

Our Home Work.

Last year saw an addition of 2,777 names to the communion roll of the Maritime Synod. What an addition of strength and spiritual power these may be.

At Cardston, the head-quarters of the Mormon Mission, in the Presbytery of Calgary, a manse and school are to be built. Rev. Gavin Hamilton is to begin educational work in connection with the Mission.

Compensations are everywhere. The Northwest missionaries do not deal in large salaries but they do in magnificent distances, not only in attending Presbytery but in doing their own congregational work. In a letter just received, one of them mentions that in three months, from April to August, he travelled fifteen hundred miles in a buggy.

Sabbath, 12 September, was a glad day at Haysville, N. B. A new church was opened, in a new district, with another nearing completion in another section of the same congregation. And a week later Digby, N.S., solemnly set apart its new Presbyterian Church to the worship of God. New Churches in place of old ones are good; but better where there were none before, as was practically the case with both of these; for such church opening means not only "holding the fort," but advance.

Not often does Calgary Presbytery meet on account of distance and expense, but when it meets, it meets. Three busy days were filled by its latest meeting a few days since, looking into the work in all its large field and planning for its continuance and extension.

Sixteen Home Missionaries are working within the bounds. Two of these, Rev. G. S. Lawson, late of Nova Scotia, and Mr. Oliver, of Manitoba College, labor among the bands of men on the Crow's Ness Pass railway.

It is no light matter for members of Kamloops Presbytery to hold a meeting, owing to distance and high rates of travel. One of them, writing not long since, states that he had just returned from attending a meeting of Presbytery in Kamloops, which

entailed an absence from home of 15 days and cost for bare travelling, by rail and steamer, \$35.95, besides meals on the journey. Other members were nearer, and their expenses less, but the expense of each is shared by all, so that the burden comes alike heavily on all. This is a worthy communism, but it is one which the salary of the Home Missionary can ill bear. It is no wonder the Presbytery drew up an overture to the General Assembly for a division of the Presbytery of Kamloops into two.

Immense Conventions which are becoming so great a feature in religious work, lead to not a little criticism as to their cost. There must be a limit somewhere to the advantage of such assemblies. What is that limit?

We should say that as a rule, the limit is the size of a single audience. Whenever a convention reaches such a size that simply because of that size, it must carry on its meetings in two places, then it would be better to have those two places far apart. Two Conventions of ten thousand each, in different parts of a country would do more good than one of twenty thousand, and would meet at half the cost; while four, of five thousand each, would be better still; and twenty, of one thousand each, would leave a benediction upon twenty cities and cost little more than a tithe of the monster gatherings of to-day.

The Hall of Manitoba College was well filled on the last evening of August, to declare ended another summer session in Theology. Twenty-five students have been in attendance, five in the third year, six in the second, and fourteen in the first. All but one have been previously in Home Mission work, and nearly all are pledged to enter again the Home field in the Northwest for the winter. Cordial mention was made of the aid given during the Session by Revs. Dr. McLaren of Toronto, Dr. Scrimger of Montreal, Dr. Beattie of Louisville and P. Wright of Portage la Prairie, and of financial aid through Dr. Robertson from Britain. Principal King was absent in Europe, having taken this summer a brief rest from constant toil. He is soon to return to take up the winter work of the College, which begins October 1st. Prof. Hart from his long illness has reached home restored to health.