

THE AUGMENTATION SCHEME.

BY DR. CAMPBELL, RENFREW, CONVENER, WEST.

To my Brethren in the Ministry:—

Expansion meets us everywhere in these days ; on Eastern traffic lines, at Western mines, and best of all, all along the line in the growth of our Mission Field.

Clear headed business men rejoice in it, and declare that it is the making of Canada to hold the trade by meeting the expansion now, at almost any cost. Shall not they and we together show like wisdom and decision in the other sphere, where the making of Canada, in the highest sense, is being wrought out? Doubtless, earnest men amongst them are waiting and ready to be with us in any decided movement ; only they would say, "It is in your line, so you must plan and tell us what is needed, for we are very busy men."

Have we any plan? Loving hearted and clear headed men wrought out the Augmentation Scheme, with the intent of meeting the Home Mission Committee at all its terminals, and of handling, without loss or delay, all material offered to the Church's further care. It may not be the ideal plan, but it is what we have just now, and so useful has it been that this may be said : "If at any gathering of business men, called to consider some pressing material interest, a plan similarly tested and successful should be presented, the money needed to carry it through would be provided in a single hour."

And we, brethren, if we go to the work unitedly, and with whole-hearted conviction, can accomplish the same thing in half an hour. Give me half an hour in which each of you, in his own pulpit or in that of an exchanging brother, shall speak from heart to heart, informing our people and appealing for their aid, and I have no fear as to the result.

Something behind that of course ; the situation grasped, conviction graven on your hearts and minds, and above all, love on the spring ; then there can be no failure. This gift I shall surely have, your Church shall have, your Master shall have, for I abide in this faith, that "for Zion's sake you will not hold your peace, and for Jerusalem's sake you will not rest, until the righteousness thereof shall go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth."

AUGMENTATION, WEST.

BY REV. W. T. HERRIDGE, OTTAWA.

The work which the Augmentation Fund has accomplished since its creation in 1883, is itself the most eloquent testimony to its worth, and

the greatest incentive to its enthusiastic support by every member of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. At the same time, it becomes necessary from year to year to set forth its conditions and requirements.

Our first word must be one of grateful thanks for the large measure of support which was given to the Funds during the past year. More generous interest was shown in many quarters and very hearty response from many old and tried friends. Thus, the Committee was enabled, though in an exceedingly modest way, to meet the needs of the various congregations under its care, and even to show a small balance on hand. This was mainly because something over \$2,500 came from "British Grants," a source of revenue which was ours for the first and last time.

The ordinary revenue ran behind the expenditure by \$1,500, and when it is remembered that this year, the Committee, with the express sanction of Assembly, added as many fields in new districts as will increase the expenditure to at least \$26,000, as compared with \$23,000 last year, it will be understood that between \$4,000 and \$5,000 more will be required from our people to keep pace with the demands which are fairly made upon the Fund.

In fact the Assembly authorized the Committee to go the length of \$28,000, and, in another year, so pressing are the demands, even more than that may be necessary ; but with the good help of Presbyteries, who have shown great carefulness in securing moderate claims, the Committee have kept down expenditure to a point lower than was expected, and are hopeful that the Church's response to the appeal now made may be so generous, that again they may make ends meet.

DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES.

The aim of the Augmentation Fund is not to pamper congregations, but rather to stimulate them to the point of complete self-support. That such efforts have been successful is proved by the fact that each year a number of charges are removed from the list altogether, while many that remain have diminished grants given them. In some cases, of course, owing to peculiar difficulties, growth is exceedingly slow ; and it is just here that the assistance of the Fund is most required, if Christian ordinances are to be maintained at all.

Quebec and some parts of Ontario call for our aid as urgently as the Western Provinces of our Dominion ; and while the results may be less exhilarating, they are not less beneficial.

The work of the Assembly's Committee is assisted by exact reports from Synods and Presbyteries, and each case is submitted to the most rigid investigation. The Committee might be accused, perhaps, of enforced parsimony, but