

**Augmentation** The H. M. Committee, west, **deficit (West.)** being instructed by last Assembly to pay out only what was paid into the Augmentation Fund, have been obliged, with extreme regret, to send ten dollars less than the full amount to each of the 11 congregations receiving aid, as the Fund has not received enough this year, by \$1,300, to pay the grants in full. The Committee express the hope that Presbyteries will take steps to make up this deficit in augmented congregations within their bounds. In one Presbytery two men have done it. Surely between Presbyteries and congregations it will be done in all cases. In the Eastern Section this Fund is in a good condition.

**Aged Ministers' Rev. Wm. Burns writes:—**  
**Fund.** "According to present appearances, the ordinary revenue this year, from congregational collections, will fall short about \$1,400.00, as compared with last year. Death has diminished a number of the Annuityants, but the applications to be presented to the Assembly will increase the roll again, and render the needs of the Fund as great as ever. Arrangements have been made in several Presbyteries for a vigorous canvass for the Endowment Fund. We trust the spirit of liberality will actuate the members of the church, when they are considering the needs of this Fund. The most that the Fund has been able to allow Aged Ministers, for the last three years, has been \$200.00; surely our church ought to do better than this." Yes surely!

## MUSKOKA AND ALGOMA.

BY THE REV. ALLAN FINLAY.

*Superintendent of Missions in these districts.*

THE past season has been most severe and trying, in many respects, the worst, so far as my experience in the work has gone. Heavy snowfalls accompanied by severe storms of wind with the thermometer much lower than usual, have rendered the work more trying than usual, calling forth patience and perseverance, causing us to experience more of the Divine goodness and care, at least to realize these more fully than perhaps we would under ordinary circumstances.

It is a pleasure to report that the work has gone forward in all the stations receiving supply, in many cases the zeal and energy displayed by the missionaries on the field, in the face of difficulties, was very marked. In some cases the services had to be omitted for a few weeks in many of the stations, the roads being so completely blocked with snow as to render travel impossible. This unusual state of affairs was in no case allowed to continue longer than was absolutely necessary. My own work also was

from this cause somewhat hindered. Very substantial progress has been made in some of the fields, while in all of them visited by me I found the people thankful for the attention given them in the past and hopeful for the future.

My time was chiefly given to the field within the bounds of the Presbytery of Barrie, though some attention was given to that within the Presbytery of Algoma. The staff of men on the field within these bounds, has been, in the Presbytery of Barrie, five ordained missionaries and sixteen catechists, in Algoma, seven ordained missionaries and eleven catechists. Many of these did work in other fields contiguous to those to which they were appointed, so that these thirty-nine men gave service in fifty-five fields. A few of the fields nearest to Toronto received occasional supply from Knox College.

As might be expected changes in the field are from time to time found necessary owing to the changed circumstances by which the field is governed, the closing of a station being sometimes as true a sign of prosperity as the opening of a new station, or the division of a field. Quite a number of such changes have been made in both Presbyteries, with a view to the more economical and effective working of the whole.

Twenty-one fields will be occupied during the coming summer by the missionary association of Knox College, eight in Algoma and thirteen in the Presbytery of Barrie. Last year a missionary was appointed for the benefit chiefly of the tourists on Muskoka Lake. This appointment proved so successful in its results and was so highly appreciated by the tourists and settlers in the neighborhood, that the society have been encouraged to appoint an additional missionary to Lake Joseph.

Very handsome and commodious new churches reflecting great credit on the taste and enterprise of our people have been opened during the past few months at Callander, Spruce Dale and Wyevale.

The financial returns of the whole district are expected to be somewhat better than last year.

Assistance in meeting the wants of the men in the lumber camps has been received from the Lumbermen's mission through Dr. Armstrong, of Ottawa, who again as in former years forwarded a large box of literature in French and English for the use of the men in the camps. The U. C. Tract and Book Society, through Dr. Moffat their secretary, have also done much to assist our Sabbath Schools in the newer parts of the field. Numerous parcels of Sabbath-School papers from kind friends, and last but not least boxes of presents for Christmas trees, have done much to help forward the work, and cheer those who are engaged in it.

Taking a view of the work over the whole field we have reason for thankfulness for the past and hope for the future. The progress in the estimation of some may be slow, but when we consider the difficulties and discouragements that our people have to contend with in many parts of the field, we have every reason to thank God and take courage.