

Judge was from home in attendance upon the meeting of this Board. We desire to assure him and his sorrow-stricken family of our heartfelt sympathy in this dark, this sore trial; a sympathy so deep, so tender, that words at best can only indicate or convey, but must utterly fail to express it. And we pray very earnestly that the God of all comfort by His sufficient grace may sustain our beloved brother and his afflicted family, and we would say to their grief-stricken hearts 'our hope of you is steadfast, knowing that as ye are the partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation.'

Before the return of the Rev. Dr. Cochran to his distant home in California, the following resolution, on motion of Dr. Sutherland, seconded by Dr. Potts, was unanimously adopted:

"That it has been a great pleasure to this Board to have had the presence during the session of one of our first missionaries to Japan, the Rev. Dr. Cochran. We remember the valuable service rendered by him for many years in the foreign field, and regret that the state of his health compelled him to retire. We rejoice to know that he is able to render useful service to the cause of theological education where he now resides, and we pray for him many years of happy congenial work in the Church of Christ."

Rev. Dr. Tovell, from the Committee on Memorials, presented the following report, which was adopted:

"1. Resolutions from the Algoma District were considered. (a) The first had reference to grants from the Missionary Society for parsonages. It was recommended that the matter be referred to the Executive Committee, which deals with all such cases.

"(b) The second resolution complains that in the case of the Algoma District missions a serious injustice is done the missionaries in computing their living expenses by inserting in that computation only \$50 for horse keep—that amount being inadequate for the purpose. As this Board deals with the sum total of appropriations to each Conference, it is recommended that the matter referred to be considered by the Missionary Committee of the Conference to which the Algoma District belongs.

"(c) The third resolution calls the attention of the Board to the disparity of salaries between the missionaries of our domestic missions as compared with the missionaries on the foreign field, and asks for a more equitable appropriation.

"Your Committee would remind the brethren of the district that the General Conference fixed the percentage for home mission work at 42½ per cent. of the entire sum appropriated by the Board, and therefore it is not in the power of the General Board to appropriate a sum exceeding that to the home work. Your Committee do not think that the foreign missionaries receive more than they need or deserve, but feel that the home missionaries should receive more financial help; we therefore trust for larger liberality on the part of the Church in order more equitably to remunerate the brethren toiling on our home missions.

"2. Your Committee have had under consideration a copy of a resolution unanimously passed by the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Conference *re* reports of missions and criticisms and suggestions by the General Secretary as they appear in the Annual Report.

"(a) Your Committee would emphasize the necessity of domestic missions becoming self-sustaining as soon as possible, and would urge superintendents in charge to aim at that desirable end.

"(b) As to the objection to the criticisms and suggestions interjected by the Secretary into the printed report, your Committee, having learned that the method is not approved by the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Conference, would advise the General Secretary to adopt some more effective method of promoting the end intended.

"(c) With regard to the matter of the General Secretary visiting the Annual Conferences, and calling the missionaries together in special convention for the purpose of discussing matters pertaining to their work, we regard the suggestion as a good one, both for purposes of fellowship and counsel, and would recommend it."

A memorial was received from the Stationing Committee of the Manitoba Conference respecting the establishment of an Indian Mission at Moose Mountain. The Board expressed sympathy with their proposal, but could give no help owing to the state of the fund.

When the affairs of the West China Mission were under review, the following resolution was adopted on motion of the General Secretary, seconded by Dr. Tovell:

"That this Board has heard with profound regret the tidings of the riots in the province of Sz-Chuan, West China, by which valuable property was destroyed in the cities of Chentu and Kiating. We express our grateful thanksgiving to Almighty God that the lives of the missionaries were preserved, and we extend to these missionaries our profound sympathy in the dangers and trials through which they passed, and assure them of our appreciation of the Christian courage and devotion which keeps them still in China, waiting for an opportunity to return to the scene of their former labors as soon as the way is open."

It was also resolved that the Executive Committee be instructed to take such steps as may be necessary to support the claim of the missionaries to be recouped for the losses sustained by them; also, the claim of the Missionary Society for loss sustained by the destruction of mission property.

A letter was received from Dr. D. W. Stevenson, of the West China Mission, tendering his resignation on account of the seriously impaired health of his wife and children, which would not permit of their returning to China at the present time. The Board reluctantly accepted the resignation.

After receiving the report of the Committee on Appropriations to the Home Work, the Board adopted the following:

"That in view of the small grants to Home Missions for the present year, and the impossibility of increasing them in consequence of the large decrease of income the past year, it is ordered that the General Superintendent and Missionary Secretary issue a circular letter to the Quarterly Boards of our Home Missions, earnestly appealing to them to make a special effort to raise a larger amount for ministerial support than is set forth in the schedules from the Financial District meetings."

(The letter above referred to has been printed and a copy mailed to the Superintendent of each Home Mission. It is also published in the present number of the *OUTLOOK* and in the *Guardian*.)

## An Open Letter.

*To the Quarterly Official Boards of the Domestic Missions of the Methodist Church:*

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,—Our General Board of Missions, at its recent Session in Montreal, had before it many serious and perplexing problems affecting our missionary work, and not the least trying and serious of these problems was, "What can be done to make up for the deficits that must this year fall upon the laborers on our Home Mission fields?" Their allowances are small enough at the best; to have these small allowances discounted by a considerable percentage the Board felt to be almost beyond endurance, and would entail burdens that none could bear except for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake. The largest possible reductions were made in the grants to foreign and Indian fields, the strictest economy in administration was arranged for, a hopeful estimate was placed upon the increasing liberality of our people, and yet from the great number of dependent fields and the excessive stringency of the times it was found unavoidable to lessen the percentage of our Home Missionaries from even the