

Canadian Missionary Link

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Concerning Foreign Missions

A Statement and An Appeal

To the Baptist Churches of Canada:

We desire to place before you the financial situation facing the Foreign Mission Board at the present time. We do this in the confidence that when the facts are known the relief sought for will be forthcoming.

It will be remembered that in April and May, 1924, beginning with a great central rally in Massey Hall, Toronto, the Jubilee of the Telugu Mission and the Semi-Jubilee of the Bolivia Mission was celebrated in a series of great meetings covering the chief centres in Canada from ocean to ocean, amidst unusual demonstrations of joy and enthusiasm. The visit of Dr. Joshee and Dr. D'Prazer was a veritable God-send. As representatives of our Indian Christian community and as the products of the labors of our own missionaries, they were in themselves a mighty apologetic for missions. Everywhere a new interest and confidence in the work of the Board was awakened, as witnessed by the raising of a special Jubilee fund of over forty thousand dollars.

When the annual meeting of the Foreign Mission Board was held in November it was discovered that the regular net working income for the year, exclusive of specials, was \$185,000; but the estimates for 1925 were \$215,000, or \$30,000 more than the income for 1924. What was to be done? To call for a heavy cut on the trail of the enthusiasm awakened by the Jubilee services seemed incongruous. And yet to adopt so large a budget for 1925 seemed a great venture of faith. After much thought and prayer, however, the venture was made. Counting on the regular income rising from \$185,000 to at least \$189,000 for the year, it was decided to make up the remaining \$26,000 by the use of \$20,000 of the Jubilee Fund, supplemented by \$6,000 from the Forward Movement Fund.

At the semi-annual meeting of the Board

May 6th and 7th, the general treasurer reported an income for the first seven months of the current year, exclusive of specials, of \$101,509.39, divided as follows: Eastern Section \$27,661.17; Central Section \$63,061.22, and Western Section \$10,062.50, plus a small bank balance and interest on annuity funds.

Analyzing these figures we find that the Eastern Section contributed \$1,700 less than for the same period of last year, the Central Section \$3,200 more than for the same period last year, while the Western Section just held its own. The total net increase was only \$1,500 for seven months, as against the expected total of \$4,000 for the year. Unfortunately this year exchange is greatly against us; the loss on the first six remittances to the field being \$5,000, and it looks as if the loss through exchange alone is going to increase our burdens by at least \$10,000 and possibly \$12,000. This, added to the \$30,000 assumed at the beginning of the year, is going to cause great difficulty in making ends meet, unless the churches come loyally to the aid of the Board. Word has been sent to India asking Conference "to examine the whole work with the keenest care, with a view to reducing the amount asked in 1925, as such action will make the provision of the estimates for 1926 more possible and probable, and at the same time better ensure the future of the work against devastating cuts." The Board has also requested Conference to fully acquaint all Indian workers and other Christian leaders with the situation, with a view to securing the utmost financial assistance from the membership of the Indian churches, poor though they may be, for the preservation and extension of all that is vital in the regular work of evangelism. Meanwhile the missionaries are advised to "husband all resources that they may have for the Lord's work to meet the certain deficiency of funds for the cause of Christ in the Telugu Christian community."

An Appeal

In view of the above facts we earnestly ap-