

Since the number of congregations and Presbyteries is likely to increase the Board would suggest that the number of the Board be increased to fifteen, due regard being had to Presbyterian representation. At present the Board is composed of nine members.

From the census (taken two years ago in the Territories, and in Manitoba last year) it would appear that at least one-third of the white population is Presbyterian. Presbyteries are planting stations and organizing mission fields at a rapid rate. It is most desirable that congregations should be delivered from the necessity of meeting in "dugouts" or uncomfortable outhouses. There are nearly 400 separate points at which the services are held and the churches number about 100, or a church for every fourth station. There are about 110 separate congregations and mission fields and only 23 manse.

There is submitted herewith the Treasurer's statement, and also a letter from the Superintendent of Missions showing the effect of the Fund on the work of the Church in the Synod.

The Board cordially welcome the Assembly to Winnipeg, and express the hope that Commissioners may be able to visit different parts of the country and see for themselves the effect this Fund has had in advancing the cause of morals and religion.

The Board are convinced that church extension in this country will be greatly impeded without a healthy Building Fund, and they are convinced that information only is required to secure the means needed to keep pace with the demands of settlement.

The regulations with changes proposed are as follows:—

1. The Fund shall be called The Church and Manse Building Fund of the Presbyterian Church in Canada for Manitoba and the North-West.

2. The amount to be aimed at in the first place shall be one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000); the Fund shall be raised by subscriptions and bequests.

3. The management of the Fund shall be entrusted to a Board of fifteen members, twelve of these to be appointed annually by the General Assembly. The other members of the Board shall be the Superintendent of Missions for Manitoba and the North-West, the Convener of the Home Mission Committee of the General Assembly, Western Section, and one member to be appointed by the said Committee. The Board shall have power to fill any vacancies made by death or resignation until the meeting of the next General Assembly thereafter. The usual place of meeting of the Board shall be Winnipeg.

4. All applications for aid in the erection of churches or manses shall be made to this Board through the Presbytery within whose bounds the congregation is situated, and before being considered by the Board must be recommended by the Presbytery, but the Board shall be sole judge as to the merits of the application, and the nature and amount of aid to be given.

5. The money constituting the Fund shall be, at the discretion of the Board, either invested and the revenue accruing therefrom given in the form of grants to congregations to assist in the erection of churches or manses, or the capital shall be employed to make loans or grants to such congregations.

6. Such loans shall be for a limited number of years, and at a moderate rate of interest. For good reasons the Board may remit the interest.

7. The assistance given, when in the form of a grant, shall not exceed one-fifth of the total cost of the building; and when in the form of loan shall not exceed fifty per cent. of the cost, unless in either case the circumstances are by the Board deemed exceptional. The money shall be payable only when the building can be used for service, in the case of grants. In the case of loans the money voted may be paid in instalments as the work of construction advances. No grant, however, is to be made or loan effected until the Board is satisfied that a valid title to the property, or a bond to that effect, has been secured by the congregation, and that the deed is in the form approved by the General Assembly.

8. It shall be competent for the Board, with the approval of the General Assembly, to make changes in these regulations, but such changes shall have due regard to the proper preservation of the capital entrusted to the Board.

9. The Board shall report its transactions annually to the General Assembly.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

C. B. FITBLADO, *Chairman*,
DANIEL M. GORDON, *Secretary*.