Foreign Mission Board

W. B. M. U.

"We are laborers together with God."

Contributors to this column will please address Mrs. J. W. Manning, 240 Duke Street, St. John, N. B.

PRAYER TOPIC FOR AUGUST.

That the blessing of the Lord may rest upon our Convention and his presence and spirit pervade every session. For the sorrowing ones in India that they may be greatly comforted and sustained in this dark hour.

Report of the W. B. M. U. Convened at Woodstock, N. B., August 19th and 20th, 1903.

The W. B. M. U. Convention for 1903 was formally opened Wednesday August 19th at 10 a. m. by Mrs. J. W. Manning, President. After reading "Rules of Order," and enrolment of delegates names by Mrs. Horseman showing 107 present, the provincial secretary's reports were received. Progress and growth were plainly evident, but especially in P. E. I. The interest manifested by every society was shown by 63 replies to 55 letters. Total increase over 1902 $243.18. Strong appeals were made from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick secretarys that more careful attention be paid by local secretarys in filling out the 'Blank Forms.' It is utterly impossible to give correct statistics unless these questions are answered.

Many in both provinces failed to return the 'blanks' at all. To every society one was mailed, but it may have gone astray through the post office, or in other ways. Kindly send another year to the provincial secretary for these blanks if you do not receive one, or send your report on paper or post cards. But report if you want to be reported. If the blanks should be received by a former secretary, will you not please pass it on to the right person and thus help to forward the work in which you are interested. The following names will show the societies who were not reported when the Nova Scotia provincial secretary's account was closed for this year. Hammonds Plains, Indian Harbor, Lockartville, Chester, Pleasantville, Lapland, Aylesford, Kentville, Lockport, Kemps, Lewis Head, Pt. Medway, Pt. Clyde, Hartford, Argyle Head, Bear River, Digby Neck, Centreville, Greywood, Torbrook, Milford, New Glasgow, Diligent River, New Annan, Acadia Mines, Onslow, Belmont, Upper Stewiacke, Brookside, Goldboro, Canso, Mabou, Homeville and Lounsburg. This is one instance where "silence is not golden."

It was moved by Mrs. Smith, and seconded by Mrs. Scott of St. John, that in view of the difficulty to secure Association Directors and that except for presiding at Association meetings their duties were the same as County Secretaries, we do away with this multiplicity of offices. The services of these women who have done most faithful work, whenever possible, especially in Nova Scotia, are to be retained as Corresponding Secretaries and the experience gained by them during the past two years as Directors, will be doubly helpful. The Secretary of the county in which the Association is held will take charge of that meeting unless the Provincial Secretary can do so herself, in which case there will be a proper understanding. If the county having the Association has no secretary the one next will arrange for programme.

Crusade Day was specially discussed and a more general observance urged. Mrs. Corey of Liverpool, Mrs. N. E. Scott of St. John, Mrs. Hutchinson of Moncton, and others gave very interesting accounts of how their societies had been increased through this observance. Mrs. Smith of Amherst, and Mrs. Cox, Provincial Secretary for New Brunswick, made strong appeals for looking upon every day as an opportunity by which we might get the interest and co-operation of sisters who are not now members.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

Mrs. Fash extended to the W. B. M. U. a very cordia welcome from the Woodstock Baptist church. Greetings were also received from Woman's Free Baptist Missionary Society given by Mrs. McKinney; Mrs. Rankine of St. Pauls church, Woodstock; Mrs. Wiggins of the Reformed Baptist; The New Brunswick W. C. T. U. Mrs. Hutchinson, of Moncton, replied very graciously, and best of all most spiritually to these addresses of welcome.

An interesting letter from Miss Mabel Archibald was read by Miss Dykeman. Reference was made to the late Miss Johnstone, our loved Provincial Secretary-Treasurer for so many years, and a strong appeal given to our women at home to do more for the work of the Foreign Field. The missionary's hearts are well nigh broken, to see the utter darkness around them, and the scarcity of helpers. Concentrate your love, gifts and prayers on the 2,000,000 Telugus.

In the absence of Mrs. W. P. King, the report on Home Missionary was read by Miss Edith Barss. The estimate of $2500 had been realized. Thanks was given to all who replied so generously to the Christmas letter. Northwest called loudly for help. Fifty towns with a population of 250 to 300 with no Baptist missionary. This is our opportunity. Scandinavians give best promise to become Christians. One man fills 23 preaching stations. A good Christian paper is needed.

Go in and possess the land. Indian work more hopeful than ever before, since its beginning. Mr. J. F. Clarke, brother of our dear missionary now on furlough, is going to take up the work. Grande Ligne received much attention. Uphold it by all the means in your power. At Feller Institutes there are 180 resident pupils. Twenty-five professed conversion. Six were taken from the school through influence of their priest. Present debt $15,000. A recent gift of $5000 would enable them to reduce it to that extent.

HOME WORK.

