

and to their operations, both on the field and at the home base, enabled him to make a most valuable contribution to the Conference, both through the addresses he delivered and through his participation in the discussions of the large problems under review.

While all of the addresses and discussions were of an exceptionally high order and did space permit should have full report, that of Mrs. J. T. Taylor, of the Presbyterian Mission in Central India, in which she discussed the present situation in that land, particularly from the standpoint of the women is deserving of very special mention. We are hopeful of being able in a future issue of "The Link" to give its readers at least a digest of her illuminating review of conditions in a country in which Canadian Baptists are so deeply interested.

#### BOARD OF WOMEN'S WORK OF THE BAPTIST UNION OF WESTERN CANADA

From a letter written to Mrs. Evans, of Guelph, by Mrs. J. S. Hill, Secretary

Missions in the West are so bound up with the life of the West that it is hard to say where the influence of the Missionary begins and where the influence of the people whose homes are here, ends. Nor can one pigeon-hole the various influences and call some social, some educational and some evangelical. Then, too, the distances, even in a single province, are so great, that it is hard to create, in the minds of those who have never been here, a really truthful picture of conditions.

The Baptist Union of Western Canada met in the last week of January at Calgary this year, and its report showed disbursements to Swedish, Norwegian, German, Russian and Ruthenian, Hungarian and Italian Missions, as well as to

our English Home Mission Churches and to Missions in India and Bolivia. I know we are sometimes reproached for not giving greater amounts to what is called Foreign Missions, but when we are brought face to face with the magnitude of the task among foreigners in our own land we feel helpless even to think of what is needful to be done.

At the present time we are attempting to reach these various people by sending those who can speak to them in their own language, but even where this has been begun, the missionaries find it up-hill work. In Alberta, at least, the Educational authorities insist that the language of the schools shall be English, so wherever schools are established, the children learn to speak and understand English. Just how long the foreign language in the church will remain, is a question. One thing is certain, if we wait till the children grow up before we send missionaries to them it will be utterly useless to send them.

In view of the fact that some day the people in this land may all understand English, it is more necessary than ever that, even apart from the necessity of giving the Gospel to our own compatriots, we should maintain the Home Mission English Baptist churches. We need them now and we shall continue to need them for the new Canadians. This fact too stands out—while we have a fairly large number of Baptists in the West, we have by no means a sufficient number to carry on our English Home Mission work. The larger churches in the cities are self-sustaining; those in the small towns and in the rural districts nearly all need assistance. It is largely a question of sparse settlement. If by some accident or disaster the inhabitants of Toronto were wiped out and their homes left standing, it would take the whole popu-