

## MISSIONARY CONVENTION.

## Annual Meeting of the Foreign Missionary Society at Ottawa.

The annual meeting of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society (western division) was held last week in Ottawa. The convention opened on Tuesday in Bank Street church. There was a good attendance of delegates, the largest number being from Toronto. The proceedings were unusually interesting. President Mrs. Ewart, of Toronto, was in the chair. Her address commanded close attention. It would, she said, be impossible to be too thankful to God for the success which had attended the labors of the different societies during the past year. Since the last convention many of the earnest workers had passed away, Mrs. (Rev.) D. J. Macdonnell, of Toronto, being specially referred to. It was eight years since the convention met in Ottawa, but during this space, through the exercise of care, thought and self-denial, the work of the societies had increased to grand dimensions.

More sympathy, prayer and generous giving was required in each congregation to successfully do grander things for missions.

Reference was made to the method of making no distinction in church reports between the amounts given to Home and Foreign missions and other schemes. This was claimed to be an injustice to missionary workers. In conclusion the realization of personal need, personal blessing and source of supply was shown to be essential to successful mission work.

Mrs. McLellan, of Owen Sound, gave a very pointed and practical address. The topic was "The Spirit and the Church Invitation." Referring to the Spirit she said: "We cannot see the Spirit any more than we can see the air we breathe, yet we know we are breathing it and that without it we die. So we feel that unless we are guided by the Spirit we cannot live in Christ and walk with Him. Just as in our physical natures, the heart which is the seat of life and the blood driven from it to the extremities makes us living, moving beings instead of dead clay, so the Spirit quickens our moral natures and sends grace through them. Through timidity or lack of zeal deemed proper we do not extend the invitation which has given us so much happiness; we think we have so much to do in our own homes and our own congregations, that others who have leisure should do more, but we must remember that each one is responsible for all she can do, and the Spirit will follow up the church's invitation. Just as the circles formed by the pebble thrown in the water, enlarge and widen until stopped by land, so our invitation sent through our missionaries reaches further and further into heathendom, and way it be said as our motto does, "The World for Christ." Let us not weary in well doing and may it be said of each of us as was said of old, "She hath done what she could."

Reports were read from the various presbytery societies in the western conference. Success seems to have attended the work of the society all over the country. The responses to the call for clothing to be sent to the Ladies' Industrial schools in the North West territories and China were most liberal.

Mrs. Thorburn reported on the progress of the W. F. M. S. in Ottawa. One new auxiliary was formed at the Carp. There are now twenty three auxiliaries and four mission bands in the Presbytery.

Lanark and Renfrew societies represented by Miss Bell, thirty-seven auxiliaries and nineteen mission bands, total membership of 1,250.

Mrs. Dowsley reported for Brockville Presbytery. There are twenty seven auxiliaries and nine mission bands, a total membership of 710.

Mrs. Bockstead represented the Glengarry Presbytery, which raised the sum of \$1,922. There have been organized during the past year four auxiliaries and two mission bands, making a total of twenty-five of the former and nine of the latter in the bounds of the Kingston Presbytery.

In Whitby Presbytery there are auxiliaries in every congregation here.

Miss Dixon, of Peterboro, reported twenty auxiliaries and ten mission bands.

The report of the Toronto W. F. M. Societies showed a falling off in the givings from last year. Auxiliaries were formed in the last year, making in all fifty-two auxiliaries and twenty-five mission bands. Barric Presbytery has now eighteen auxiliaries and fifteen mission bands.

Owen Sound Presbytery reported the formation of one new auxiliary and two new mission bands. There are now eleven auxiliaries and two mission bands.

Saugee Presbytery reported thirteen auxiliaries and six mission bands with a total membership of 414.

Guelph Presbytery had sent in very meagre reports and there was a falling off in the revenue.

Orangeville Presbytery possesses eighteen auxiliaries and five mission bands.

Bruce Presbytery reported increase both in membership and interest.

Winnipeg Presbytery reported fifteen auxiliaries and four mission bands with a membership of 358.

An increase of two auxiliaries was reported in the bounds of the Brandon Presbytery.

In Lindsay Presbytery the present membership was 625, or an increase of 295 over last year.

Hamilton reported three new auxiliaries.

Paris Presbytery reported two new auxiliaries and one mission band.

There are now thirty auxiliaries and nine mission bands in the London Presbytery.

Sarnia Presbytery, fourteen auxiliaries and five mission bands.

In Huron Presbytery there is now a membership of 592.

Greetings were read from the eastern division of the W. F. M. S. in Canada, the Methodist Women's Foreign Missionary Society, the W. F. M. S. in Philadelphia, St. Louis, Portland and New York, the Women's Occidental Board in San Francisco and the Montreal Missionary Society.

