

On the other hand there are probabilities which look the other way.

The expense of working would likely be increased, and this in two ways.

1. Judging from the past action of the General Assembly, and from what was said when this question was discussed at last Assembly, if the Funds be united there will probably be a convener appointed at a salary of some \$2000 per annum.

The feeling that most people have when they give to missions is that they would like as much of the gift as is possible to go directly to the work, and the appointment of such an official may tend to close rather than to open the streams of liberality.

Further, \$500 of our agent's salary now paid from this source. If a paid convener be appointed this will be cut off, and the agent's salary will either be reduced, or the \$500 will have to be made up from some of the other Funds and be an additional drain upon them.

II Committee meetings will be more expensive. At present if any matter of importance comes from either of our mission fields, our Committee can be called together at a trifling expense. If there be but one Committee meeting in Montreal or Toronto, the members of Committee from the Maritime Provinces cannot attend at a cost of less than \$40 to \$50 each, entailing a heavy expenditure on the fund, besides the toil and loss of time.

Or what is more probable, the members from the Maritime Provinces when the time comes will say each within himself, "I think they can do without me." and the whole matter will be left in the hands of the Western brethren, most of them very imperfectly acquainted with the details of our Maritime Foreign Mission Fields.

Whether this transference of our mission work to the West would have the effect of lessening the interest and contributions of our people, is a question more easily asked than answered.

Another possible result would be that owing to the difficulty and expense of calling a meeting of Committee; matters from the Mission Field requiring attention might be allowed to lie over to the detriment of the work, whereas under the present system they can be attended to at once. It may be said that this could be avoided by having an executive that could easily meet for business, but this would be virtually handing over the management of the missions to that executive and the F. M. Committee would be useless. Besides the Committee is itself an executive, appointed by the Assembly to do this work.

With regard to the Supplementing or Augmentation Fund. There are a few facts which should be kept in mind in reaching a conclusion.

The Western Section of the Church is wealthier than the East. A larger proportion of the congregations are paying the minimum stipend than with us, and a smaller proportion require to be aided by Supplement. They have a smaller work to do, comparatively speaking, than we have, and more strength to do it.

The whole number of congregations in the West is 573. The whole number in the East 182.

The number of congregations in the West giving less than the proposed minimum (\$750) when the scheme was launched was 256, of these 223 were settled and 33 were vacant.

The number of congregations in the East giving less than the proposed minimum was nearly 120.

The number in the West giving less than the proposed minimum was 45 per cent. of the whole, while the number that gave the minimum and upwards was 55 per cent of the whole.

In the East the number giving less than the minimum was 66 per cent, and the number giving that amount and upwards was only 34 per cent of the whole.

But some of these congregations, both East and West that were giving less than the minimum, will get nothing from the