

especially, to make these matters clear to the congregations. Some discussion was occasioned by the next recommendation; that of interdenominational action towards economy in men and means for the advancement of church interests as a whole.

Dr. Robertson wished to know exactly what was meant by this recommendation. If it meant co-operation he did not believe such a thing possible. He was not in favor of a recommendation that might raise false hopes in the minds of the brethren.

Dr. Duval explained that the recommendation was only that a committee be appointed to enquire into the feasibility of this proceeding.

The report was adopted as a whole and the Synod adjourned.

At the opening of Thursday afternoon's sederunt of the Synod, Rev. Mr. Rumball presented a report from the committee on the equalization of the travelling expenses of members in attendance at the Synod. This report showed fifty-eight ministers present, and total expenses \$290, making the average \$5.

FINANCE AND STATISTICS.

Rev. Prof. Baird, Convener of the Committee on Finance and Statistics, presented the following report:
To the Synod of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories:

FATHERS AND BRETHREN,—Your Committee on Finance and Statistics has scanned carefully the tabulated statements for the year 1893, which have been compiled by the Presbytery clerks, and which were laid before the last General Assembly. And we have ventured to add some features drawn from other sources, which we thought might serve to throw light on the statistical and financial position of the Synod.

Taking into consideration first the statistics, the most noticeable change is the re-arrangement of the Presbyteries which constitutes the Synod, so that without any change of external boundaries, we have now nine Presbyteries where before we had five. In these nine Presbyteries there are 102 ministers, not including those who are retired or without charge, and there are 87 mission fields manned by students or other unordained laborers. Altogether then there are 187 men engaged in our work when all the fields are occupied and they carry on services at 451 places—an increase, not making allowance for non-reporting charges, of 24 over the past year—of these 102 ministers there are 62 present at this meeting of Synod and 14 elders, the largest number ever present at any meeting of the kind, and larger by half than the attendance last year. Of the men who are not here there are of course some whose excuses for absence are trivial enough but one's thoughts go out rather to such men as Bryden, of Battleford, who has not looked upon the face of a fellow Presbyterian minister for five years, to say nothing of not having attended a meeting of the Synod or Presbytery. Or one thinks of Lewis, amid his dusky congregation 55 miles away from his nearest ministerial neighbor; or of Wm. Gordon, at Lake Dauphin—two years ago assistant in an Edinburgh parish—now looking ruefully at the cost of a trip to Winnipeg, which even the equalizing committee would not be likely to bring within the reach of his means.

There is improvement in the degree of uniformity with which the reports are sent in to the committee, yet although the case is a great deal better with this committee than in the matter of any other committee which invites answers to questions, there is still a possibility of improvement. The Presbytery of Minnedosa is the most defective in this matter; no less than seven of its mission fields failed to report for 1893—a number almost twice as large as the number of blanks in any other Presbytery. Every congregation which has an ordained missionary in charge has reported except two. The men who stand out so conspicuous in this matter seem to deserve mention. They are Mr. Rogerson, of Strathclair, and Mr. A. H. Cameron, of Estevan. The ministers and missionaries in the Synod have the oversight of 8,415 families, counting, in the case of young men unconnected with families, three to a household. This without taking account of the number who failed to report last year is an increase of 900 families. There are 11,641 communicants, an increase of 726 over the previous year and all the Presbyteries except Regina and Rock Lake share in the increase. There were 1,076 infant baptisms, an increase of 14, and 51 adult baptism, a decrease of 11. The number of elders has increased by 70, and the number attending the weekly prayer meeting is 8,640, an increase of 571, and considering that there was an increase of 819 in the previous year. The total increase of 1,390 in the average attendance at the prayer meetings within two years is certainly noteworthy and is a good omen. The chief increase last year was in Winnipeg, and is very likely to be accounted for by the organization of new congregations; but the increase covers the whole field especially in the earlier year and shows unmistakably that this most valuable means of grace is growing in favor with the people.

The number attending Sabbath School is 10,220, an increase of 158, and the number of Sabbath school officers show a proportionate increase.

There are 32 Women's Foreign Missionary societies, a decrease of three, and 14 Women's and Young People's Home Mission societies. Of these eight are in the Presbytery of Winnipeg, and it is a question if the time has not come when they might profitably be organized into a Presbyterial Society. At least two Ontario Presbyteries have Presbyterial societies of this kind, and surely in this Home Mission country these Home Mission societies should get all the stimulus and strength they can from meeting with one another and encouraging one another.

