

The Home Mission work of the Church has been maintained with energy and ability that has long characterized this most particular branch of Christian effort. Its importance is generally recognized by the Church at large and its management has been entrusted to a committee composed of men of exceptional executive ability. Nor must it be forgotten that the work is carried on by ministers, students and catechists, whose self-denying devotion entitles them to the fullest confidence of the Church at large. The means at the disposal of the committee are utilized to the utmost. There is no waste. Every application is thoroughly scrutinized, and the reasons must be convincing before a grant is made. Much has been done in the past. The work accomplished is of permanent value. It has measurably kept pace with the growing resources, intelligence and zeal of the Church. With increased liberality much more can be done than has yet been effected. If the Presbyterian Church, in the Dominion of Canada, is true to her mission, she will not be content till the means of grace are fully provided from ocean to ocean.

In the older settled parts of the country Home Mission work is not yet superfluous. Even in some of our strong Presbyteries there are fields that might be worked with advantage. While in the more recently settled districts, under the supervision of the Presbyteries of Barrie, Bruce, and those of Manitoba and the North-West there are whole regions waiting for the efforts of the Home Missionary. Energetic as have been the endeavours to meet the more urgent requests coming from these districts, even these have hitherto been only partially met. It will require time and augmented resources to enable the Home Mission Committee to keep abreast of the calls constantly being made for labourers to man the new fields opening up, not to speak of the work of exploration—an important part of the Home Missionary's duty—the seeking out of the neglected, the careless and the lapsed.

As an illustration of the work done in the North-West, the following excerpts from Dr. Robertson's last report may be given:

"During the past year twenty Mission Fields were occupied in the Presbytery of Winnipeg, thirteen in Rock Lake, thirteen in Brandon, fourteen in Minnedosa, twenty-three in Regina, and twelve in Calgary or ninety-five in all."

The progress of the work is here given in tabulated form:—

	1889.	1890.	Gains.
Number of Missions.....	95	104	9
Number of Stations.....	378	403	25
Families.....	3,315	3,674	359
Communicants.....	3,228	3,890	662
Churches built.....		20	20
Manses built.....		2	2
Missionaries.....	95	104	9