

Reports read showed that an advance has been made during the past year in all departments of the work of the congregation. The report of the Session showed that 37 were added to the membership during the year and 11 removed, making a net increase of 26. There was an increase of over \$69.00 contributed to the Schemes of the Church over the previous year. The Treasurer reported an increase of \$10.00 in the pew rents. The W.F.M.S. reported an increase of \$18.00. The debt was reduced to \$236.00. All this is very encouraging for both pastor and people.

MEAFORD.

The annual congregational meeting of Erskine Presbyterian church was held recently. After devotional exercises conducted by Rev. Mr. Eastman, B.A., Mr. Jas. Cleland was elected chairman.

Reports were read from the following bodies, viz., The Session, the Board of Managers, the Ladies' Aid, the Y.P.S.C.E., the Mission Band, the W.F.M.S., the Sabbath school, all of which showed balances on the right side. The financial year just closed has been a prosperous one. The increase in membership has also been very gratifying. It was decided to have plans drawn up for a new schoolhouse.

WHITBY.

The annual meeting of St. Andrew's church was held recently. The meeting opened with devotional services by the Rev. Mr. Abraham, pastor of the congregation, after which Mr. D. Ormiston was called to the chair. The report of the Session showed that all the departments of church work were being vigorously carried on. There had been 19 new members added to the roll during the year, 10 of whom were by profession of faith. There was 1 removal by death and 14 by certificate, showing a net gain in membership of 6, leaving the total membership 196. The Managers report showed that the weekly offerings had a falling off as compared with last year of but 46 cents, the debt incurred for repairs had been reduced by over \$20. The Treasurer submitted his report, showing receipts and disbursements in detail; the total amount received for church work was slightly in excess of \$2,300.

STRATFORD PRESBYTERY.

This Presbytery held a regular meeting in Knox church, Stratford, on Tuesday, Jan. 11th, beginning at 10.30 a.m. The retiring Moderator, Mr. Cooper, constituted the Court with prayer.

There was a large attendance of members. Mr. T. A. Cusgrove, M.A., of the First Presbyterian church, St. Mary's, was chosen Moderator for the next six months, and took the chair.

The docket of business was varied and important. The division of the charge of Mr. Pyke, St. Andrews, Shakespeare and Tavistock, was finally accomplished. Mr. Pyke remains in charge of St. Andrew's and Shakespeare with salary of \$700 a year and manse. Tavistock has the status of a congregation and Presbytery is to recommend it for an augment. The Clerk of Presbytery Mr. W. M. McKibbin, 135 Huron St., Stratford, is the interim-Moderator. The congregation has leave to secure pulpit supply for six months.

The Treasurer of the Presbyterial W.F.M.S. reported the remitting of \$1,062.63 to the General Treasurer in Toronto. It was understood that this represented a period of only nine months.

An important letter from the Superintendent of Missions in the North-West, was read, and elicited a lengthened discussion. Attention was especially called to the new step taken in reference to the Klondike field.

On motion of Mr. J. D. Ferguson, the Presbytery re-affirmed its confidence in the position taken by the General Assembly on the question of Prohibition of the Liquor Traffic.

On motion of Dr. Hamilton the Presbytery expressed sympathy with the widow and family of the late Rev. Wm. Burns, Agent of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, and directed the Clerk to transmit a copy of the minute to Mr. Burns.

Mr. John L. Murray, M.A., of Kincardine,

was nominated to the Moderatorship of next General Assembly.

Mr. Cooper introduced a question regarding the abolition of the preparatory department of Knox College. Full discussion was deferred to the March meeting.

Besides these a number of items of less general interest were disposed of.

Presbytery adjourned to meet again in Knox church, Stratford, on Tuesday, March, 8th, at 10.30 a.m.—W. M. McKibbin, Clerk.

HURON PRESBYTERY.

This Presbytery met in Goderich on the 18th January. Mr. Acheson was appointed Moderator for the ensuing six months. Session records were examined and attested. Revs. Dr. Robertson, of the North-West Missions and D. McIlivray, B.D., of the Honan Mission being present were invited to sit and deliberate. Ministers reported as to missionary meetings being held in terms of resolution of last meeting. Dr. Robertson addressed the court on Home Missions, dwelling more especially on the requirements of the North-West, and the Klondike region. Thereafter the following motion was unanimously agreed to, viz., The Presbytery having heard Dr. Robertson, express their satisfaction in seeing him once more among them, record their gratitude to God for the measure in which his health is restored, thank him for his address and would heartily commend the present requirements of the North-West Missions to the serious consideration of our congregations.

Mr. Fletcher read an abstract of the annual report of the Presbyterian Society of the Woman's Foreign Mission Society, showing that the Society is in a flourishing condition, the contributions being \$80 in excess of last year's, amounting to \$1,562.28. The following deliverance was adopted: "The Presbytery in receiving the financial report of the Presbyterial Society of the W.F.M.S. of this Presbytery noticed with much satisfaction the progress shown by the givings of the ladies. The Presbytery would express its gratitude to God for the good work which this society is doing in connection with Foreign Missions. Further, the Presbytery express to the ladies its warm appreciation of their earnest endeavors in the Master's work."