Turning now to the finances the amount of stipend from all sources amounting to \$92,918, an increase of \$5,663 on the previous years. In the amount of stipend paid by the congregation alone there was an increase of \$7,892, or an increase of 9½ per cent. The

arrears, however, increased too by \$1,120, and at the close of the year stood at the formidable sum of \$5,417. The total contributions for strictly congregational purposes mount up to \$132,501, an increase of more than \$3,000. There were increases in the Presbyteries of Winnipeg, Rock Lake and Brandon, but decreases in the Presbyteries of Regina and Minnedosa. But the most serious state of affairs is revealed when we come to consider the scheme of the Church. Except in the case of two schemes there is a decrease in the contribution to the funds. The exceptions are the Home Mission Fund which got \$126 more than the year before, and the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund which got \$45 more than the year before. The College fell short \$519; Augmentation, \$390; French Evangelization, \$87; Foreign Missions, \$344.

The total payment for schemes of the Church amounted to \$14,554, a deficit \$3,252, as compared with the preceding year. Their can be no doubt that a considerably larger sum may be raised if the Presbyteries would take closer supervision of the small mission fields when there are frequent changes in the supply and when perhaps there is no supply at all during the winter months, and where, consequently, even a collection for missions is a thing almost unknown. To say nothing of these which do not report at all, and some of them, very likely had but little to report, there are thirty-six mission fields under the care of students or catechists which gave nothing in 1893 to the schemes of the Church. Let us make allowance in thinking of those fields, for discouragement and apathy arising from infrequent and irregular service, form small congregations, from threatened or actual arrears of salary due to the missionary, the fact remains that such a condition is not helped but rather is in many cases aggravated by the neglect of the missionary to explain to these people that they belong to a church which has many children, missionary and educational, some of them in this and some in foreign lands, that it not only attempts to care for these but for its aged and health-broken ministers, and for the widows and orphans of those who have fallen in its service. We hear a good deal although none too much about the duty of spreading the knowledge of our work in the eastern provinces. Let us not keep back like knowledge from the west. Facts, say our Home Mission advocates, are the fuel of enthusiasm. Where is this enthusiasm more needed than in some of our mission fields themselves and where is the fuel more scantily supplied. Your Committee is deliberately of opinion that in nine cases out of ten where these missions have done nothing for missionary work it has been because they have not had the opportunity; because the representative of the Church in the field has not made use of his materials within everyone's reach in the church paper and in the blue book, to set before his congregation the nature of the work which is being done as a whole. It is not possible that the claims of the church's mission work should be set before any mission congregation, however small and poor, without eliciting some financial response. But in truth the loss of these people's money is the least part of the injury which is entailed upon the Church. She loses her sense of unity, she forgets that she is a body compacted of many members and she loses the vitality which comes of such knowledge and feeling.

We have spoken of thirty-six mission fields which have given nothing to the Church's missionary work. There are besides these, eight congregations either pastorates or under the charge of ordained missionaries, which are in the same position. Two of these seem to be entitled to special mention as extreme cases. The congregation of Virden in 1889 gave \$25 to the schemes of the Church, but for the past four years the space opposite its name has been uniformly blank. This is a congregation which reports 157 communicants, Wawanesa gave \$20 to the schemes in 1890, the last year during which it was under the care of a student, but, within the past three years during which it has helped the Church's missionary and other benevolent undertaking in no degree whatever. Wawanesa is a congregation which reports forty-five families, but does not state the number of its communicants.

The payments for all purposes amounted to \$158,594, a decrease of \$406 on the previous year. In three Presbyteries, Winnipeg, Rock Lake and Brandon, there was an increase of \$6,000, but this was more than counter-balanced by a heavy falling off in the Presbyteries of Regina and Minnedosa. The previous year had however, shown heavy payments to the building fund of Manitoba College, and indicated an increase of \$19,000 over the year next preceding, so that probably the increase in ordinary givings indicated a reasonable development. These statistics show that in organizing new charges and raising money for the payment of pastors and the building of churches, we are making decided progress. This progress will afford, however, but meagre ground for congratulation if it is accompanied by indications of less practical interest in the Church's work as a whole, as is indicated by decreased givings to the missionary and benevolent work of the Church.

The report was received with very favorable comments and adopted with thanks to the Convener for his diligence, on motion of Rev. P. Wright, seconded by Rev. Dr. King.

On behalf of the boundary committee, Rev. Dr. Robertson presented a report in accordance with which it was agreed that Rounthwaite should be connected with the Presbytery of Brandon instead of that of Glenboro.

A report on the state of religion was presented by Rev. T. Beveridge and adopted; it went very fully into the spiritual condition of the people and the various departments of the Church work.

The motion of which Rev. Principal King had given notice, in reference to prayer and the reading of the Bible in the public schools was next offered and discussed at length; it was as follows:

1. The Synod deems it reasonable and important at this time to affirm its satisfaction with the fact that an unsectarian system