

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

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TORONTO, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1879.

It affords us unmixed pleasure to be able to announce that the Rev. Wm. Inglis, for many years one of the leading writers on the "Globe" newspaper, has accepted the editorship of the CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, and will assume the duties pertaining to the position on the 1st proximo.

HOME MISSION FUND—A SERIOUS CRISIS.

IN recent issues we pointed out the importance of congregations forwarding their Home Mission contributions to the Treasurer of the fund prior to the meeting of the Committee in Toronto last week. We deeply regret to learn that very few responded, and that when the Committee met they were so embarrassed for want of money that no course was open but to discontinue all grants, from the 1st October, to the supplemented congregations and mission stations of the Church. The actual facts of the case are, we believe, as follows: The debt on 1st May last was \$9,500. The liabilities of the Committee for services rendered during the half year ending 30th September, were \$18,500, making a total of \$28,000. The salaries of the missionaries in Manitoba and British Columbia being fixed by the General Assembly, and their engagement being for a term of years, the Committee are responsible for these for the ensuing six months. These salaries together with printing and other necessary expenses to the 1st of May next will amount to \$9,000, making a total expenditure for which the Committee are liable to the close of the ecclesiastical year of \$37,000. The total receipts of last year were under \$30,000. Presuming that the income of the current year will exceed that of last by \$7,000 the Committee have *already* expended or are responsible for the full amount likely to be obtained up to the first of May next. With these facts before them, and with instructions from last Assembly to equalize the revenue and expenditure of the year, the Committee had no alterna-

tive but to decline making grants for the ensuing six months. All the applications from Presbyteries for aid to supplemented congregations and mission stations were therefore laid on the table, and after instructing the Treasurer to pay the claims of last half year as soon as funds were forthcoming, the Committee adjourned for six months, authorizing the Convener to call a meeting earlier, should the state of the fund warrant him in so doing.

The gravity of the crisis can scarcely be over-estimated. All mission work in Ontario and Quebec must at once be suspended, and many of the ministers of supplemented charges compelled to resign, unless Presbyteries are prepared themselves to assume the responsibility of making good the grants necessary to maintain the work. To increase the contributions to the Home Mission Fund at the expense of any of the other schemes cannot for a moment be thought of. Indeed all the other schemes themselves need increased revenues so that the remedy is not to be sought in this direction.

The "deadlock" is attributed to two causes, first to the rapid growth of the work in recent years—for which there is abundant room for gratitude—and second to the lack of liberality on the part of many of our congregations and people—for which there is sufficient cause for humiliation.

Last year no less than 110 congregations and 100 mission stations in the western section of the Church failed to contribute anything to the Home Mission Fund, while the amounts sent by many others were disgracefully small in proportion to their membership and wealth. The remedy lies largely in the hands of ministers and Sessions. There must be increased liberality all along the line, not simply on the part of a few of the richer members of churches but on the part of *all*. The amount required per member to wipe off old debts and to enable the Committee to carry on the work as usual, including the grants asked for the current six months, is only 58 cents. We do not believe that there are half a dozen congregations in the Church unable to reach this average contribution per member; we do not believe that there are half a dozen congregations but will reach this average if ministers and Sessions do their duty. The Assembly instructed the Moderator to issue an appeal anent Home Missions and enjoined every minister to read it to his congregations on some *Lord's day* prior to the end of September. We have heard of ministers who in utter disregard of the Assembly's injunctions failed to read the appeal to their congregations at all, and of others who read it, not on a Sabbath, but on a week evening, when scarcely a tithe of their people were present. This is simply intolerable and calls for severe censure. We know of members of some of these churches who are pained and grieved at the action of their minister in this matter and at this we are not surprised. We have heard the excuse given by one minister "my congregation has a Missionary Society to which all my people regularly contribute and from the funds of which contributions are sent to all the schemes so that there was no need of my reading the appeal." This excuse is the veriest trifling.

The Assembly enjoined every minister to read the appeal and every *loyal* minister will obey the injunction of Assembly. Yes, and many a loyal member of the Church will think less of his minister if he fail to do so.

Moreover, our people want information as to the Church's work and wants, and many of them will cheerfully add to what they contribute through their own congregation's Missionary Society when they know that funds are so much needed to carry on the Lord's work. The reading of this appeal, coming as it did by authority of the Assembly, has to our knowledge led to special contributions for the Home Mission Fund in a congregation having one of the best organized Missionary Societies in the whole Church, and a similar result it might have had in the congregation of the minister above referred to, had he read it to his people and explained the circumstances in connection therewith.

We earnestly trust that *all* our ministers and Sessions and people will at once wake up to the serious nature of the crisis now reached and take such action as will without delay place sufficient funds in the hands of Dr. Reid to warrant the Convener calling together the Home Mission Committee early in November to make appropriations for the ensuing half year. Otherwise we fear the result will be most disastrous to our Home Mission Scheme and to the future of our Presbyterian Church.

PROVINCIAL SABBATH SCHOOL CONVENTION.

THE Provincial Convention of those interested in Sabbath School work held its annual meeting in this city during last week. The fact that these were convened in several churches of various denominations shews the unsectarian nature of this gathering. In presence of the Sabbath School, Christians forget their differences. There were upwards of six hundred delegates, and these were supplemented by a number of Sabbath School workers from the United States. All the meetings were well attended by the commissioners and by interested spectators. The exercises, from the beginning to the close, were lively and instructive. The interest, during the sessions of three successive days, never flagged; and it was observed that the finishing meeting was, if possible, more largely attended, and more enthusiastic, than any of its predecessors.

The chief portion of the time was occupied with a great variety of topics which were more or less closely related to Sabbath School work. Representative men read or delivered carefully prepared addresses upon themes which had been previously allotted to them. Such subjects as the Infant School, Normal Classes, the duty of teachers, blackboard exercises, the relation of instruction to conversion, the teacher before the class, the Bible Class, teachers' meetings, music and hymns, were discussed with much zest and animation. The very mention of these few out of the many matters which received the most careful attention, shows how the Sabbath School work has developed during the past ten or fifteen years. Had such a Convention been possible some twenty years ago, its attention