

way to do this is to be thoroughly loyal to the Home Missionary Society. To this Society is committed the work of so spreading these principles, and the means entrusted to it will be judiciously applied for this purpose. We could do splendid work with double the amount received, and we ought to have it.

British Columbia is asking our help to establish at least two churches in the populous gold mining districts there, where there are a number of Congregationalists; but we have not the means. Shall we have to let such golden opportunities slip?

It is for the churches to decide; but the responsibility is great.

Here are a few figures which are worth the serious consideration of our churches: In 1888 the subscriptions reported from Canadian churches for this Society were \$6,900; in 1889, \$5,700; in 1890, \$6,900; in 1891, \$5,900; in 1892, \$2,700; in 1893, \$2,900; in 1894, \$2,500; in 1895, \$3,200; in 1896, \$4,400; in 1897, \$3,464.

Now, the condition of our churches to-day as a whole is not so encouraging as it was six years ago. Has the withholding of the tithes, in so far as Home Missions are concerned, anything to do with this? "There is that scattereth and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, and it tendeth to poverty."

With but few exceptions, all our churches over this wide Dominion have been helped into self-support through this Society; therefore each of those churches owes it a debt which can only be paid by enabling the Society to do for new causes what was done for them.

During the financial year the Executive paid in grants \$714 more than last year. One-third of this amount has been expended on the new cause in Victoria, B.C., and it is gratifying to note that the Colonial Missionary Society has agreed to contribute one-half of the amount we shall expend on that cause for a reasonable period.

By districts, the increases in contributions are as follows: Ontario Central, \$123; Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, \$181; and the decreases: Ontario Eastern, \$100; Ontario Western, \$12; Quebec, \$95; Manitoba, \$67; and Special and Personal, \$174.

In view of our slow denominational progress in Canada the question is a vital one, how can we change this?

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