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## OUR PRESBYTERIAN HOUSE-KEEP- ING; WORK AT HOME.

The report of the work of our church at home, east and west, that is of our Home Mission work, is very voluminous, most convenient and complete for reference, but too much, we fear, for even our ministers to read, much less the rank and file of the people. As this is at present and must be for many years yet the great work of our church, it is the more important that our church papers should continuously supply the people with information about it, to awaken and sustain interest in this chief department of our work. The Home Mission sphere of our church's labors extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean, and from the international boundary line on the south to the most distant northern limits of the dominion. For the present we confine our attention to the western section, including Quebec province, and all west of it to the Pacific.

The report of the committee having this great, wide-spreading work in charge, includes a large variety of subjects and enters into details which can only be taken up a few at a time. There are for example, the provinces of Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, the North-West and British Columbia with all their varieties of life, railway lines and railway workers, miners, lumbermen in their camps, farmers; dwellers in rural villages, towns and cities. There are immigrants from a great many different countries, speaking their different languages, English, French, German, Galicians, Finns, Icelanders, Hungarians, Russians, Czechs, and even these do not exhaust the list. There are many varieties of belief and unbelief, many different ideals, social, municipal, political and educational. These have all to be Canadianized, and we fully believe to do this the church and the school are by far the most speedy and effective means. Augmented congregations, mission stations, students, ministers, teachers, churches,

manse, schools and schoolhouses all come under the view and care of the Home Mission committee. It will be seen that this is a great work.

However many the subjects to be dealt with in this part of our work might be, the last report of it could only begin with the great loss to it, sustained by the death of our late, lamented Superintendent of our mission field west of lake Superior, Rev. Dr Robertson. Appointed to this sphere of labor in 1881, he lived to see, largely by his own wisdom, zeal, indefatigable labors, and noble christian character, a most marvellous development of it in all directions. This will be best illustrated by a comparative statement found in another part of this issue. His personal character was a large factor in the great success he achieved. It enabled him to gain the respect of every class of the population he had to deal with; on farms or cattle ranches, at the mills, in villages or cities, "he was a hero of the type the west is proud of." Over the whole Dominion and across the Atlantic he was known as an enthusiast in his work. It was due to his memory that a fund should be raised to commemorate it.

It is gratifying and encouraging to the whole church to know that, perhaps, never before was this great department of Christian activity in our church in a better condition than it is just now. By the blessing of God, money and men have last year been forthcoming sufficient to secure that, over the entire extent of this great field, there is not a single district containing a settlement of a dozen Presbyterian families, where there is not more or less regularly maintained among them the ordinances of our church. In Quebec province, while in some parts English-speaking families are becoming fewer, in other parts, owing to the erection of pulp mills, and the building of new lines of railway, the number is on the increase. It only requires more men able to conduct services in both French and English for our work in Quebec, greatly to grow. The Pointe aux Trembles schools have been and promise to be of yet greater service in this respect. In Ontario also by the rising up of new industries, building of new railways, increase of new settlements a fresh impetus has been given to the work, and more men are needed. Especially is this the case in the Ottawa, Peterboro, and Kimpton districts and in Northern Ontario. By means of ordained missionaries, continuous supply is now given in many fields, and is attended by results much better in every way than the intermittent supply which can only be given by students whose course is not yet finished. Earnest efforts are being put forth by several Presbyterians to reach with the gospel, and Christian literature, lumbermen working in the woods and for this purpose a special grant was made last year of \$10000 to Rev. A. Fitzpatrick. Summer resorts also, now so largely frequented, are being more carefully provided with the means of grace.

Every one knows what a constant and rapid flow of population from many lands, is coming into all our western provinces. In this connection the Presbyterian church has special responsibility, for while according to

the last census, the general increase in population in the west was 83 per cent the increase of that belonging to the Presbyterian Church was 187 per cent. The same census returns show an increase of population in the east in last decade of 190,000, but in the west, the increase was 300,000. Labour and other difficulties are causing to some extent depression at present in British Columbia, but these can only be temporary.

Foreigners from the United States and Europe are becoming a constantly increasing element of those going into our western country, and these are it is believed, only the advanced guard of the great host coming in the future, and the aim of the committee both from the highest patriotic and christian motives is, to try and reach all these. We have now a medical missionary among the Galicians in the Dauphin district. Five schools, equipped by teachers paid by the committee have also been organized among. Other missionaries, foreigners working among their own people are, a firm at Fort William and Port Arthur; two Czechs, three Hungarians, two Germans, two Icelanders, two Bohemians and efforts are being made to secure a Russian for work among the Doukhobors. It will be seen from this statement that this a great work, and it promises to grow rapidly on our hands. It demands, and will demand for a long time to come, a large supply of men and money. Our church has both to give if only the spirit of liberality and consecration are poured out upon her ministers and families. Securing this demands largely, more largely than upon any others, on our ministers. But let all come to the help of the Lord. Freely we have received, freely let us give. "It becomes the church," says this report, to pursue a statesmanlike policy, and send in the missionary of the gospel along with these settlers, so that, from the very beginning of life in the new country, they may have regularly preached among them the gospel of Christ."

## THE NEW PRINCIPAL OF QUEEN'S.

On Wednesday evening the 17th inst., the trustees of Queen's University decided after careful deliberation to offer the office of principal to the Rev. J. Barclay, D. D., of St. Paul's church, Montreal. It was found necessary to fill the position at once as many interests would be likely to suffer from a prolonged vacancy. The present constitution requires that the office be filled by a Presbyterian clergyman, and the majority of those most interested in the university felt that whatever may happen in the future at present the best principal would be a cultured and liberal-minded Presbyterian minister. This means that the changes in the constitution will not involve a sudden break with the past and a rapid transformation in the character of Queen's. The University has reached a critical stage in its history and if it is to play a noble part in the life of the province loyalty to its past as well as adaptation to new needs must be carefully considered and harmonized. Dr. Barclay has received a strong call and commands the respect of the staff, hence it is to be hoped that he will be led to consecrate his varied talents to this important work.