

PALM ✻ BRANCH.

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ST. JOHN, N. B.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER, 1898.

BRANCH REPORT.

THE N. B. and P. E. Island Branch meeting was held in Fredericton, beginning Wednesday, Oct. 5th. There was in attendance 72 delegates. Mrs. J. D. Chipman in the chair. The opening exercises led by Mrs. Cliff, of Fredericton, were impressive and helpful. The reports of organizers showed that progress was being made all along the line. The Cor. Secty's report showed 1,634 annual members, and 93 life members. Treasurer's report money raised during the year, \$5,559.60; sent to Br. Treas. \$5,375.09, an increase over last year of \$335.35. Band Cor. Secty's report gave 56 Bands, 1,270 members, 1,203 an. mem., and 67 life mem. Amount raised by Bands \$1,052.02

Delegates and visitors were kindly entertained at tea in the church by the ladies of the Auxiliary on Wednesday evening, after which the public anniversary meeting was held. Mrs. Chipman presided with ease and grace. Her "President's address" was fine, and much appreciated. Miss Nan Thompson sang a sweet solo, "Cross and Crown," with good effect, and the choir rendered fine music. Miss Palmer, in giving her Cor. Secty's report, showed why the W. M. S. existed. Miss Maggie Smith, returned missionary from Chilliwack, for half an hour deeply interested the large audience with her account of the Indian boys and girls of the Home—their application and industry. This had been a blessed year for them; nearly all had come out on the side of Christ, and they showed this fact in their daily lives and conversation. She also told the interesting story of Peter's conversion. Miss Smith has a good presence, and is a very pleasing speaker. The Banner was presented to Mrs. Chipman by Mrs. Turner, retiring Band Cor. Secty, it having been won by the Torch Bear-

ers' Band of St. Stephen, for the largest combined percentage of increase in membership and subscriptions to Palm Branch.

There were some excellent papers read and discussed at this Convention. Mrs W. B. Coulthard's—subject, District Work, was voted to be printed as a leaflet. One or two points from Mrs. Rice's paper of Milltown, on Opportunities, Decisions, etc., of Conventions may be given, as they are for Band Workers as well. To gain an effective result one must come gladly—full of anticipation, believing that we are going to gain a blessing and go back encouraged. Come in a receptive mood—come as a representative. While there acquire an acceptive mood—think out the ideas introduced so as to make the help practical; yield gracefully, if needs be, to the opinions of the majority. A helpful paper written by Mrs. Sherrard, of Moncton, on "Methods of Band Work," was read by Mrs. Bartlett. Also one advocating a collegiate course in Mission Studies for Bands, written by Miss Young, of Milltown, was read by Mrs. W. B. Coulthard. We hope to be able to publish both these papers in Palm Branch. Miss Mellish, of Charlottetown, being absent, her paper on the "Semi-Centennial" was read in a very inspiring and appreciative manner by Mrs. Goff, and was received with enthusiasm. We are pleased to give our readers half of this bright paper in the present issue. Would that we could hasten on the happy time! Mrs. W. B. Coulthard gave an instructive and interesting Band lesson, illustrated by use of the blackboard, to her little workers, who acquitted themselves admirably, seemingly quite at home with the mission history of Tokio, Japan.

The following was adopted as a bye-law:

Each Band shall have a leader, who shall be appointed by the Auxiliary to which it belongs. If there be no Auxiliary the leader shall be appointed by Mission Band Cor. Sec. Circles to appoint their own Presidents.

PALM BRANCH REPORT.

Number of subscribers, 2,619; Ontario and Quebec 1,065, Nova Scotia 577, New Brunswick 623, Prince Edward Island 230, Manitoba 73, British Columbia 32, Newfoundland 13, United States 1. The editor made a plea for more subscriptions and contributions if Palm Branch be continued. St. Stephen Band had won the banner, having an increase of 51 members, but White Violets, of Sackville, had come close behind, while Steady Helpers, of Sackville and Active Workers of Marysville were foremost among those who deserved honorable mention, because of steady support. During one of the sessions a vote of thanks was given to Miss M. B. Smith, of St. John, for her gratuitous work on the beautiful banner.

A very impressive consecration service was held by Mrs. F. Thompson, of Fredericton, after which the com-

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