

## Company to Bear the Whole Cost.

Although it was originally considered desirable to follow the general rules prevailing in Great Britain, of the formation of such fund by mutual contribution from the company and employees, it has been finally decided to follow the practice of companies generally on this continent, of contributing entirely out of their own revenues the necessary funds for the pensioning of their aged and faithful employees.

There is an old saying that is often worn threadbare by interested agitators and cynical politicians, that "Corporations have no souls"; such statements fall to the ground, however, when met with facts such as are illustrated in this case, for this fund is to be contributed entirely by the company, without requiring any contribution whatever on the part of the employees.

The rules of the new Grand Trunk Pension Department will include the best provisions of all other companies, railway and industrial, with two or three features entirely novel or not common to all. It will be administered by a board selected by the company from among its official staff (themselves possible beneficiaries), which board will be known as the Pension Committee, whose decisions will be final in all matters pertaining to the administration of the fund.

The benefits of the fund will also apply to worthy employees who may have been injured in the service of the company, or who have suffered the loss of faculties which render them incapable of self-support, such employees having served the company the minimum period of 15 years—whether the age limit has been attained or not.

## Supersedes Old System.

While the Grand Trunk established, a number of years ago, what is known as the "Superannuation and Provident Fund Association," which is still in existence, its membership is limited to the official and clerical staff throughout its lines in Canada only, whereas the new fund will apply to employees on all lines of the present system, and, as before stated, to all classes of employees.

The Superannuation Fund will continue in operation with the registered membership as of December 31, 1907, but will be closed against the admission of any new member after that date.

It is anticipated that the pension scheme will form an admirable adjunct to the company's Insurance and Provident Society which has been for many years in operation; the weak point in this has always been the inability of an aged or permanently disabled employee to keep up his payments to the insurance fund, although privileged to do so. Hereafter a very small deduction from his pension allowance will enable an employee to make provision for his family up to the maximum amount of \$2,000.

Many of the conservative and thoughtful men among the employees will welcome this innovation, because of the class of men it is likely to induce to join the service of the company, as well as the inducement it furnishes to the trained and careful employees, whose experience makes them desirable, to remain.

In the United States clergymen of any denomination may now address an Episcopalian congregation provided the bishop of the diocese approves.

Dr. Grenfell's herd of Norway reindeer have arrived at Labrador. Owing to the ice floes they were got ashore only with great difficulty, and a number broke through the ice and were drowned.

## DR. MACKAY ON THE ORIENT.

Rev. Dr. MacKay, secretary of the Presbyterian Foreign Mission Society, has returned from a tour of the Orient extending over eighteen months. To the press of Toronto he gave some impressions of conditions in the East, as follows:

"The most distinctly felt impression is that the East is throbbing with new life. The East and the West have met at a hundred points and they are absorbing all we have to give. That is especially true in China, and, as usual, the pendulum swings too far. What we call democracy they are apt to interpret as anarchy. There are many thousands of young men in China that are in a dangerous, as well as interesting, condition.

"It is not possible to predict, but it would be a much more marvellous thing to see a peaceful revolution in China, than it was in Japan. The problem is vastly greater. Of course the hope is, and the earnest effort of such leaders as Zuan Shi Kai is that reforms may be introduced gradually and that bloodshed may be avoided.

"The Japanese have a great influence in all the East. Even in India the influence of Japan is a mighty factor, but Japan cannot control China. The Chinese hate the Japanese, and the fact that they do not resist Japanese aggressiveness more vigorously is due to the fact that they are afraid. They are not ready to stand up for their rights. But when the day comes there will be a struggle unless Japan modifies her policy.

"Japan has her spies everywhere, is fortifying herself, especially in Manchuria, but further south as well, and is apparently putting herself in a position that will enable her when the proper time comes to take advantage of whatever opportunities may offer.

