

CAUSE OF THE DEFICIT.

The deficit was caused by a falling-off in revenue and by extension in work. Last year over \$13,000 was received in donations, the amount this year was meagre. Legacies are insignificant in amount this year, and contributions from congregations too have declined. The help given in Great Britain seems to have made the Church think that the Home Mission Fund was in a healthy state, instead of being in arrears. The revenue from Congregations increased about 10 per cent. since 1890, and the number of Missions about 23 per cent. in the same time.

EFFECT OF THE DEFICIT.

The deficit has compelled the Committee to call a halt, and, although the prospects of immigration are brighter than for years, no advance can be made till this barrier is removed, if then. We had been steadily overtaking the districts neglected in the past, this good work is now arrested. We are trying to get efficient laborers, but the uncertainty hovering over the future makes them hesitate.

EXTENSION.

In a new country, with immigrants constantly arriving, mission work cannot stand still. Last spring appeals were made by Scandinavians and Icelanders, by Hungarians and Germans to organize missions among them. Did we do right in listening to them? A missionary sent to Cariboo found over 3,000 people, more than one-half of them of Presbyterian origin, and yet no missionary of any Church was laboring among them. Should this continue? In another settlement over 700 people were found like sheep without a shepherd. A student was sent to another district and found 54 families and over 60 young men, and although many of them had been there for years, he was the first missionary of any Church. We aim as far as possible to overtake the wants of our fellow countrymen, of our own kith and kin, feeling sure that we can rely on the help of the Church. As long as the average contribution from congregations is only 30 cents per communicant the work can scarcely be said to be burdensome. If you approve of extension, help the committee to settle claims for the past at least.

METHODS OF HELPING.

This year closes with April, and help must come quickly if at all. Let any who can afford it send a special contribution to Dr. Reid, whether 50 cents, \$5.00 or \$50.00. General help is needed. The knowledge of the need should be a sufficient incentive to action. Twice he gives who gives quickly.

Yours truly,

J. ROBERTSON.

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FRENCH EVANGELIZATION NOTES.

Point Aux Trembles. The present session, so far as spiritual results are concerned, has been the best in the history of the Point Aux Trembles schools. On Sabbath, 30th March, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed at the school, and twenty-two pupils, on profession of their faith, were admitted for the first time to the Lord's table, besides six that were admitted some three months previous. This is one of the best missionary agencies in the Church. Mr. Bourgooin and his excellent staff are doing splendid work. He has now completed a quarter of a century as principal of these schools. He has been laid aside by severe illness, but we are glad to state that he is now improving.

St. Hyacinthe. Rev. M. F. Boudreau sends the following very cheering note:—The work among the French people here was never more promising than it is at the present time. It is being prosecuted quietly but none the less effectually. Within the last six months I have received the names of twelve persons who have abjured Romanism and who expect shortly to be received into the membership of our Church. Seven of these are adults.

There is also a considerable number of Roman Catholics who are being gradually brought under the influence of the Gospel. To that good work some of my members are devoting a good deal of their time distributing tracts, Testaments, etc. My little daughter, eleven years of age, has distributed over a thousand tracts the past winter, only two of which were refused. This is surely a sign of the times. Such a thing would have been impossible a few years ago.

The Presbyterian Church here is the only place in a city of over ten thousand people where the Gospel is proclaimed in French. We are trying to do it faithfully, and the evidences are not wanting that the Lord is blessing our labors.

Ottawa. Mr. E. F. Seylaz writes:—"The Master's work continues to give us great encouragement. I have visited a good many Roman Catholic families, some of whom I find to be accessible, others satisfied with their system; but on the whole my opinion is that a great many Catholics are entirely dissatisfied with their oppressive system of religion."

Joliette. "A woman came not long ago," writes the Missionary, "to inquire a little more into our doctrines. It was late on Saturday night when she retired with her two little girls, who go to the convent. The next Sunday evening she was at church and told me at the close of the service that she had made several attempts to come in, but failing to escape the notice of a small crowd that generally gathers before the church, she at first passed by and took her chance later on. She tells me her brother has a Bible and is greatly interested in it."