

**REPORT OF BOARD MEETING HELD IN
BRAMPTON, ONT., OCT. 1896.**

Total raised by auxiliaries, \$35,714. This is \$400 more than the Auxiliaries raised last year.

The total amount raised from all sources was \$38,747.

The Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Strachan, read a report upon the progress of the work in the various mission fields. In Japan severe illness among the workers had cast a shadow over the missionary work. The increase of pupils in the three boarding houses and a number of conversions are thankfully referred to. The day school, for very poor children, in Azabu, has been maintained, throughout the year, by the King's Daughters, but with diminished resources, and an appeal was made for assistance. Two orphanages in Tokyo and Kanazawa, sheltering 30 children, have been in operation at small expense and with good results. A new building has been completed at Shidzuoka, adding to the efficiency of the school. The industrial work in Kanazawa has made satisfactory progress. The evangelistic work has been carried on vigorously, and has resulted in the baptism of 35 women during the year, and others are being instructed with this end in view.

The missionaries in West China have been permitted to return to their fields of labor, with brighter prospects than before the riots. Indemnity has been paid for material losses, and negotiations for the purchase of a very desirable property have been completed. Twenty little girls have been gathered into a school, and it is hoped that before long a boarding school may be established. One new worker has gone to the Chentu mission, but at least two more are required. At the Chinese Home, Victoria, B. C., two members have been married to Christian Chinamen. Improvement is noticed in the character and manner of the girls, and also in the building and grounds. At the Indian Girls' Home, Port Simpson, B. C., la grippe caused the death of two girls this spring. Two others have left, leaving a membership of 23. An increased fondness for reading is observed. At the Chilliwack Indian Institute 97 pupils have been enrolled, with an average attendance of 85. The results of the work have been highly satisfactory. An increase is reported in the attendance at the French Institute at Montreal.

There are now nine branches in the Dominion and three Auxiliaries in Newfoundland. In the 661 Auxiliaries there are 13,863 members, which, with 786 life members, brings the total membership up to 14,649, an increase of 724. The Mission Circles and Bands in general have continued most zealous and active, now numbering 286, with 6,750 members.

LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES.

NOVA SCOTIA BRANCH.

I wish to say to the Mission Band workers, through the PALM BRANCH, that I thank you personally for the degree of co-operative help you have given. Our mutual efforts have just closed one of the most successful years in our history. But let us not be weary in well doing. May the good things we have done in

the past, by God's help stimulate to better things for the future. Let us stand for God in the worlds mad strife, and tho' there may be and will be discouragements, trust in God and fear not. Let us work during the year, just beginning, in such a way as to make our success in the past year but as the first wave of an advance of the highest and best success, that of winning souls for Christ.

M. EDITH BROWN, Cor.-Sec.

The newly elected Cor.-Sec'y of the Lone Star Mission Band, Bermuda, in a pleasant note to the Editor writes: "Although a small Band, and the only one in these Islands, we have been very successful in all our efforts to raise money for missionary causes. Our last entertainment was in every way a success, and we are now busy preparing for another. We find the PALM BRANCH very helpful indeed, and we have got so to look for it every month, that I don't know what we should do without it."

N. B. AND P. E. ISLAND BRANCH.

I am Secretary of the Excelsior Mission Band, of Queen Square church, this year. At the first meeting we were called upon to record, in our books, the death of little Gertie Stephenson, one of our dear little members, who was always in her place and ready to do her part. Her dying request was that our pastor would tell the girls that she wanted them to meet her in heaven. She was not afraid to die as she was a devoted little Christian, and though we deeply mourn her departure, we feel that "Our loss is her gain!" The first meetings of our Band were not very well attended, so we had a Crusade Day, on which we went and invited old members to return and new ones to join us. As a result we have now enrolled 27 members, having started this year with only 14 members. So far eleven of our Band have subscribed for the PALM BRANCH, which we prize very highly. I am afraid, dear cousin, if I make this much longer you will not be able to publish it, but I had so much to tell you of that I could not make it much shorter. Hoping you will be able to find room for this in your next issue,

I remain yours,

MAGGIE TAYLOR.

TORONTO CONFERENCE BRANCH.

NOTICE.—Mrs. James Hales has been appointed Branch Band Cor.-Sec'y instead of Mrs. Bascom resigned. Address Mrs. James Hales, 226 Seaton St., Toronto.

TAKE NOTICE.

The Basis of Competition for the Banner this year is the greatest number of new subscribers to PALM BRANCH! Now who will win the Banner and at the same time work for the general good?

WANTED.—Short missionary stories, missionary items, and news from the Circles and Bands.

Now is the time to renew subscriptions as well as to begin.

This is the last PALM BRANCH of the year. A good way to celebrate the dawn of the new year will be to get as many new subscribers as possible. We would that all our subscribers could begin with the new year.