

STATE OF THE FUNDS, WEST.

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As the January RECORD is issued about the time when most of the congregations of the Church allocate the missionary money collected during year, I think it well to remind ministers, sessions, and missionary committees, of the amounts required for the respective Schemes for the current ecclesiastical year, and at the same time to give a few facts regarding the several Schemes.

	Estimate for the year.
Home Mission.....	\$ 82,000 00
Augmentation.....	28,000 00
Foreign Mission.....	65,100 00
French Evangelization.....	25,000 00
Pointe-aux-Trembles.....	10,000 00
Knox College.....	12,000 00
Queen's College.....	4,000 00
“ deficit.....	9,000 00
Montreal College.....	5,000 00
Manitoba College.....	5,000 00
Widows' and Orphans'.....	10,000 00
Aged and Infirm Ministers'.....	17,000 00
Assembly.....	6,000 00
Total.....	\$278,100 00

The congregations in both Eastern and Western Sections of the Church contribute for French Evangelization and the Assembly Fund. The congregations in the Western Section alone contribute for the other schemes, with the exception of Manitoba College, the amount for which is drawn from Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritime Provinces.

The Church year now ends on the 31st of March. The change from April to March was only made a year ago, so that in drawing comparisons between receipts and expenditures at this date and the corresponding date of 1897, it ought to be borne in mind that the current year began a month earlier, and thus the receipts and expenditure to date are for one month more than at the corresponding period last year.

HOME MISSIONS:—The receipts to this date are \$1,850 less than at the corresponding date last year, while the expenditure is \$5,130 more. Not only is the full amount of the estimate likely to be needed, but owing to diminished receipts from Britain, and from legacies, a correspondingly larger amount will this year be required from the congregations of the Church.

AUGMENTATION:—While the receipts to date are about \$1,000 in excess of those of last year, the expenditure is also in excess to the same amount. A large number of congregations in the Northwest desire to be added to the list in the spring, and it is hoped that the state of the Fund will justify the Committee in accepting these.

FOREIGN MISSIONS:—The receipts are \$3,000 more than last year, but the expenditure to date is \$6,700 in excess of the corresponding period a year ago. With a large number of men offering their services for the Foreign Field, greatly increased contributions will be necessary if the Committee are to secure the services of these applicants.

FRENCH EVANGELIZATION:—The receipts at date are nearly \$3,000 in excess of last year. The expenditure, also, is about \$650 greater than last year. For Pt.-aux-Trembles schools, the receipts are slightly in excess, but the expenditure is fully \$1,500 greater than last year. Only \$1,500 have thus far been received out of the \$10,000 required for the year.

WIDOWS' AND ORPHAN'S FUND:—The receipts to this date from congregational sources and from ministers' rates are \$300 less than at the corresponding period last year, whereas the expenditure has considerably increased because of the death of several ministers whose widows and children have been added to the list of annuitants. It should be borne in mind that a considerable number of congregations do not contribute to this Fund, but to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund in connection with the former Church of Scotland in Canada, so that the constituency from which revenue is derived is somewhat limited. There is no reasonable hope of the annuities being continued on the present scale unless largely increased contributions are received from congregations.

AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS' FUND:—This Fund began the year with a debt of \$3,233.64. To this date \$1,100 have been received from congregations, or, including a grant from the Hymnal Committee, less than \$1,900, whereas according to the estimate, \$17,000 are required, over and above ministers' rates and interest on investments. Special attention is directed to the needs of this Fund.

ASSEMBLY FUND:—The receipts to date are slightly in excess of those of last year, whereas the expenditure is, thus far, \$700 greater.