

not the fault of the committee, as they were printed and freely distributed, and copies could be had at any time by applying to the secretary.

In the Eastern Section of the Church these two funds have always been entirely distinct, and neither of them is connected with the similar funds in the Western Section of the Church.

THE AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS' FUND.

This is a fund from which ministers when aged and infirm, unable to work, get a small sum yearly. The fund is partly supported by collections from congregations, and bequests, and partly by rates which are levied upon ministers themselves. Those rates are fifty cents yearly for every one hundred dollars of their professional income, a merely nominal tax.

At the Union in 1875 there was no Aged Ministers' Fund in connection with the Kirk in the Maritime Provinces. There was one in connection with the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces, which at the Union became the property of the United Church.

When Mr. Melville joined the Fund in 1877, he was a minister of the United Church. There was no provision then made for the case of a minister who should leave the Presbyterian Church in Canada, by which he could retain his connection with the fund, neither was he entitled to receive back any part of his contributions to it. The reason of this was that but a small part of the Fund is paid by ministers themselves. A large part of it is raised by congregational collections, and people who contribute to it as a scheme of the Church do so for the support of aged ministers who have given service in that church.

The first approach to such provision for ministers leaving the Union was a year or two later, and in the Western Section. It was as follows:—Rev. John McTavish had been for several years Convener of the Aged Ministers' Fund in the Western Section of the Church, and had rendered great service to it, but accepting a call to a Free Church congregation in Inverness, Scotland, and leaving our Church, he ceased legally to be connected with the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. In 1878, he wrote to the Western Committee asking upon what terms he would be allowed to retain his connection with the Fund. They referred the matter to As-

ssembly, which passed the following resolution:

"The Assembly agree to record their sense of the value of the services rendered by the Rev. John McTavish, formerly of Woodstock, now of Inverness, Scotland, to this Church, in connection with this scheme, and at the same time agree to accord to Mr. McTavish the privilege of an interest in the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, on condition of the yearly payment on his part of the rate required to be paid by ministers, and in addition, the sum of twenty dollars (annually) as an equivalent for a congregational collection."

In 1884 the Assembly passed the following general resolution to apply to all cases:

"A minister resigning his pastoral charge and transferring his services to another church, shall forfeit all claim to benefit from the Fund, beyond repayment of *one-half* the amount paid by him into the Fund, but the Assembly may, on consideration of all the circumstances, grant the application of such minister to retain his claim to benefit corresponding to the number of years of service in this church, on condition that he shall pay an annual rate of not less than \$15.00."

Mr. Melville began paying his rates into the Fund in 1877. He ceased to be a minister of the United Church, June 7th, 1881. He paid, of personal rates, while he belonged to the United Church, \$14.00. After leaving, he continued sending his rates to the Treasurer of the Fund until 1883. He paid, of personal rates during this period, \$11.50. The collections sent by Mr. Melville's congregations to the Fund, were as follows:

April 10, 1878, Kincairdine	\$2.50
Mar. 30, 1881, Nashwaak, etc.	2.00
April 14, 1884, St. Columba Ch.	1.00

Total	\$5.50
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In 1885 a short time after the above rule was passed, Mr. Melville was notified that according to the rule of the Assembly he could only retain his connection with the Fund except on condition of paying an annual rate of \$15.00, from 1881, the year in which he left the United Church. This he declined to do, and thus cut himself off from the benefit of the Fund.

The question then was, how much he should receive back. While in the Union, from 1877 to 1881, he had paid in personal rates, \$14.00. He should receive back