"In Corea the Japanese have had a splendid opportunity. The Coreans received them with open arms, and had they been at all generous in their treatment they might have secured themselves in the affections of the people. Instead of that they regarded Corea as a country to be exploited in the interests of Japanese. They have no hesitation in saying that the Coreans, like the Indians of North America, would pass away before civilization. Almost without the pretence of justice the Coreans are being ruthlessly robbed of rights and possessions!

"The unrest in India is talked about everywhere, and is the cause of much anxiety, however much Britishers may whistle to keep up courage. It is another phase of the new life that is stirring in all the East, 'India for the Indians,' 'China for the Chinese,' and 'Japan for the Japanese.' No people of three hundred millions wants foreign domination. Great Britain is educating India away from the colonial up to the independent estate, and it ought to be said that Britain is doing it magnanimously and honorably. No other nation has such a colonial record as that of Britain in India, and if it should mean by only an independent India, educated to self-government, so much the better for the world and so much more honor to the nation that has brought it to pass.

"The world's best interests would be served to-day by a vigorous Christian propaganda in the East. Without it what may happen in a few years if material developments go on at this pace? In the interests of the West, as well as the East, to-day, if ever, missions should be pushed. Probably a dozen years now may mean more than a hundred later."

There is a limit at which forbearance ceases to be a virtue.—Burke.

## NOAH'S CARPENTERS.

By Ulster Pat.

The editor of that worthy periodical, "The British Messenger," writing of "Noah, a preacher of righteousness," says: "Those who were engaged under Noah's direction in rearing the great 'Life-boat,' may have helped to swell the mocking chorus, or if for shame's sake they held their tongues in presence of their employer, at least they in heart endorsed the general expression of unbelief. For though associated with the patriarch in his work of faith, in the end they were excluded from the place of safety, and engulfed in the seething waters of the deluge."

Although this appears to be a view of the attitude of what are called "Noah's carpenters" generally accepted, I venture to say that to me it seems unlikely, if not positively unscriptural. Is it not a mistake to suppose that throughout his life, prior to the flood, Noah and his wife, sons and daughters-in-law, were the only God-fearing persons in all the earth. His father, Lamech, died only five years before the flood, and Methuselah appears to have lived up to the very year Noah entered the ark. Is it conceivable that the witness of those two patriarchs, and the preaching of Noah were absolutely without fruit? This much we know with certainty, before Noah and his family had entered the ark, God had taken to Himself any others in the earth who believed and feared Him. More than that is pure speculation. But we may profitably search the Scriptures to ascertain the probability or otherwise of this oft repeated statement that Noah employed scoffers to do God's work. Nowhere in revelation, I believe, do we find it so. On the contrary, repeatedly we are told of His servants, weak, harassed, fearful, yet rejecting the proffered aid of the unbelievers. Wherever a willingness to accept such aid is manifested, it has proved a hindrance, instead of a help. And as it was before and after so I believe was it in the days of Noah. Hence to me it seems probable that whether the ark was built by Noah and his sons alone, or with the help of others, he was careful that no hand of known unbeliever profaned the temple he had been commanded to build to the glory of God.

The January Journal of the Gwalior Presbyterian Mission says: The friends of the Mission will be glad and encouraged to learn that a gentleman living in Toronto, has offered to contribute \$1000 a year, for each of three years, for a helper for Dr. Wilkie, and will also pay the expense of his going to India. This is surely the Lord's doing, blessed be His Holy name. This is an encouragement to a larger faith and more earnest prayer. Let us be faithful and the treasury will be filled to overflowing.

Our excellent contemporary, the Maritime Baptist, would like to be told what is the difference in principle between a "Limerick" and a lottery? If some of the schemes which are being exploited under the name of "Limericks" are within the authority of the law—of which we have our doubts—then it seems plain that the law stands in pressing need of amendment. The lottery is everywhere on this continent banned as demoralizing and ruinous to a country, and surely the moral sense of Canada should be heard in protest against anything of similar character, whatever name may be given to it.