Out of 83 Home Missionary churches 35 are pastorless. One man's salary for the past 10 years has not exceeded $360. In the past 20 years 18 churches have become self supporting and during 10 years 417 persons have been converted. Special attention is being given to the grouping of weak churches. Lack of men and money hinder the work. In conclusion, work, prayers, zeal, was urged. Mission Bands and Aid Societies were asked to consider the needs as never before.

Report adopted. Tidings and 'Link' were not reported. Mrs. W. Harding sent the report on literature. Stock on hand. Leaflets, sketches, retrospects, historical sketches, mite boxes, maps. Cash received from sale of leaflets postage, etc., $3.03. Cash on hand $6.14. The literature seems now to be ordered for a definite purpose, and a greater number of those who order are willing to pay. Consequently instead of having to ask the treasurer for $15 or even $30 as has been necessary on some former year, we have met the current expences. A long felt want has been met in 'India Illustrated' and 'Historical Sketches.' Ten and twenty five cents each. Send for them, and taste and see.

Supply your Societies with plenty of good reading.

ESTIMATES. FOREIGN MISSION.	
Miss Harrison's salary	$ 500
Helpers and traveling	120
Miss Newcombe's salary	500
Helpers and traveling	120
Miss Archibald's salary	500
Helpers, school, and traveling	200
Miss Blackadar's salary	500
Miss Flora Clark's salary	500
Traveling	60
Miss Martha Clark's salary	500
Traveling expenses to India	300
Books and tracts	100
Traveling in India	75
Schools	250
The Contingent Fund (to meet home needs)	250
Home Literature	75
School at Bobbili	150
Hospital at Chicacole	500
Native Helpers	500
Male Missionary, Salaries and Work at Stations	3300
Total	$9,000

HOME MISSION.	
North West	900
India Work	300
Grande Ligne	400
Building Fund	200
N. S. and P. E. I. Home Mission	800
New Brunswick	400
Total	$3,000

We have raised the estimates $1000. F M, $500 and H M $500 thus making a grand total of $12,000 to be aimed for next year. In Christ's strength we can do it.

Mrs. Hartley who has the finest collection in Canada of curios gave a very interesting talk on her work for India. She supports two schools through the money gathered from entrance fees to her museum in Florenceville, Carleton Co., N. B.

EVENING MEETING.

Mrs. Corey read the scripture Mrs. Gunn led in prayer. Rev. Dr. Gordon of Montreal was the first speaker. Subject Grand Ligne. Quebec the most Catholic country under heaven. 1,620,000 people crying loudly to us to give them the gospel. The vast majority in Quebec have no living Christ as we enjoy him. Our duty to send them the light. The work is difficult, but it is succeeding. In 60 years 4000 young people have been educated. The population has increased 67 per cent. The Baptist denomination 380 per cent.

Feller Institute is surrounded by a halo all its own. Must be seen to be felt. One day spent there makes any man or woman nobler. One of its teachers, a graduate of McGill, travelled, scholarly cultured, returned from France to work upon a salary of $200. The hope of Quebec is By-Lingual culture. Growth demands money. Contributions do not keep pace with increase in wealth. Attach all the agreements made for other subjects no matter how strong, to Grande Ligne and you can make no mistake.

Miss Martha Clarke spoke specially for Chicacole. Always interesting, our dear sister thrilled each soul present with the utter destitutiion of India's women. We wish everyone of our sisters who could not be present at Woodstock, might have felt the deep spiritual tone of this address. The Lord himself has placed his seal upon the work. After a solo by Mrs. Good, Rev. L. D. Morse, whose name is a household joy to many, was gladly welcomed to the platform. Need one word be said to stir your hearts? Would that every shut in, and shut out sister could have heard his stirring appeal for India's darkness. The seed was sown. God himself can and will give the blessing. May our brother long be spared in health, to work in our provinces since the dear father has seen fit to call him from the foreign field.

THURSDAY MORNING.

After the usual devotional service, which always preceded every meeting and proved so helpful, Mrs. F. M. Gunn led a touching memorial service. Mrs. P. M. Kempton of Wolfville, a very dear friend of Mrs. Sanford read a paper referring specially to her life and influence at home and abroad. The missionaries on the field will long miss the dear one who has left them for the home above.

A most profitable 'Workers' Conference was conducted by Mrs. M. S. Cox, Prov.-Sec'y. for N. B. A large tree was outlined. The ground was the money. The roots the W. M. A. Societies, the whole tree was the W. B. M. U. or three trunks grown into one; the main stem officers of union; larger branches, Prov.-Sec'y. and Mission Band Supt.; County-Sec'y., smaller branches; fruits were development of women, conversion of Telugus, instruction of children in mission work; prayer was the air in which the tree grew; sunshine was God's love; rain was showers of blessings. Every fruit held an embryo seed, which holds the life of another tree. Add to this Mrs. Cox's original and interesting manner and you can form a slight idea of what a pleasant hour was spent.

CONSTITUTIONS.

