

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS.

TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Your Committee, in presenting its Report for the past year, desires to draw the attention of the Assembly to the fact that not a few congregations still send no reports to your committee. Of the non-reporting congregations, 20 are settled charges, and 25 vacant congregations. Concerning these last, your committee has no desire to say much. It may be that in their circumstances, without a pastor, there may be some difficulty in preparing the necessary returns, although your committee is of opinion that if Clerks of Presbyteries were to take a little trouble in regard to the matter, there might be very little difficulty in procuring somewhat complete Statistical Returns. But there surely can be very little excuse for those congregations over which pastors are settled. The Statistics of the Church must of necessity be incomplete when so many of our congregations fail, year after year, in making the necessary Returns.

I.—STATISTICS.

1. MINISTERS.

Your Committee has prepared a summary of the changes which have occurred in the number of ministers on the Rolls of the several Synods.

Up to the meeting of Assembly there were reported by Synods to the Clerks of Assembly, 3 deaths, 2 depositions and 20 demissions; while to set against this, there were 16 inductions, 12 ordinations and 10 translations, and 5 received from other Churches, while there were eight students licensed. Up to the close of March in the current year there were on the Rolls of the several Presbyteries 288 ministers, being a gain of eight over the number on the Roll at the same period last year. The number on the Synod Rolls reported to the Clerks of Assembly is 292; adding 4 in the Presbytery of Manitoba, not reported, the number would be 296, being *two* more than were on the Synod Rolls at the time of the meeting of Assembly last year.

2. CONGREGATIONS.

It is found that there are 588 stations under the care of our ministers, forming part of their regular charge, while 58 stations not forming part of the regular charge are supplied by them. This does not include a number of mission stations concerning which the Report of the Home Mission Committee speaks.

Your Committee finds that there are in connection with the Sessions of the Church, no less than 1725 Elders, being an average of nearly 6 to each minister reporting, the secular affairs of the Church being attended to by 2713 managers or deacons. We have thus a very large number of what might be called the unpaid ministry attending to the spiritual and secular interests of the Church. It is a matter of profound thankfulness to find that the lay element has such a large share in the government of the Church. Surely when there is such a band of Elders and Managers, together with 3614 Sabbath School Teachers, and the members of no less than 128 Missionary Associations, the various plans of usefulness proposed for advancing the Redeemer's Kingdom, should be carried on, not only without much difficulty, but with great success.

3. FAMILIES.

Making the same allowance as was made in former years for the number of families and communicants in settled charges from which reports have not been received, your Committee finds that there are in connection with our Church 28,540 families, being an increase over last year of 1,179 added to the Church. In this calculation there is no account taken of some 25 vacant congregations—not mission stations—which have sent in no reports. Were the same calculation to be made for them, it would give us a further increase of 1875, making a