

Our Home Missions.

Presbytery of Westminster. As an illustration of the progress of our Church in British Columbia, the Presbytery of Westminster, a field which, until a few years since, consisted of one congregation, has now 45 churches, with 7,100 sittings, 1,000 families, 557 single persons, 1,544 communicants. During the past year there were 255 added to communion rolls, 108 removed, 168 baptisms, 585 attending prayer meeting. The amount paid by the people for salaries was \$11,004, for building \$703, for other congregational purposes \$823, for local benevolence \$602. There was also paid \$1,808 for schemes of the Church. The total paid by the people was \$31,032, or a little over \$31 per family for all purposes.

Good move in Brandon. "By a readjustment of territory a large saving of Home Mission Funds was effected." Such is a cheering item in the report of Brandon Presbytery. In these hard times, with fields calling for the Gospel, and insufficient funds to send laborers, much may be accomplished by the above method. Even if a man has to spread his work over a larger field, and each part thus receive service more seldom, yet if it be regular, much may be accomplished. In the Home Mission Field more depends upon regularity, than frequency, of service. It is tenfold better to give each of three fields one Sabbath in three, than to give one field regular supply and leave the others vacant.

Whatever the available means, it should be made to cover, if possible, the whole field.

Home Missions West. For three days, 26-27 March, the Home Mission Committee W. D., met in St. Andrew's Ch., Toronto. There were appointments made for the summer, of one hundred Home Missionaries, to twenty-one Presbyteries, between Quebec and Algoma; thirty-five to the Synod of Man. & the N. W.; and nineteen to the Synod of B. C.; one hundred and fifty-four in all. Besides these there were ninety-four applicants for work, for whom there were no appointments.

It was estimated that unless special donations were received there would be a deficit of \$10,000 at the end of the year. It was resolved to pay 75 p. c. of all claims for salaries for the past six months, and to use all efforts to get the facts of the case before the Church, and secure additional help so as to pay the salaries in full in May. It was further resolved to recommend the General Assembly to reduce all salaries for the future.

Knox College. The annual closing exercises were held on Wednesday, 3rd. April, in old St. Andrew's Ch., Toronto. Twenty-six students received their diplomas, having completed their preparatory studies for the ministry. The

degree of B. D. was conferred upon Rev. R. G. Marlson, of B. C.; and that of D. D., upon Rev. Edward Graham of California.

Man. Coll. The third summer session in Theology of Manitoba College was opened 3rd April, with a lecture by Principal King on the Atonement. Profs. Scringier and Ross of Montreal, and Orr of the U. P. College, Edinburgh, will assist the College staff this term. The art's course of the College during the past winter had 138 students in attendance, 13 more than the previous year.

Pres. Coll. Montreal. The public close of the twenty-eighth session of this College took place on the evening of the 3rd April. Eleven students completed their course, and received their diplomas. The degree of B. D. was given to Revs. W. M. Tufts, of Hawkesbury, Ont.; C. G. Pidgeon, of Mont. Junction; and J. R. Monroe, of Antigonish, N. S.; that of D. D. was conferred upon Revs. S. Lyle, B. D., of Hamilton; and T. Snyder, B. D., of Preston; and the same, *honoris causa*, upon Revs. John Crombie of Smith's Falls; Bishop Cridge, Victoria; and D. Macdonald, Efate.

LETTER FROM DR. ROBERTSON.

[NOTE. (1.) Any who do not read this letter until after the end of April, and who wish to help, can send their contribution to Dr. Reid marked for that purpose, if possible before the fifth or sixth of May. (2.) The facts are broader than April, and should be carefully pondered by all who are interested in our country's welfare. Ed.]

The Home Mission debt West, March 28th, was \$18,700, and Dr. Reid estimated a deficit of \$10,000 on the work of the year. To keep the expenditure within the income, the Committee resolved to reduce all claims for salaries for the past six months, 25 per cent., and appeal to the Church for special contributions to pay salaries in full in May. It was further resolved to recommend the General Assembly to reduce all salaries for the future.

Many of our Missionaries are married men with large families, they have suffered losses in salaries already through floods in British Columbia, last season, and drought in Assiniboia, and can ill-afford a further reduction. One missionary lost \$425 of his salary in eighteen months, another got \$230 from his people last year instead of \$600, the whole salary of a third was \$550, of another \$515, of another \$630. Some of these men live in districts where the cost of living is high, they have to keep a horse with which to travel, and financing to them must be a serious problem.

Some of them got goods last winter from merchants, promising their grant in payment, and they will find it difficult to explain to businessmen why they can offer only 75 cents for a dollar promised.