

of our agents, and, as before stated, in several cases a second visit had to be made to secure a meeting in the interests of the Bible Society; however, the general interest of the people in the work and object of the society is obviously increasing.

By arrangement of the committee, special visits were made by directors to a few of the larger Branches, with the most satisfactory results, viz.: Brampton, Galt, Georgetown, Guelph, Hamilton, Ingersoll, Kingston, Orangeville and St. Catharines.

During the past winter the office-bearers of several of the Branches, assisted by local clergymen and active Christian laymen, voluntarily undertook the holding of special meetings in their respective vicinities, with a view to arouse the interest, and increase the zeal of the people in the work of this Society. Already much good has been done, and we would recommend that this most praiseworthy example be followed by many others in future years, until the whole Christian population has learned to appreciate the importance of this great work, and their individual responsibility as well as the duty incumbent on them in this connection.

Notwithstanding the stringency in money matters, we are pleased to notice that some of the Branches, have increased their contributions this year, but some have not come up to their last year's contributions, while others have not made any remittance as yet for the year just closed. We trust, however, that all are earnestly persevering in their endeavours to maintain this good cause.

We would respectfully suggest the undesirability of asking one individual to accept two or three offices in one Branch. When practicable each office should be represented separately, and thus gather strength to the cause by enlisting the interest, sympathy and co-operation of many more gentlemen in this particular branch of "work for the Master."

We also desire to urge the importance of placing the Bible depositories in prominent positions. Occasionally we hear of a depository in a *back shop*, or in the midst of goods almost hidden from view, or, perhaps, covered with some advertising placard. Large "Bible Depository" notices can be obtained on application to the Depository or Secretary here, and can be forwarded, without expense or risk of injury, with goods. Please remember this when ordering stock from the Depository.

We are pleased to note the increasing demand for our *Annual Report* and *Recorder*, as we believe it is evidence of growing interest in the work, and we will be glad to learn from the different Branches how many copies of each they can use to advantage.

We lately received a copy of a neatly printed local report issued by the officers of the Guelph Branch, the circulation of which cannot prove otherwise than helpful to the cause, and we trust that the enterprise thus shown by our friends in Guelph will stimulate others to do likewise.

During the year twenty-one new Branches and Depositories have been organized—two in Manitoba and nineteen in Ontario—principally in the district formerly under the supervision of the Kingston Auxiliary, which is now united with us as a Branch with a depository. The officers of this Branch direct the movements of the colporteur working in that district.

The new Branches are as follows:

Amherst Island, Ashburn, Bath, Battersea and Sunbury, Breslau, Cataqui, Elmwood, Garden Island, Harrowsmith, Holstein, Inverary, Linwood, Minnedosa, Man., Nile, Parham, Pittsburgh, Seeley's Bay, Sydenham, Verona, Waldemar; West Selkirk, Man.

We have now 420 branches and 29 depositories in connection with our Society.