Thereafter Mr. Fletcher reported on behalf of the Committee on the Anniversary of the Westminster Standards, setting forth that the Committee secured the services of Dr. MacVicar, of Montreal, for the occasion, and that they recommend that the Presbyterial celebration be held on Monday, Jan. 24th, at 7.30 p.m. Dr. McDonald to preside; Dr. MacVicar to give an address on the "Distinctive Features of the Confession of Faith;" Mr. Mungrave on "England and the Westminster Era;" Mr. McLean on the "Influence of the Standards on Civil and Religious Liberty;" and Mr. Anderson on the "Outlook of Presbyterianism." The report was received and recommendations adopted.

It was agreed to hold a special meeting in Seaforth on the 27th ult., at 7.30 p.m.

The next regular meeting is to be held in Clinton on the 8th of March at 10.30 a.m.—A. McLean, Clerk.

MAITLAND PRESBYTERY

Met at Wingham, Jan. 18th, Rev. W. T. Hall, Moderator. The auditors report was presented. It was agreed that congregation be asked to contribute at the rate of seven cents per family for the Presbytery fund for the ensuing year.

Resolutions of condolence with the widow and family of the late Rev. Alexander Sutherland and with the widow and family of the late Rev. William Burns, of Toronto, were adopted.

Remit of Assembly re appointment of Committee on Estimates was disapproved of.

The Presbytery will apply to the General Assembly for leave to receive into the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Canada the Rev. Colin Sinclair, minister of the Free Church of Scotland.

The annual report on Young People's Societies was read and adopted.

The Presbyterial Young People's Association reported. The annual Convention was held at Wingham 17th inst. The Association recommended the Young People's Societies to devote their funds this year to the Klondike Mission. Ministers are asked

to bring this to the notice of their young people and impress upon them the necessity.

A committee consisting of Messrs. McKay, Murray, West and Henderson was appointed to submit a deliverance on the question of Prohibition.

Deputations were appointed to visit and receive congregations, and report at next meeting. Pine River, Mr. Miller and his elder; Walton, Mr. Ross and his elder; North Kinloss, Riversdale and Enniskillou, Mr. McLennan and his representative elder.

Mr. McLennan gave notice that he will move at next meeting that the regulations regarding the order of business be revised and printed.

It was agreed to ask the congregations for a contribution for the Assembly's Sabbath School publications.

A document regarding the method of conducting congregational meetings and the management of church temporalities was referred to a committee consisting of Messrs. Ross, McKee and Ballantyne, with their elders, to consider whether it might be advisable that the Presbytery recommend to congregations and office bearers within the bounds to adopt a similar method, and to report at next meeting.

A letter from the Superintendent of Missions in the N.W.T. and B.C. was received. The Presbytery expresses full sympathy with vigorous efforts to supply new fields opening out, with Gospel ordinances, and appreciation of the vigilance and activity shown by officials charged with the duty of extending Home Mission operations. It engages to use its utmost endeavor to secure large contributions from the various congregations within the bounds.

The Presbytery adjourned to meet at Brussels on the 1st of March at 10 a.m., and within the Methodist church there.—John MacNabb, Clerk.

REALIZING THEIR LOSS.

The following resolution of condolence was adopted by the Presbytery of Maitland on Jan. 18th, 1898:—

This presbytery has learned with sorrow of the sudden death of Rev. W. Burns, of Toronto, on Jan. 2nd, 1898, and desires to convey an expression of its earnest sympathy and condolence to his widow and family in their sore bereavement and further desires to place on record its high appreciation of his kindly nature, obliging disposition and of his many excellent qualities as a preacher of the Gospel, as Agent of Knox College Endowment Fund, and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. To these schemes he had directed his energies and untiring efforts satisfactorily and successfully and in connection with them his name will be long remembered for his invaluable services.—John MacNabb, Clerk.

CORRESPONDENCE.

St. John, N.B., Jan. 24th, 1898.

Editor Presbyterian Review.

Sir,—In reply to your correspondent "B" allow me to say:

1. The deficit on the "Lesson Helps" for the calendar year (Jan. to Dec. 1897) is \$465.

A MISSIONARY'S WIFE

Interesting Letter from India - A Long Summer Season.

The following letter is from the wife of an American Episcopalian missionary at Nowgong, Assam, India: "After living here for several years I found the climate was weakening me. I began taking Hood's Sarsaparilla every summer. This I found so beneficial that I now take one dose every morning for nine months of the year, that is, through the hot weather. My general health is excellent and my blood is in good condition. My weight does not vary more than one pound throughout the year. I find Hood's Sarsaparilla indispensable in the summer and recommend it for use in a debilitating climate." Mrs. P. H. Moore.

The above letter is similar to thousands received and constantly coming in.

Hood's Pills