

Our Home Work.

Our home work lies at the foundation of church progress. A few families are formed into a station, with a catechist, supported partly by themselves and partly by the *Home Mission Fund*. As they grow they are organized into a congregation and receive aid from the *Augmentation Fund* to support a settled pastor. Then they become self-supporting and aid others. During the past 21 years, 345 congregations, in the Western Section, have received aid from the *Augmentation Fund*; of these, 155 have become self-supporting. In the East a similar work has been going on.

AUGUMENTATION NOTES.

The prospects of the *Augmentation Scheme* Western Sec. are brightening. The receipts to date are about fifteen per cent. in excess of those of the corresponding period last year, and the Church appears at last to be awakening to the importance of this scheme.

In response to an earnest appeal from its pastor—Rev. D. J. Macdonnell—the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, has contributed \$1,033.50 to the fund.

Erskine Church, Montreal, has already given \$650, which is likely to be increased to \$1,000 or upwards by a special Sabbath collection. In both Crescent Street Church and St. Paul's Church, Montreal, special efforts are being made, over and above the amounts allocated for the regular missionary contributions.

The Presbytery of Montreal is aiming at raising at least \$4,500 for *Augmentation* this year. It has allocated this amount among its congregations. The first to respond was New Glasgow—one of its weakest congregations—which has pledged itself to raise the amount asked. This was followed by similar responses from St. Lamberts, Lachine, etc, and with the hearty co-operation of all of its ministers, the full amount will doubtless be forthcoming.

No section of the Church has reaped greater benefit from the fund than the Province of Quebec. Before its inception, congregations were dwindling in numbers and the people becoming disheartened because of their being left without service for months at a time. These congregations have taken heart since the *Augmentation Scheme* was launched. Through the aid received from it, the people were stimulated to greater liberality and were encouraged to call pastors. This has resulted, in many cases, in enlarged congregations, some of which are now self-supporting, and others are nearing that point, while in several districts in the Province of Quebec there are now settled Presbyterian pastors, aided by the fund, where without it the Presbyterian cause would probably have ere this died out. The importance of this is realized when it is remembered that the Presbyterian cause is the only Protestant one in many of these districts. There is abundant scope for individual, as well as congregational, liberality. Several have sent generous gifts to this most important work.—R. H. W.

HOME MISSIONS IN B. COLUMBIA.

Editor Record.

KAMLOOPS, B. C.

IN response to the invitation in your pages, I send you a few notes.

It is true, in mission work, as in other things, that "distance lends enchantment," and therefore people like to hear about the far West. However, mission work here differs very little from that in Ontario and Quebec. Our work here is laying the foundation, sowing the seed, that will yet be a blessing to future generations, and already, we know, has blessed many. The hindrances and difficulties are similar to those found elsewhere, only in a greater degree. We have to cope with unbelief, worldliness, love of amusement and spiritual deadness; and yet, bad as things are, there is a wonderful improvement to-day as compared with what existed six years ago.

GREAT CHANGES IN SIX YEARS.

Then there was no respect for the Sabbath. All the stores were open. Miners, ranchers and others did their trading on the Lord's day. At that time there was no Christian sentiment. There was no church, and some people thought they did not need any. Then drinking was almost universally the custom. Bars were open night and day, every day in the week. Young men were told they could not get on in the world unless they drank like other people. Now all this has been greatly changed for the better.

Now the Sabbath is fairly kept; stores and saloons are closed; churches are well attended; Christian sentiment is growing; contributions for church support and missions surpass the giving of older communities; now there are many total abstainers, and the temperance spirit is becoming stronger. We do not write these things by way of boasting, but to show that Home Mission work bears fruit, and that, too, before many days.

SOME ENCOURAGEMENT.

Home mission work in Kamloops has its discouraging features, but it has also a bright side. I need not tell you of discouragements. Let me rather tell you of the good that has been done. Ambition to make a fortune causes many young men to cross the Rockies and seek a home in British Columbia. There are, however, many temptations in a new country. Many fall a prey to the tempter's snare.

I feel thankful that our church here, in some measure, is doing a good work in helping those who come to us as strangers. In Kamloops the church is well filled by a deeply interested congregation, the majority of whom are young men, whose fathers and mothers live in the East or in the old land. Is it not right that we should in all laudable ways seek to retain our young people in communion with the Church of Christ?