Many in both Provinces will be rejoiced to read that the three, Mission Band, W. M. A. S, and W. B. M. U. constitutions have been amended and adopted by this Convention.

Please look for them in the Annual Report. Every member of an Aid or Band should purchase one of these for 5 cents as soon as they arrive. They will be sent to your Secretary. Separate ones will also be printed so that you may be in possession of them as soon as possible.

Mrs. P. R. Foster, Mission Band Superintendent, N. S., gave such an interesting and encouraging report on the year's work.

The "Bands" win the banner this year. If it had not been for them we would not have been able to report such an increase in funds. There are one hundred active Bands and five inactive. Failure due to leaders, 105 Blanks sent out, 11 not returned, Life members 21. $275.19 raised more than ever before. Halifax Tabernacle, the largest average per member. An instructive paper was read by our Superintendent prefacing a most interesting and very helpful "Conference."

Mrs. Cox reported for New Brunswick verbally. No regular one sent in. Mrs. John Clark for Prince Edward Island. That also failed to reach us. Both showed decided progress. Miss Martha Clark followed these ladies with an interesting talk on "The influence of impressions on the child mind in India."

Mrs. Corbin gave greetings from the Womens' Meth. Missionary Society of Woodstock.

Mrs. E. J. Miller told a touching story of how God sustained her through a most trying experience and how impossible that the heathen could have the same comfort.

Last, but not least, comes the report from our two different Treasurers, Mrs. Mary Smith and Mrs. Ida Crandall. A few figures tell the tale but they speak volumes.

W. M. A. Societies	F. M.	H. M.
New Brunswick,	$1973 85	$484 48
Nova Scotia,	4241 58	1455 87
P. E. Island,	478 75	242 51
	$6694 18	$2182 86
Mission Bands	F. M.	H. M.
Nova Scotia,	$950 30	$240 06
New Brunswick,	567 01	101 96
P. E. Island,	120 08	24 20
	$1637 39	$360 22
W. M. A. S.,	6694 18	2182 86
Total amount	$8331 57	$2549 08

Increase on last year from Bands and Aids for both Prov. $243.18.

THURSDAY EVENING.

The closing meeting was by no means the least interesting. In spite of falling rain a large number were present. The first speaker of the evening, Mr. Stackhouse, in his own magnificent style gave us, as we fully expected, a splendid address, showing the awful needs of the North West with its teeming population pouring in day by day in utter destitution of the knowledge of Jesus Christ. The foreign people settle in colonies and retain their peculiar national habits. Time to reform, as soon as they arrive on the soil. Else we will have questions to settle that cannot be done until God himself comes to settle all questions. Commercial and materialistic condition of the people another problem. Roman Catholic influence another. $1,000,000 raised for the erection of a convent. Only $9,000 from all Baptists for North West. Degradation in many cases equal to the blackest of India's women.

7 facts show the result of what our money enabled them to do last year:—

1st. Maintain the present work; 2nd. To preach the gospel to thousands that otherwise could not have been reached; 3rd. To bring about the conversion of hundreds; 4th. Organize 10 new churches; 5th. Built 15 new houses of worship; 6th. Opened 15 new preaching stations; 7th. To add to our working staff 17 more men than we had the previous year.

Rev. L. D. Morse gave us another inspiring and solemn address which ought to awaken every soul to greater earnestness. "Are the heathen lost without the gospel?" God alone holds the key or can weigh the impression of this service.

After the reading of resolutions in which touching references was made to Mr. Sanford and family, Miss Archibald and others, the thanks of this Convention were extended to the members of the Woodstock Baptist church for very kind hospitality and especially recognizing the kindly consideration and fore thought of pastor and Mrs. Fash, who were untiring in their efforts to make our meetings successful, and who generously placed their home at the disposal of everyone. Thus closed the 34 Annual Convention of our W. B. M. U. and we can truthfully say none other in its history has made a better record in the years finances, the social intercourse and the spiritual uplift of the sessions.

President, Mrs. J. W. Manning.

Vice Presidents—Mrs. Dr. Trotter, Wolfville; Mrs. M. C. Scott, St. John; Mrs. John Clark, P. E. Island; Mrs. Everett, Rec. Sec'y.; Mrs. C. H. Martell, Cor. Sec'y.; Miss Emma Hume, Prov. Sec'y., N. S.; Mrs. M. E. Cox, Prov. Sec'y., N. B.; Mrs. J. C. Spurr, Prov. Secy. P. E. I.; Mrs. Mary Smith, Treas. W. B. M. U.; Miss Ida Crandall, Mission Band Trea.; Mrs. P. R. Foster, Mission Band Supt., N. S.; Miss West, Nission Band Supt., N. B.; Mrs. A. F. Brown, Mission Band P. E. I.; Mrs. J. T. Bates, Ed. of Link.; Miss Etta Tuill, Prog. Mission Band; Miss Harding, Ed. of Tidings; Mrs. Hutchinson, Prog. for Tidings.