

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL MISSIONARY COMMITTEE.

Your Committee, having under consideration the memorandum of the General Secretary of Missions, submit the following:—

1. That the evils referred to by the General Secretary of Missions are only apparent to a very limited degree in this Conference. Many circuits have in recent years passed into independence, while others are struggling to that end; but to force most of our Home Missions on the lines of self-support would be injurious to the cause of God and hurtful to Methodism. A stringent coercive policy would prove most fatal in this direction.

2. That the surrender of our former Home Missionary Fund to the General Missionary Society, together with the stipulations of Union, we regard as constituting a pledge not to sacrifice this important department of church work to a parsimonious policy.

3. Changes in administration, involving the systematic visitation of Home Missions, improvements in financial disposition, and in other ways helping the brethren and the Missions and relieving the Missionary Fund, we shall hail with delight; but we record our emphatic protest against the unwisdom and unrighteousness of the basis proposed by the General Secretary, anent Missions, with 150 members. Where it is certain, that in farming and fishing and other communities our people are in a position to support in full their own minister, we submit, it is at once a shame and a disgrace to draw from the Missionary Funds. But numbers cannot be regarded as uniformly a safe test of financial ability, and each mission ought to be considered wholly on its merits.

4. This Conference invariably exercises the most scrupulous care in the formation of new missions, and as at present arranged, knows not of even one case where amalgamation of contiguous missions would be either possible or desirable.

5. We do not favor the suggestion that the General Board of Missions should fix the amount to be raised by the Domestic Missions; but we do think that the Financial Districts should continue to exercise the greatest care, and allow no mission to drop in receipts unless under very exceptional circumstances.

6. That it is desirable that the Stationing Committee should exercise the greatest care in making appointments, in order that in transfers to or from Bermuda the cost of land travel to or from points of embarkation may be as small as possible; that the Stationing Committee keep this in view in the stationing of men on missions. In the case of all removals to and from Bermuda, and also on all our missions, a full and detailed record of such expenses has always been had and submitted in due course to the committee of Appropriations of Domestic Missions.

7. Our consideration of the memorandum having led up to the question of General Administration, we recommend, in regard to the appropriations made by the General Missionary Board, that the Conference call the attention of said Board to the fact that the 42½% of the income which under the

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