

in a position to lay aside anything to meet their own wants in old age, or to provide for their widows after they had been removed by death. The church, therefore, established two Schemes, known by the name of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, the object of which is to provide an annuity for ministers permitted by the General Assembly to retire from active service, and the Ministers Widows' and Orphans' Fund, the object of which is to provide an annuity for the widows of ministers who have long and faithfully served the Church. In connection with the former, there are two funds, one for the Eastern, or Maritime Provinces section, with an endowment of \$40,000, and another for the Western section, with an endowment of \$192,000 (increased by \$20,080 in the last few days). Last year 101 ministers received annuities from these funds, averaging \$200 each. In connection with the Widows' and Orphans' Scheme, there have, thus far, been three funds, one for the Eastern section, one for the Western, and one for the branch of the Church formerly connected with the Church of Scotland. The combined endowment of these funds is \$403,530. Last year 179 widows derived benefit, the annuities averaging \$150 per annum. These funds are supported not only by interest from endowment and by personal rates of ministers, but also by congregational contributions. They have not received the cordial and hearty support of the Church to the extent which is desired. It is believed that were our elders and some of the more intelligent of our laity to take a practical interest in them, the contributions of our people towards their maintenance would be greatly increased.