

congregations \$4,125. Of the cost of the maintenance of ordinances in missions 61 per cent. was borne by the people, and in augmented congregations nearly 78 per cent. The gain in communicants, in the Synod last year, was 20 per cent. Complete returns would place the enrolment of Sabbath school attendance at about 12,000. The rate of contribution for the Synod last year was \$19.15, and for the church \$13. Last year 17 churches and 5 manses were built in the mission field, at a cost of about \$27,000, and the figures for 1890 are larger still. The following table will show approximately the strength of the Synod and its growth since the Presbytery of Manitoba was formed in 1871 and the Synod organized in 1884:—

	1871	1884	1890
Self-sustaining congregations.....	1	6	30
Augmented Congregations.....	0	2	24
Mission Fields.....	5	56	117
Congregations and Mission Stations....	11	260	548
Families (whites).....	229	4,200	8,298
Communicants (whites).....	250	4,100	9,573
Churches.....	8	58	164
Manses.....	2	15	36
Ministers, Missionaries and Professors..	5	72	175
Indian Teachers and Missionaries.....	3	8	22
No. of Ordained Ministers.....	5	65	106
No. in Sabbath School and Bible Class..	—	—	12,000
Contributions	\$2,000	—	\$177,996

The growth during 1890 would considerably augment these figures.

Western Canada offers a rare field for the prosecution of Home Mission work. The mass of the people are law-abiding, and have a firm faith in the virtues of our holy religion. They are industrious, intelligent, liberal and progressive. Wherever missions have been established the results have been most encouraging. At some points neglect has left its mark, and it will require years of faithful work in such districts to expel from the blood the virus of loose thinking and coarse living. The moral tone is rising, however, and all are hopeful.

Several problems press for solution. Around the villages and towns Indians are found pitching their tents, sapping the morals and propagating venereal diseases. Representations have been made to the Indian Department, but the evil continues. By the prodigal use of the permit and the introduction of four per cent. beer the cause of temperance has suffered a severe blow. A change is loudly called for. The lack of supply during the winter is a serious hindrance to the progress of religion and morals. This winter over thirty mission fields, with over 1,300 families, are without ordinances; and about the same number are supplied with catechists, whose experience is limited and whose abilities are untried. Unless the Church would court loss, she must efficiently man every field the year round, and none but men understanding the genius of Presbyterianism and fully in sympathy with its mission should occupy frontier fields. The post is full of