Mrs. Tilton represented the Ladies' Missionary Society in connection with the Episcopal Church. She delivered a short address, as did also Mrs. Stevens for the Congregational and Mrs. (Rev.) Mackay for the Baptist Church. The McAll mission of New York was also represented.

In the matter of the training home it was agreed to abide by the suggestion of the board in leaving it over for another year. As to whether the training home should be inter-denominational or not was the subject of a little discussion.

A suggestion that the representation to the annual meetings should be decreased did not meet the views of the meeting. It was decided to leave the representation the same as at present.

It was agreed that applicants for foreign mission work should be tested before the application should be considered by the society.

The Secretary announced that the expected number of 300 delegates were not present and the board were consequently unable to get the one-third reduction in the railway rates. The number in attendance was 217.

Mrs. Thorburn read an interesting letter of greeting from Mrs. Blaikie, of Edinburgh, Scotland, President of the International Women's Union. She referred to the progress of the work done in Scotland for the spreading of Christianity in Africa and India. Two ladies had recently contributed about \$16,000 for the erection of a woman's hospital at Nagpore.

The annual reports, which were distributed to the meeting in pamphlet form, were read and adopted.

Mrs. Playfair presented the report of the Board of Management. It said:—"Another year has passed, and again we can report a conscientious desire on the part of members of the board to fulfil the responsibility laid upon them, evinced by their faithful attendance at the weekly meetings, which this year number more than last. In common with other societies we received a circular containing reasons for forming a National Council of Women, and inviting the W. F. M. S. to affiliate with it. After due consideration it was decided that it seemed to the board, while

a National Council of Women might be of benefit to charitable and other societies, it could hardly be so to the Foreign Missionary Societies belonging to the denominations. Besides, we, as a society, were auxiliary to the Foreign Missionary Committee of our church, and could not, or, rather, should not, affiliate with the National Council of Women."

Mrs. Harvie, in her report of the foreign missions, reviewed in detail the work done in the Northwest, China and Central India, in regard to education and the other various branches taken up by the society.

Mrs. Shortreed, Home Secretary, among other things, in her report, said:—"In some respects we cannot report the advance of previous years in the home department of our work, but faithfulness and activity, self-denial and devotion have, on the whole, characterized the efforts of our members. No large gifts reached our treasury, but there has been growth in systematic offering, and ordinary giving. The envelope system has been more generally adopted, and many of the reports emphasize the fact that their funds were raised wholly by voluntary giving." The report gave a summary of the branches of the society as follows:—Presbyterial societies, twenty-five; new auxiliaries, fifty; new mission bands, twenty-five; auxiliaries unreported or withdrawn, twenty-two; mission bands unreported or withdrawn, eighteen, total number of auxiliaries, 569; total number of mission bands, 228; auxiliary membership, 12,574; mission band membership, 5,891; yearly members of general society, 3,563; life members added during the year, ninety-two; scattered helpers, 312.

## Why Should You Insure Your Life?

BECAUSE, in case of your early death, life insurance makes absolute provision for those dependent upon you, enables you to leave an estate that can at once be realized upon, and that cannot be taken from them, secures to your family freedom from privation and those distressing experiences which come to the destitute; provides the means to keep your family together, to educate your children and prepare them for the responsibilities of life; and to save your property or business perhaps from being sacrificed to meet the demands that come in the process of forced liquidation of an estate by strangers.

Life Assurance gives to a man a consciousness of safety in regard to the interests of his family which eliminates a large part of the wearying worry and carking care of life, and thus fits him for the free, energetic, and successful prosecution of business.

It promotes thrift, cultivates habits of economy, and in the form of an investment policy enables a man, during the producing period of life, to provide a godly competence for old age.

During our life you surround your family with reasonable comforts and even luxuries.

Are you willing, in the event of your untimely death, that your wife and children should experience a double bereavement in the loss, not only of a husband and father, but also of suitable means for protecting them from the privation, distress and humiliating economics necessitated by poverty?

After perusing the above you should act at once, by communicating with the agents of some responsible life insurance company, and endeavour, if it lies in your power, to place some insurance on your life. A life company that has a record for the prompt payment of death claims, and for liberal treatment to its members, is the one in which you should insure your life. The North American Life Assurance Company, of this city, has justly earned for itself a splendid reputation for the promptness with which it has paid its losses and for the unexcelled success that has attended its financial operations. To-day the Company has assets of \$1,703,453.39, and a net surplus for its policy-holders of \$297,062.26.

The ecclesiastical year closes on the 30th April. Are your rates for Aged Ministers' Fund paid? Interest must be charged.