

BAPTIST HOME MISSIONS.

\$60,000

We are asking for \$60,000. We purpose investing in parsonages. We shall loan the money to our Home Mission churches, at a very low rate of interest. It is not the purpose of the Board to purchase parsonages and present them to the churches. The money will be loaned to the churches, the general understanding being that the church to which the loan is made shall contribute at least one-third of the cost of the parsonage, pay ten per cent. of the principal two years from the date on which the loan is effected, and another ten per cent. each successive year until the principal is paid, the Board being secured against loss by a mortgage on the property. Thus the fund may be employed in perpetuity.

This will not lighten the financial responsibility of the Board for the support of its pastors to any appreciable extent until the parsonages are fully paid for, as the pastor will be required to pay rent, and the Board is responsible for the rent, having guaranteed a minimum salary with house rent in addition. But it will do far more. It will establish our churches in the community. The people will take knowledge that the Baptists mean business and are in the place to stay. Our pastors will be able to give themselves unreservedly to their work without the haunting fear of being thrust upon the street at a few days' notice, and the consequent waste of good Baptist time, strength and energy in house hunting and moving.

As an illustration of the inconvenience to which our men are put, on Thursday last I was visiting one of our pastors in the western part of the Province. I found him on his knees, but not in prayer. You may imagine what was in his heart. He and his family, with their household goods, were in transit—books and barrels, clothing and furniture, all thrown together in one conglomeration of horrible confusion. Across it all I wrote the word, "Forced out! No parsonage."

On Saturday we received a letter from one of our men who is resigning his pastorate because he can find no place in the town to live. He is not overly particular. He would be willing to dwell in tents with Isaac and Jacob under similar conditions, but he is a bit averse to facing the extremes of our Canadian winters in evaporators and cold-storage plants. "Forced out! No parsonage."

Yesterday, Sunday, I was with another of our men, who is comfortably housed at the present moment. But during the first year of his pastorate he was compelled to move three times. "Forced out! No parsonage."

Do you not think that we are very modest in asking for only \$60,000? We are confidently expecting that amount, and it may be, who knows, that there shall be given us exceeding abundantly above that which we are asking.

H. B. COUMANS.