

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

NOVA SCOTIA BAPTIST HOME MISSIONARY UNION.

In presenting their fifth Annual Report the Executive Board of the Nova Scotia Baptist Home Missionary Union desire to make grateful mention of the manifold blessings which an indulgent Father has been pleased to bestow upon our efforts during the past year. It has been a year of comparative prosperity. Difficulties have been overcome, burdens have been removed and an amount of work performed altogether beyond our anticipation. Having entered upon the duties of the year with a heavy debt resting upon our exchequer, we have had occasion for increasing gratitude in witnessing from month to month the gradual diminution of our liabilities, whilst at the same time a fair degree of progress has been made in our missionary operations.

THE LINE OF POLICY PURSUED.

It was deemed expedient by your Board, in entering upon the responsibilities of the year, not only to adopt the most economical methods of carrying on the work in which we were engaged, but also to pursue the policy of retrenchment so far at least as to ensure the liquidation of all our debts before the close of the year. We are happy to state that this purpose has been well-nigh effected. In pursuing this line of policy however we have necessarily restricted our efforts in evangelization to such a degree that the work performed and the consequent results are small when compared with those of former years. It is by no means a difficult matter so to manage the business of our Board as to be able to report a satisfactory balance in hand. That can be done simply by neglecting helpless fields, turning a deaf ear to the urgent appeals for aid which come to us almost every week, and permitting immortal souls to perish without making any other attempt to secure their salvation. But we are not ambitious for the fame of those societies which boast of solvent treasuries and have nothing else to report.

GENERAL AGENCY.

In following out the course suggested by their own convictions and in agreement with your recommendation of last year, your Board endeavoured to secure at the earliest possible date the services of an efficient General Agent. The task was a difficult one; and for several months our efforts were ineffectual. We were pleased to learn in the early part of last December that Rev. J. H. Robbins was willing to undertake this important work.