

ledged; and the benefit that would accrue to the Church was foreseen, but it was not in their power to move in the direction indicated.

Special sympathy was felt with the Mission carried on for so many years in the North-West. In the Synod of Manitoba and the North-West Territories there were at latest date 24 augmented charges, of which 6 were vacant, but had the revenue of the Augmentation Fund permitted there were about 20 more Missions prepared to go upon the list, and thus have the higher place of settled charges; and the prospect was that, in a short time, they would become self-supporting. Here is a wide field from which an appeal comes for your earnest sympathy and help; and, in responding, you will contribute to the prosperity of the Church and the welfare of the whole region.

Encouraging reports come from the Synod of British Columbia, with its 5 Presbyteries, in only one of which there is no augmented charge. That Synod endorsed the judgment expressed by the Presbytery of Kamloops "that the recent introduction of the Augmentation Scheme has given a wonderful impetus to church work in those congregations, where they have been enabled by the help of the Fund to call a minister of their own, and have him regularly settled down there, and has stimulated other Mission congregations as well." And that Synod, further, enjoined Presbyteries "to hold annual conferences on the subject of Augmentation interests, and that an endeavour be made to have some of our best occupied Home Mission Fields transferred to the Augmentation list as a forward step in their development." From this it will be seen that in the remote west the value of the scheme is felt, and the verdict will be entirely borne out by the experience of the east.

It will be remembered that the Assembly has authorized the committee to incur an expenditure for all purposes of not more than \$28,000. The true income of the previous year was \$22,900, which was a decrease of more than \$1,000 on the year before. The average yearly income is about \$23,000, so that the sum required for the year now running is some \$6,000 more than for the preceding year, and \$5,000 more

than the average revenue. That this amount will be required is absolutely certain. It will be cruel if augmented charges are disappointed of any portion of the grant promised them after the most careful consideration and effort to bring down to the minimum of expenditure. How much pain and pinching to ministers in charge, and what discouragement to the congregations to which they minister! Can you think of it without having your compassions stirred and the purpose formed that you will come to their help?

In the section of the Church covered by this Augmentation Scheme there is a constituency of 80,700 families, and of 159,749 communicants, say 160,000. An average contribution of 35 cents by each family, and of 17 cents by each communicant, would raise the sum required. Let these figures be taken into serious consideration by Ministers and Sessions, and lead to proper action. Last year some of the Presbyteries and congregations could have contributed fully three times what they gave, and, it is presumed that, in view of the prosperity with which God has blessed our land their ability this year is greater. Let them hear the cry of those in need "come over and help us," and of the Giver of their worldly substance and religious privileges, as he points to this Scheme and presses its worth and necessities, "Go forward."

That you may be enabled to honor the Lord with your substance and the first fruits of all your increase in this as well as in other appeals made to your Christian sympathy and liberality, to come up to the Scripture rule of giving as the Lord has prospered you, and to experience the force of the words of Jesus, "it is more blessed to give than to receive," is the earnest prayer of

Your devoted Servant,

ROBERT TORRANCE,

Moderator of General Assembly.

Guelph, 1st September, 1898.

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Real things are seldom seen. Thought, faith, hope, love, the only lasting realities, belong to the invisible. Sight-walking is but a morning exercise, while walking by faith is a constant journey.