

gregations in support of this Scheme. They knew that promises have been given by quite a number of congregations of an increase in the amount of their annual collections for supplementing purposes, and that some congregations have already doubled and others trebled their contributions for that purpose. But until the ecclesiastical year closes they cannot be more specific.

The Committee have already placed upon the regular list for Supplements 46 congregations of which 5 are at the present time vacant charges.

They have also placed on a special list 5, of which 2 are vacancies.

To Supplement these 51 congregations, they find that \$4440 will be needed to raise the salaries of all to \$600.00 and a manse of which \$1170 are for vacancies, and \$6468 more to raise them to \$750.00 and a manse, or as near to that point as can be attained by a maximum grant in any one case of \$300, of which \$900 are for vacancies.

There will probably be some 8 or 10 congregations yet to be added to the list, of which about one half are vacancies, requiring, after their increase from local efforts, perhaps about \$2000 to Supplement them to the minimum.

To Supplement fully all our congregations that are at present settled would require nearly \$10,000 but as there is every likelihood of a number of vacant charges attaining settlement; a greater likelihood indeed than formerly, it is thought that probably nearly if not quite \$12000 may be required to meet all demands against the Fund. But besides this in order to the comfortable carrying on of the Scheme, and with a view of saving all charges for interest there ought to be a working Balance in the Treasury of perhaps nearly one-half the amount of our annual outlay.

Looking at the matter, however, simply with respect to the annual outlay, it is quite evident that even this is a large amount to ask from the Church for this purpose. It approaches somewhat nearly our annual contribution for Foreign Missions. There may perhaps be some who will think the amount required is too large, larger indeed than we ought to ask or than the Church is able to provide. But is it really more than she can raise? There are single Presbyteries which, if their members were to contribute for ministerial support, both in their own congregations and towards the Supplementing Fund, at a rate on the average equal to that contributed by the

members of our Supplemented charges last year, would furnish a far larger sum than that which is needed from all the eleven Presbyteries in our Synod. And if this be the case, is it unreasonable to expect that, in view of the clamant need of such effort, in view of the strong claims upon the Church as a whole, of our brethren who are labouring in the weaker charges, in view of the relations which we sustain to our Western brethren, and of the extreme desirability that our pastors should be on the same footing as theirs, we should gird ourselves for the effort and not rest content till the desired end be reached.

Again while individual pastors have their duty to discharge it will be absolutely necessary for Presbyteries to continue their activity in the business. It is largely due to the hearty and vigorous way in which Presbyteries have taken hold of the matter that our progress already has been so cheering. But Presbyteries will need to persist in their efforts, if the movement is to be crowned with complete success. There is one direction in which they are specially called to act with promptitude and vigour. Outside of the Supplemented congregations there are still some 14 charges which cannot come upon the General Fund, which ought not indeed to come upon it, but which require to be brought up to the minimum by their own exertions. To come up to this point these charges need to contribute at most, on the average, only what the weakest congregations in the Church are required to give before it can get a Supplement at all. To this class of congregations, the special attention of Presbyteries should be directed till they take the place which they ought already to have taken. No pains should be spared to bring every one of them up immediately to the required minimum. The effort needed in order to do so would doubtless be a means of grace to the congregations themselves. It would increase the comfort, and probably the usefulness of their pastors. It would promote their own self-respect. It would rescue our own section of the church from the reproach of having less than the half of its pastors paid from local resources a smaller sum than that which the General Assembly fixed as the minimum for all, and it would give a most valuable impulse to the present movement, an impulse which would materially aid in carrying it to a successful issue.

But again Presbyteries will need to be on their guard against recommending