

State. Statistics were sought directly from the field, and these were compared with those gathered by other investigators.

It appeared that nearly 78 per cent. of the money from home-missionary treasuries goes to the nine largest towns and cities and 11 per cent. more to places having only one church. It is possible that in the large and fast-growing communities churches may be multiplied too much in certain sections, but only about 11 per cent. of the money goes to small places having more than a single church. There may be, and doubtless are, some evils to be remedied in overlapping; but they seem to be not so serious as they have sometimes been represented to be.

On the other hand, the revelations as to neglected sections were a great surprise. It was found that 133 places with populations exceeding one hundred and fifty were without Protestant churches, and one hundred of them also without a Catholic church. Some of them were not without saloons and other evil resorts. Four hundred and twenty-eight places with post-offices had no churches. Whole communities are without adequate church work; at least eighteen out of sixty may be so classed, and one county has but a single church.

The outcome of the investigation was the recommendation by the committee that the officers of the various societies allot the unoccupied fields so that the responsibility for each shall rest definitely on some denomination, and a recommendation that applications for aid be refused when coming from places already fully served and where promise of growth is not such as to demand new churches. The recommendations have met general approval, and there is a prospect of effective co-operation in such efforts as among Indians, immigrants, Spanish-speaking fields, mining and lumber camps, and the congested parts of great cities. Such systematic combination in study and labor will be a long step toward meeting the crying need of many sadly neglected sections of our land."

PROTEST.

Finally we desire to protest most solemnly and earnestly against the way in which some sections of our Church are trying to force the rest into organic union.

Every year at the General Assembly we have been asked to allow negotiations to proceed, that a fair chance might be given to find out what could be done and that due respect might be paid to the other Churches. Now we are told that in granting this request, the Church was approving of union.

We were promised year after year, that no binding steps would be taken until the people had had the fullest chance to discuss and express their opinion on all matters involved. This year the matter is settled, practically, by being sent down to Presbyteries, in terms