

ESTIMATES FOR SCHEMES WEST.

Presbyterian Offices,
Toronto, 10 Sept., 1900.

Editor Record,—

The following is a statement of the amounts required for the current year on behalf of the Schemes of the Church. It is intended to guide Presbyteries and congregations in the amount at which they should aim, as well as in the appropriation of their contributions. It is very desirable that Presbyteries should at an early meeting give special attention to this matter, and carefully consider what amount they should assume, and then apportion this amount among the several congregations within their bounds. In Presbyteries where this has been done, and where the supervision of each Scheme has been committed to some one member of the Presbytery, the results have been generally much more satisfactory than when left to each congregation to give as it pleased:—

Schemes.**(Western Section.)**

Home Missions.. . . .	\$94,000
Augmentation of Stipends.. . . .	28,000
Foreign Missions.. . . .	73,000
Woman's For. Missionary Soc....	56,100
French Evangelization (including Pointe-aux-Trembles Schools)..	35,000
Colleges, viz.: Knox.. . . .	12,000
Queen's	5,000
Montreal.. . . .	5,000
Manitoba (exclusive of amount from Synods of Manito- ba and B. C.).. . . .	3,000
Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund (over and above Ministers' Rates and Int. from Investments)	14,000
Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund (over and above Ministers' Rates and Interest from Investments)	14,000
Assembly Fund.. . . .	7,000
	<hr/>
	\$346,100

The congregations in both Eastern and Western Sections of the Church contribute for French Evangelization, Manitoba College, and the Assembly Fund; the amounts named for the other Schemes are for the Western Section alone.

An average contribution over the whole Church of \$2.00 per member will provide the total amount required for the Schemes. Many congregations will, of course, greatly exceed this average. It is hoped that an earnest effort will be made to reach the average in every congregation.

Mission Stations, as well as congregations, are enjoined to contribute to the Schemes of the Church. This will be found helpful to them as well as to the work.

Where Missionary Associations do not exist, the Assembly has appointed collections

to be taken up during the current year as follows:—

French Evangelization.—Fourth Sabbath of July.

Assembly Fund.—Fourth Sabbath of August.

Colleges.—Fourth Sabbath of September.

Widows' and Orphans' Fund.—Third Sabbath in October.

Home Missions.—Third Sabbath in November.

Manitoba College.—Third Sabbath of December.

Augmentation Fund.—Third Sabbath of January, 1901.

Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund.—Third Sabbath of February, 1901.

Foreign Missions.—Second Sabbath of March, 1901.

Quite a number of congregations fail every year to contribute to one or more Schemes of the Church. The Assembly last month instructed Presbyteries to take this matter into consideration, at their first meeting, and endeavor to secure the organization of an efficient Missionary Committee in every congregation and Mission Station within their bounds, so that a contribution may annually be obtained for every Scheme.

The Scheme which seems at present to receive less than its fair share of attention and pecuniary aid is that of the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund, the claims of which I would urge upon all Sessions and congregations.

Nearly the two-thirds of the entire contributions for the Schemes of the Church are received during the last three months of the ecclesiastical year. This renders necessary the borrowing of money to meet salaries and other disbursements, entailing heavy expenditure for interest. To obviate this, congregations are recommended to forward their contributions quarterly. The Assembly instructs congregations to forward all money prior to 28th February. Special attention is called to this, as hereafter an annual statement in detail is to be submitted to the Assembly of all money received from congregations, Sabbath schools, etc., up to February 28th.

Permit me to add to the above statement a few general notes on the different Schemes of the Church:—

1.—Home Missions.

To enable the Committee to keep pace with the growth of the population, and to open up new fields, as well as to furnish regular supply during the whole year, the full amount given in the estimate will be required. As the amount received from Great Britain and Ireland is now much less than heretofore, greatly increased contributions will be required from our own Church.