

almost certain to be a decrease in attendance in our Theological Colleges in the next few years. Because of death, retirement from service and other causes, the number of our ministers is reduced by 48 every year. The number of students graduating from the various colleges of the Church last year was 46, a number insufficient to make good the loss sustained, leaving the Church without any men with which to take possession of new openings in the home field or to increase the staff of missionaries abroad. Last year, in order to meet the requirements of our Home Mission work, upwards of 40 men were brought from the Motherlands. While many of these have rendered splendid service, it is not in the best interests of our work that we should be compelled to go abroad for men. Experience has abundantly shewn that the men best fitted for the mission field in Canada are the men who have been brought up in the homes of our own people, and whose training has been received in the Colleges of our own Church.

At a meeting of the Foreign Mission Committee last month only 4 suitable candidates were available, whereas there is urgent need for 9, and the Committee were prepared to appoint the full number. In times of great business prosperity, avenues are open to many young men, at other times closed, and this doubtless is one cause of the lessened number of students for the ministry of the Church, and other professions. The abolition of the preparatory course in our Theological Seminaries has affected the number of students. Whatever the reason, it behooves us to put forth every effort to secure from our own families a greatly