

was forty years ago. It is now \$600, and thirty years ago he took an average circuit at \$700. This Guelph Conference paid \$7,000 for Superannuation Fund, and were deficient in salaries over \$5,000, so that it paid little more into the Superannuation Fund than what it had pledged itself to pay; and since the union there had been a deficiency of over \$1,000,000. Now, if the circuits will pay this deficiency, the Church can afford to abolish the Superannuation Fund.

In all the Conferences there was a gratifying increase in the membership of the Church. In six of the Conferences of which we have heard, the aggregate increase exceeds seven thousand. The Sunday-school report of Toronto Conference contained many items of encouragement. The number of schools is the same as last year, but there are thirty-four more teachers and 1,214 more scholars; 7,845 are reported meeting in class, which is 652 more than was reported last year. We are pleased to find that there is an increase of 125 in the number of those learning the catechism. In the number of volumes reported in the libraries, and the number of our own periodicals taken by the schools, there is a very gratifying increase.

As the General Conference will soon be held, all the Conferences were disposed to recommend various changes in the polity of the Church. Mr. Wesley's admonition seems to be almost everywhere forgotten, "Mend not our rules but keep them." Should all the recommendations made by the Annual Conferences be considered by the General Conference, the delegates may be sure that they will have a session of several weeks. Some want the ministerial term extended to five years. A few request more superintendence of the missions. Others recommend an amalgamation of some of the Annual Conferences. A goodly number think that the Conferences are large enough already. There seems to be a consensus of opinion for an alteration in the constitution of the Stationing Committee.

All will be agreed that the greatest desideratum seems to be an increase of spiritual power, which can only be obtained by an entire personal consecration to God. The reports given respecting the Epworth League movement were very gratifying, and not a few are of the opinion that one minister should be set apart to give his whole time to look after this important department of church work.

It is to be regretted that in all the Conferences there should be such large deficiencies reported in respect to ministers' salaries. In one conference the total amount of deficiency exceeded \$6,000, and the average salary in the said Conference for married ministers did not exceed \$660.

It is exceedingly gratifying to find that in Manitoba and British Columbia, buildings are in course of erection for collegiate purposes. In the latter the present writer was exceedingly gratified to find that one of his former neighbours, who was one of the pioneers in British Columbia, has donated a valuable property to the college. Our wealthy friends should not forget the institutions of the Church under whose fostering care they have been brought to God and kept with their faces Zionward.

Victoria University has had a prosperous year. The Convocation services were exceedingly interesting. The baccalaureate sermon was preached by Professor Reynar, in the Central Church, and was highly commended. As the chancellor is absent in England, the vice-chancellor, William Kerr, M.A., Q.C., presided at the Convocation. In addition to the members of the Board and Senate who occupied seats on the platform of the college chapel there were President Loudon of the Provincial University, Vice-chancellor Mulock, Professor Goldwin Smith and Professor Satoh from Japan, took part in the proceedings. A large number of students received diplomas, and the following received the honorary degree of D.D. Rev. Robert Boyle, James Henderson, A. C. Macdonald, J. S. Ross,