

AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS' FUND

The special attention of the congregations of the Church is called to the fact that the General Assembly, at its last meeting, directed that the provision passed at the meeting, in Woodstock, in 1914, giving additional benefit to those ministers on the Fund who had paid rates, shall come into force on the 1st of July of this year. This will call for a *considerable increase in the annuities to be paid*, and unless congregations respond to the full measure of the amount asked in the Budget for 1917, and that for 1918, \$28,500—there is almost a certainty of a deficit at the close of the year. The additional amount required, covering a full year, will be \$8,710.

A further benefit was authorized in regard to ministers seeking retirement, whose applications are under consideration by the Committee, who may be called away by death before receiving one full year's annuity; that the whole or any balance shall be paid to the widow or family. Six cases have arisen for benefit under this change, calling for the sum of \$929.45. Ministers and congregations will see that there is an *absolute need for increased liberality*, and it is earnestly hoped that the many congregations that, in the past, have failed in measuring up to the requirements of the Fund, will now do so.

\$28,500 was asked for last year, and only \$18,545.40 was given. Let this year evidence a *fresh interest* in the care of the retired ministers of the Church.