

XVI.—STATISTICS.

Dr. Torrance, *Convener*; Dr. Gray, Dr. Bryce, J. C. Smith, Jacob Layton, Dr. Middlemiss, J. McInnis, George Carson, A. W. Mahon, D. McCrae (Victoria), J. S. Hurdle, W. T. Wilkins and R. J. Glassford, *Ministers*; John Hawley, D. Blackwood (Halifax), Chas. Davidson, T. C. James, D. F. McWatt, and Robert Cruickshank.

XVII.—PROTECTION OF CHURCH PROPERTY

Hon. Justice Maclellan, *Convener*; Dr. Bell, Dr. Reid, Dr. R. Campbell (Montreal), Dr. Pollok, Dr. Torrance, Prof. Hart, Dr. John Campbell (Victoria) and Dr. Robertson *Ministers*; J. L. Morris, Q. C., G. M. Macdonnell, Q. C., J. McIntyre, Q. C., Hon. Chief Justice Taylor, Hamilton Cassels, Hon. D. C. Fraser, Judge Forbes, Thornton Fell, F. H. Chrysler, Q. C., W. B. Ross A. W. Thompson, Judge Stevens, Judge McKenzie, John A. Paterson, Major Walker, Judge Cressor, W. M. Clark, Q. C., Hon. Justice Sedgwick, Thomas Caswell, Judge Trueman.

XVIII.—CHURCH AND MANSE BUILDING FUND.

Hon. Chief Justice Taylor, *Chairman*; Dr. Robertson, D. McCrae, Dr. Duval, Joseph Hogg, J. C. Herdman, James Farquharson, M. C. Rumball, J. A. Carmichael, Prof. Baird, and C. W. Gordon, *Ministers*; and C. H. Campbell, W. J. Tolmie, and James Fisher.

XIX.—HYMNAL COMMITTEE.

Dr. Gregg, *Convener*; Dr. Jenkins, Dr. Macrae, Dr. Duval, Dr. W. D. Armstrong, Dr. J. B. Fraser, Messrs J. A. Macdonald, D. J. Macdonnell, J. Thompson (Ayr), Dr. D. M. Gordon, W. T. Herridge, G. C. Heine, James Anderson, J. B. Mullan, Alex. Henderson, Dr. MacLaren, Dr. D. L. McCrae, Dr. J. Somerville, Dr. Scrimger, R. S. G. Anderson, M. McGillivray, Alex. McMillan (Mimico), J. G. Stuart, Dr. James, *Ministers*; and Messrs. W. B. McMurrich, R. A. Becket, John H. Thom, Joseph Henderson, R. Murray, James Gibson, James Johnson (Hamilton), and Prof. S. W. Dyde; the members in Toronto to be an Executive Committee.

XX.—PRESBYTERIAN RECORD.

Dr. Warden, *Convener*; Editor of Record, Dr. R. Campbell (Montreal), Prof. Scrimger, W. R. Cruickshank, J. Fleck, C. B. Ross, J. McGillivray, Prof. Jas. Ross.

Drs. Reid and Gregg. The last Assembly had a special reminder to its members that their work time is growing shorter. These two fathers, long prominent in the public work of the Church, have found the burden of nearly four score years growing heavier, and both gave in their resignations; that of the former as Agent of the Church, to take effect a year hence; and that of the latter as professor in Knox College, to be from date. How the old men are dropping out one by one! In business, in the State, in the Church, to one after another comes evening time and he lays down his work to take it up no more. What a call to faithfulness in that work which so soon is done, and to care in training for that work beyond life which must soon be taken up.

Training. In view of the resignation of old **the Young.** men whose life work is about done, the appointment by Assembly of a Committee on young People's Societies is very suggestive. These societies are rapidly multiplying in our congregations. Young Christianity is active. It wants something to do. The young will make better Christians if kept in close touch with the Church. The Church will be the better of their young life and enthusiasm; and a few years hence when the old have passed away and those same young people make up its membership, it will be a better, more useful, Church if its members when young have been kept in touch and sympathy with its work.

Good out of "hard times." Dr. Robertson in speaking of the past year in the North West says: "During the past year, the financial depression continued to be severely felt in Western Canada generally, and local causes intensified its effect in particular districts. The high water in the Fraser valley, in June last, destroyed a great part of the crop, and drought in Moose Jaw and Regina districts rendered it prudent for the Government to issue seed grain to farmers this spring. The low price of cattle and wheat, the principal exports of Manitoba and the Territories, and the stagnation in the lumber and silver-mining industries in British Columbia, also hit us hard. Many of the missionaries received but a part of what the people promised; and, notwithstanding the special help given by the Home Mission Committee and the generous acts of private individuals and congregations, considerable hardship was experienced on the part of missionaries with families. The outlook, this spring, however, is brighter, the general tone more buoyant, and the inflow of people is larger than for several years past."

"The hard times have not been an unmixed evil. The credit system, so prevalent in the past, is disappearing. The speculative spirit has largely died out and given place to economy, thrift and industry. People are turning their attention to other industries than cattle-rearing and wheat-raising. Borrowing is discouraged and strenuous efforts made to live within income. All this will bear good fruit in coming years. The depression has also materially reduced the cost of living in many localities, and so enabled missionaries as well as others to make ends meet at lower figures than formerly. That the salaries of missionaries, now, however, are not adequate because often not paid in full, is evident from the reluctance with which suitable men accept appointments, and the difficulty experienced in securing their continuance in the work after appointment."

The earnest and oft repeated calls on every hand for Christian work and liberality, do but serve to keep our Christian sympathies in healthy action.