

Religious Tract Work.

The 63rd annual meeting of the Upper Canada Religious Tract and Book Society was held in St. James' Square church, Toronto, on Monday evening the 11th inst. The president, the Rev. G. J. Bishop occupied the chair and in a few brief and well-chosen words introduced the subject of the evening. He emphasized the acknowledged place of the Tract Society among the foremost Evangelical organizations in Canada, and also the success that under the blessing of God had attended its multifarious operations during the past year.

The annual report was presented by the Rev. Robert C. Moffat, D.D., the zealous and successful secretary. In moving its adoption he pointed out the increasing opportunities for usefulness both in Canada and Schuna, in which fields there are now engaged in active work 14 Colporteurs and 2 Sailors Missionaries. He showed that the aims and methods of the Society were commending themselves to the hearts of Christian people, and that throughout the Province a constantly deepening interest was being evinced in the Colportage and Tract work. After the motion had been duly seconded by Mr. J. K. Macdonald, who for over thirty years has been one of the Secretaries of the Society, and has taken a most active interest in all its business, the Report as presented was heartily adopted by the meeting and the officers elect for the ensuing year were duly appointed. The addresses of the evening were delivered by the Revs. Principal Sheraton, J. A. Morison, B.A., Dr. Parker and others, and were more than ordinarily instructive and inspiring. It was well remarked by Principal Sheraton that among all the various Societies of united Christian effort three appeared to him to rank foremost, viz., the Missionary Society, the Bible Society, and the Tract Society. The audience was a most representative gathering of the prominent and matured Christian people of the city. The following is a synopsis of the labors and accomplishments of the Society and its workers during the past year.

During the past year 35,000 volumes of good books have been placed in Christian homes—safe Christian books of special value for time and eternity. The aim of the society is to reach every family with the Word of God in its own mother tongue, for not only in new settlements, but in old, there are many homes without the Bible. The directors thankfully report that 7,500 copies of the Bible have gone into use during the past year through the agency of the society.

The colporteurs travelled in the year 8,932 miles, visited 15,274 widely scattered families; sold 3,228 Bibles and Testaments, and 12,251 volumes of the best religious books.

During the past year mission work has been steadily carried on among the sailors on our lakes, canals, and rivers. A "Sailors' Rest," the first of its kind in Ontario, has been established in Kingston for the special benefit of the sailors.

The sum of \$772 has been expended in free grants of Bibles, books, and tracts. Hospitals, prisons, lumbermen, miners, sailors, new settlers, the W. C. T. U. and Y. M. C. Associations have all been liberally supplied.

The greatly neglected, yet most important, home mission work, the lumber camp, is steadily kept in view. During the year colporteurs have visited a large number of the camps. Eighty-three lumber camps were supplied in the Ottawa valley and North-eastern Ontario.

The society have been able to aid many Sabbath schools, especially in Algoma and the North-West.

\$500 of yearly interest from the very generous bequest of the late Wm. Gooderham is entirely devoted to Chinese mission work.

Rev. Dr. Moffat, in addition to all his yearly increasing office work in Toronto travelled over 7,000 miles, preached 83 times, gave 110 addresses, and held 75 public meetings, so as to keep the many-sided mission work of your society fully before the churches. By his pulpit services and Sabbath collections, he paid all his travelling expenses, and in addition passed over

\$403 to the general funds of the society.

The following officers were elected for 1896-7. President, Rev. George J. Bishop; Vice-Presidents, J. K. Macdonald, Rt. Rev. M. S. Baldwin, D.D., Bishop of Huron, Rt. Rev. A. Sweetman, D.D. D.C.L., Bishop of Toronto, Rev. Joshua Denovan, ex-Pres., Rev. A. Sutherland, D.D., Rt. Rev. T. W. Campbell, B.D., ex-Pres., Rev. John Hurton, B.D., ex-Pres.; Rev. Canon Sarson, ex-Pres.; James Brown, Treasurer, Mr. Mungo Nasmyth, Secretaries, W. A. Douglas, B.A., Rev. J. A. Morison, B.A., Rev. Robert C. Moffat, D.D., and Revs. W. R. Parker, D. D. G. Webber, J. J. Hill, H. P. Welton, D.D., D. C. Hossack, M.A., L. H. Jordan, B. D., A. Macgillivray, W. W. Weeks, S. D. Chown, G. A. Kuhring, M. A. T. B. Hyde, W. A. Hunter, Ph. D. Messrs George Pim, J. J. Woodhouse, E. J. Joselin, A. E. O'Meara, James Knowles, Jr., A. G. Watson, Henry Graham, Wm. Wedd, jr., R. H. McBride, John Govans, H. Moyle, B. E. Bull. Depository, Mr. John Young. Permanent Secretary, Rev. Dr. Moffat.



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