec, four in Ontario and three in New Brunswick. The average Sabbath attendance of persons over ten years of age, at eighty five preaching stations, in forty mission fields, was 1,859, representing 800 families and 366 single persons not connected with these families. The apparent decrease in figures is due to omission of English statistics in mixed fields. The number of communicants is 1090, of whom 139 were added during the year; of Sabbath school scholars, 800; of scholars at mission day schools, 557, of whom 281 came from Roman Catholic homes; copies of scripture distributed 2,628; and of religious tracts and papers 35,118. The fields contributed \$6,638 and the schools \$2,376, making a total of \$9,014, being an average of upwards of \$11 per family. The total receipts were \$34,178.12, and the total expenditure \$35,518.05. There will be required for current year for the ordinary Pointe-aux-Trembles and French Evangelization Funds \$36,000.

##### MINISTERS SUPERANNUATED.

The following ministers were granted leave to retire from the active duties of the ministry, and their names were or-

dered to be placed on the list of aged and infirm ministers and to receive benefits from the fund:—John Blaikie, Paris; Robt. Whillans and Duncan Macdonald, Montreal; David Miller, Toronto; Jas. Douglass, Edmonton; Robt. Fairbairn, Jas. Stevenson, Algoma; E. D. McLennan, Neil McNish, Glengarry.

The cordial thanks of the Assembly were tendered to Mr. J. K. Macdonald and Rev. Anderson Rogers for their able and abundant services as Conveners of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Committees, east and west.

The Convener of the committee on the appointment of a commission of Assembly to deal with matters of emergency arising during intervals between Assembly meetings reported in favor of such a commission being appointed annually, in the same way as the standing committees of the Assembly. This report was adopted.

Dr. Robert Campbell, clerk, reported for the committee appointed to revise the Book of Forms that they had completed their work, but that the printing of the book had been delayed in order that they might incorporate the legislation of the present General Assembly.

##### SUNDAY SCHOOL SECRETARY.

The recommendations of the report of the Sunday School Committee which were not considered before were adopted, on motion of Rev. John Neil, the Convener, and Prof. Scrimger. There was considerable discussion on the resolution to appoint a permanent Secretary whose salary shall be paid from Children's Day collections. It was agreed to appoint a committee to nominate a man for this position.

It is hoped the Assembly has now finally disposed of the Dr. Wilkie case. Dr. Herridge presented the report of the special committee. It expressed appreciation of Dr. Wilkie's personal character, zeal, and earnestness, at the same time approved of the action of the General Assembly last year. It does not consider it wise to reopen the question, but suggests, however, that a commission of the Assembly be issued with Assembly powers to investigate thoroughly all the affairs of the Central India Mission. It further expresses the hope that the Foreign Mission Committee will find some post for so strong and devoted a man as Dr. Wilkie.

##### THE CENTURY FUND.

Dr. Warden presented the final report of the Century Fund. The gross receipts since its inception amount to \$1,600,000. Nearly one million of this has gone to the reduction of debt on church property.

The disbursements up to date are the following:

Eastern Section, Home Mission.....	\$ 5,250.00
Augmentation.....	2,625.00
Foreign Missions.....	13,125.00
Presbyterian College, Halifax.....	17,500.00
Church Building, N.B., P.E.I., etc.....	21,000.00
Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund.....	10,500.00
Foreign Mission Building.....	8,750.00
Augmentation, Home Mission.....	26,250.00
Foreign Mission.....	17,500.00
French Evangelization.....	13,125.00
Montreal College.....	26,000.00
Queen's College.....	35,180.00
Knox College.....	35,000.00
Manitoba College.....	35,000.00
Church and Manse Building Fund.....	43,750.00
Home Mission Building Fund, North Bay and Algoma.....	8,750.00
Aged and Infirm Ministers' Endowment Fund.....	52,000.00
Widows and Orphans' Endowment Fund.....	52,550.00
Foreign Missions Building Fund.....	38,750.00
Augmentation Building Fund.....	21,875.00
French Evangelization Building Fund.....	17,500.00
Salary of agents, subagents, etc.....	25,871.88

The money that we give in charity may sometimes fail of its purpose; but the blessing of the giver still remains.