

and apportion the fund to the various conferences according to the necessities of the work. But only one who has attended successive meetings of the Board can understand the amount of labor involved, or the painstaking care with which the task is performed.

The Income Again.

WHEN the article on "The Society's Income," which appeared in the September OUTLOOK, was written, the final balances in some departments had not been reached. The closing of all the accounts shows that the gross deficiency is upwards of \$24,000, instead of \$20,000, as formerly stated. Taking the different sources of income, the decline is in the following items, which we give in round numbers, omitting all fractions of hundreds:

Legacies, decrease.....	\$14,000
Donations on annuity, decrease.....	4,000
Miscellaneous, decrease.....	4,600
Subscriptions and collections, decrease	2,000
Total, say	\$24,600

It will be understood, of course, that the above figures show only the gross deficiency of income *as compared with the income of 1891-92*. Comparing income with *expenditure*, the net deficit is \$7,205.05, and this will have to be taken into account in making the appropriations for the current year. In other words, the General Board will have to begin its task with a much smaller sum than in 1892-93, and this in face of the fact that the number of missions have increased, and consequently that the number of claimants is greater than ever before. What will the Board do? Manifestly one of two things: either reduce the grants, and so keep within the prospective income, or else maintain the present level of appropriations in hope that the Church will rally to their support and greatly increase the income for 1893-94. If the first course is taken, it means suffering for the missionaries, especially those on the domestic missions; if the second course is taken, it *may* mean a burden of debt that will make the distress yet greater in years to come. It will be seen, therefore, that the Board of Missions, which meets in Hamilton on the tenth of the present month, will have to deal with a problem of no ordinary difficulty. How they will attempt to solve it, it is not for us to say.

Perhaps some will think that we are attaching too much importance to this temporary and (as some would consider it) insignificant decline of income. It may be said that legacies are, from their very nature, an unreliable source of revenue; and the same is true of donations on annuity, and of those "miscellaneous" receipts, that cannot be classed under any particular head. That, in short, the shrinkage of \$2,000 in subscriptions and collections is the only item of importance in the whole deficit, and even this is but temporary, and is easily accounted for by the circumstances of the case. All this is true enough, and if there was a reserve fund to fall back upon in an emergency, we need have no fear. But so long as the missionary ship

sails so close to the wind, distributing each year every cent of prospective income, while missions at home and abroad are steadily increasing in number, a decline of income to the extent of even a few thousand dollars may mean very serious embarrassment to the work of the Society. Why not form a reserve fund, then? it may be asked. For two reasons. In the first place, there is no income wherewith to do it; every dollar and more being needed for the work already on hand. In the second place, even if the scheme were practicable it would not be wise. A permanent surplus in the missionary treasury would dry up the very springs of liberality in the Church. It is evident that the remedy must be sought in some other direction. What that remedy is will require consideration at another time, and perhaps in another place.

Another Cry for Help.

TWO or three months ago we published extracts from a letter received from a brother in British Columbia, showing the necessity for a fund to aid in building churches in new settlements, especially where the development of population is rapid, and prompt action is required. Along the same line are the following extracts from a letter that has recently come to hand from the Rev. James Turner, now stationed at Nelson, B.C. The discovery of amazingly rich silver deposits in the Kootenay country has caused a rapid rush of immigration toward the mines. Towns have sprung up as if by magic; prices for all supplies are abnormally high; saloons, with all their demoralizing influences, do a rushing trade; the Sabbath is practically forgotten, and the whole community may become tainted with an irreligious spirit that will be a standing menace to the country's future. The only check to these demoralizing influences is in the churches, in the godly men and women—all too few—who stand for the Bible, and the Sabbath, and the religion of Jesus Christ. Such are to be found here and there, by twos and threes; but what can they do against the mighty, opposing tide? Nothing, unless they are sustained and reinforced from without. They must have a centre round which to rally; a place of worship, be it ever so humble, to which they can invite their neighbors. We send in a few preachers—well and good; but to send them in without resources is to repeat the old Israelitish history, and demand that they make bricks without straw; or, to change the figure, it is like sending a few sharpshooters into the heart of an enemy's country, and then leaving them without supports, without a commissariat, to fight and die, or run away, as chance may befall. Surely it is time that there was somebody in the Methodist Church with authority to act in such cases; to give help just when and where it is needed, and to put heart into the men who, against tremendous odds, are laying the foundations of the Church of the future, and putting their very lives into the work. But now for the extracts:

The points intended to be taken up this year must each have some kind of building to serve as a church. Take New Denver, where I have preached four times since Conference to a congregation of from fifty to seventy. Each