

## MINISTERIAL SUPERANNUATION BOARD.

**\$10,000**

During the year ending October, 1919, fourteen retired ministers and seventeen widows have received grants from the Superannuation Fund. The average paid to ministers was \$142, and to widows \$139. These amounts are shamefully small, and can afford but slight relief in these days of high prices of even the necessities of life. There surely is an obligation upon the denomination to provide more generously for those servants of our Lord who labor faithfully under conditions which make it impossible for them to make pecuniary provision for the time when old age or other disability compels their retirement from their beloved work. Every minister, especially if he labors in fields where the remuneration does not permit him to lay up something for the day of his enforced retirement, should have the assurance that he and those dependent upon him shall not suffer privations, nor lack the ordinary comforts of life. We all appreciate the self-sacrificing labors of these men, but that appreciation should find tangible expression in a fund adequate for all needs.

The money at the disposal of this Board for semi-annual distribution is derived from two sources, namely, the interest on the Permanent Fund, and the contributions from churches and individuals. Therefore to increase the grants to a reasonable amount for each individual, say, an average of \$500 a year, it is necessary largely to increase the interest, or the contributions, or both. To increase the interest it is necessary to increase the Permanent Fund, and to increase the Permanent Fund is the financial object of the Forward Movement so far as it relates to this department of our denominational work.

It is fifty-five years since the Superannuation Board was formed. The first constitution provided for a "Permanent Fund," which was to be securely invested and the annual interest to be added to other contributions to form the distribution fund. Money was not so plentiful in those days as it is now, but almost immediately \$10,000 was raised for the Permanent Fund, and the interest has been used from year to year. If the example of those pioneers in this work had been followed and a reasonable addition had been made to this fund each year, the denomination would now be able more nearly to discharge its obligations to its retired ministers and the widows and orphans. But in fifty-five years only \$30,000 has been added to the Permanent Fund, which now amounts to about \$40,000. Shall we say that, in view of the small contributions during the past years, a good many Baptists must have in their possession money which properly belongs to the Superannuation Fund, and this time of the Forward Movement affords an excellent opportunity for the payment of a debt long overdue.

J. M. FOSTER, Secretary.