

Line upon line that there may be no room for mistake. Only for the objects named below is the Common Century Fund. The Assembly recommends that giving be simply to the Fund as a whole, but if any one wishes to designate his gift to a special one or more of the objects named, he can do so.

THE CENTURY FUND SCHEME.

The Common Fund, which is the Century Fund proper, the real Century Fund, is for putting the colleges in a better position; for aiding the benevolent Schemes of the Church; for aiding Building Funds, a necessary part of Church extension in new districts;—and for providing working balances for the missionary Funds and thus saving interest during the year before the receipts come in from congregations.

The objects to be aided and the amounts to be given them are as follows :

Home Missions, East	\$ 6,000.00
Home Missions, West (to make up \$50,000)	30,000.00
Augmentation, East (to make up \$6,500)	3,000.00
Augmentation, West	15,000.00
Foreign Missions, East	15,000.00
Foreign Missions, West (to make up 50,000)	20,000.00
French Evangelization	15,000.00
3. The following shall also be embraced in the Common Fund :	
Presbyterian College, Montreal ...	\$40,000.00
Queen's College, Kingston (Theological Department)... ..	40,000.00
Knox College, Toronto	40,000.00
Manitoba College, Winnipeg	40,000.00
Presbyterian College, Halifax	15,000.00
Church and Manse Building Fund, Northwest (of which \$10,000 for N. Ontario)... ..	60,000.00
Church Building Fund, N.B., P.E.I. and Newfoundland	24,000.00
Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, West.....	60,000.00
Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, East	12,000.00
Widows' and Orphans' Fund, West.	60,000.00
Foreign Missions, West, for a Building Fund	50,000.00
Foreign Missions, East, for a Building Fund	10,000.00
Augmentation, West, for a Building Fund	25,000.00
French Evangelization, for a Building Fund	20,000.00

AN ABUSE OF THE CENTURY FUND.

Not an existing abuse, but one that might arise, and against which a word of caution may not be out of place, viz.: that of evading our share of responsibility for the Century Common Fund for helping the schemes of the Church, and of using the sentiment of the occasion and the general interest which is being awakened throughout the Church for our own ease and benefit, by devoting our chief energies to erecting buildings for ourselves and paying our own debts, giving the crumbs to the Common Fund, and then taking to ourselves credit for having given liberally to the Century Fund because there is a column in that Scheme where the payment of church debts is acknowledged.

It is true that in launching the Century Scheme, congregations are encouraged to pay off debts on Church property, and thus make the hundredth year, as the Jew made the fiftieth, a year of release from debt. It is also true that all sums thus reported as paid will be marked as having been paid, not to the Century Fund proper, but by such congregations for debt. But it was never intended that churches should turn their main efforts, except in rare instances, of special need or burden, towards helping themselves in this way.

That special provision was made to meet the case and the wish of some heavily burdened congregations that under adverse circumstances have been carrying a load of debt which they were ill able to bear, but it was not intended that they should shift their ordinary building and debt paying upon the Century Scheme, and then claim credit for having helped that Scheme.

Church building and debt for such building are, and will always be, a right and necessary part of church life and work. New churches will always be needed in new fields and to replace old ones in old fields. It is in most cases necessary to spread the payment over a number of years. This may be done before building, by laying up in store year by year, or after building, paying it off year by year.

The latter is more practicable, for it is difficult to get people to give money that will not be used for years to come. Besides there is the risk of its being lost in the interval through bad investment. It is