

CHURCH
WORK

Ministers and Churches

NEWS
LETTERS

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT.

Annual Meeting of W. F. M. Society.

On Tuesday afternoon, at Peterboro, was convened the twenty-ninth annual meeting of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, with an attendance of three hundred delegates, representing Presbyterian organizations from Cornwall to Vancouver.

The first business was the address of the President, Mrs. Shortreed, of Toronto. Reference was made to the spirit of loyalty to the work which characterized the Presbyterian reports. There was progress in all the home departments. During the year the Executive had appointed a Traveling Secretary, Miss Jamieson, whose report showed that excellent results had followed her appointment. Reference was also made to the death of prominent members of the society, Mrs. Blair, of Prescott; Mrs. William Reid, one of the honorary Vice-Presidents; Misses Heigh and Harmon, and Miss Hogg of Winnipeg. Appreciative reference was made to the loss sustained by the Church in the death of Rev. Principal Caven, and also by the death of Mr. Swartout, missionary at Clucliet, and Rev. J. A. Sinclair, Principal of the Regina Industrial School. The Missionary Training School was doing good work, and an appeal was made to the wealthy women of the Church to strengthen its finances. Attention was called to the danger of young people's organizations branching off along independent lines, the diffusion of energy thus produced having a weakening effect on real missionary work.

The reports received from Presbyterian societies were all of a very encouraging character, the almost invariable record being one of progress in all branches, an increase in membership and sound financial condition. Mrs. Cameron of Atimadate read the report of Barrie Presbyterial, in which there are thirty-four auxiliaries and twenty-three mission bands. The receipts for the year were \$855. Mrs. Campbell of read the report of Bruce Presbyterial, in which there are fifteen auxiliaries and six mission bands. Receipts for the year were \$800. Mrs. Campbell of Clucliet read the report of that Presbyterial. A new mission band had been formed in Dresden during the year. Every department was doing good work. The receipts were \$1,575. The Brandon and Portage la Prairie report was read by Miss McMurrich, the Recording Secretary of the W. F. M. S. The membership is 526, which is a slight increase over last year. Receipts were \$1,578.25. Mrs. Harkness of Cornwall reported a slight decrease in membership for Glenarry, there being sixteen mission bands, and the total receipts were \$3,119.73. The report of Guelph Presbyterial, presented by Mrs. Horn of Eora, showed that three auxiliaries and two mission bands had been added. The receipts were \$2,382.94. Mrs. Steele of Dunas, reported for Hamilton Presbyterial that one new auxiliary had been organized, and one reorganized, and that two new mission bands had been formed. The receipts were \$3,519.02. Miss Gemmill presented the report for Huron Presbyterial. There was an increase of twenty-two in membership, and the receipts for the year were \$1,967.38, an increase of \$119. Excellent clothing, weighing in all 1,500 pounds and valued at over \$700, had been sent to Swan Lake. Mrs. Hamilton presented the Kingston report. Eight bales of clothing had been sent away. Two new life members had been added. The receipts

were \$1,229.92. Mrs. Brown of Carleton Place reported for Lanark and Renfrew that there were forty-one auxiliaries and twelve mission bands. Clothing to the weight of 2,175 pounds had been sent away. The receipts were \$3,589.66. Mrs. Bascombe, of Unbridge, presented the twenty-third annual report of Lindsay Presbyterial. One new mission band was reported, there being in all twenty-three auxiliaries and thirteen bands. The receipts were \$2,020.22. Mrs. McRae of Westminster read the London report. There were forty auxiliaries and twenty mission bands, an increase of one. The receipts were \$2,084.93, and 4,800 pounds of clothing were sent to Round Lake. Miss Mather of Kincardine read an encouraging report from Maitland Presbyterial. This was the year in which that society attained its majority. The receipts were \$1,734. Miss Osborne of Ayr reported progress on behalf of Orangeville Presbyterial. The receipts were \$744.21. Miss McMurrich read the Brockville report. There were twenty-eight auxiliaries and eight mission bands, and the receipts were \$1,600.

This closed the business of the afternoon session, and at the conclusion Mrs. McLeod of McCrimmon offered prayer and the doxology was sung.

Second Day.

Today's meeting was devoted to business. Rev. Dr. Justice, minister of St. Paul's Church, made the address of welcome on behalf of Peterboro Presbyterians and Principal Macleod reviewed the society's work for the year.

The morning session was taken up with the hearing of reports from the mission areas, from the societies officers and from those Presbyteries that did not report yesterday. The society prosecuted work in China, India, Formosa, and in the Canadian west among the Indians and Chinese. In India, where eighteen missionaries are supported, the reports state that owing to the suffering from plague all work, especially that in the day schools, was much hindered. But satisfaction was expressed that from the various institutions 243 had confessed Christ in baptism, and also for the added reason that an upward movement was proceeding among the people expressed in a larger interest both in education and religion. An effort is being made to secure a suitable place for a consumption sanitarium in order to segregate patients.

The magnitude of the hospital work was suggested by the fact that in Indore alone sixty dispensaries were maintained as far as possible. About 70,000 treatments were given, 500 in patients received in the hospital, and many serious operations and inoculations performed. The in-patients included some from every class and creed, many of whom evinced intense interest in the Gospel of Christ. The constraining power of such a gospel of healing must inevitably tell on the life of India. The widows industrial home, the girls boarding house and the orphanage were maintained. Evangelistic work was carried on in the zenanas by Bible women and by Mr. Russell, who visited 70 villages on his evangelistic tours.

China, the report called the land of opportunity. The year was one of progress in Honan, where work was carried on. In the country districts the women were reported to be deeply ignorant and superstitious and more firmly wedded to their idolatrous customs than the men. Advantage was taken

of the ideal festivals of the Chinese year to do evangelistic work. The Japanese rule in Formosa was referred to as giving an opportunity for effective mission work. The school there suffered the loss of an excellent Bible woman in the person of the mother of Kou Kan, who visited Canada with Dr. McKay some years ago.

In the reports from the missionaries laboring among the Indians, all told of the persistent and willing work of education in the practical elements of civilized life and religion and of the promising returns made.

Miss Jean Cavan, Home Secretary, reported that in the 28 Presbyteries there were 731 auxiliaries and 357 mission bands, with a total membership of 24,580. During the year 24 new mission bands were organized, but 17 were disbanded or in obedience for want of a leader. The appointment of a traveling Secretary had proven the wisdom of the step, and substantial results had followed. The society began the year with \$1,403 on hand, raised \$57,304, expended \$57,433, an closed with a cash balance of \$1,264. Toronto Presbyterial sent in \$7,323, Lanark and Renfrew \$3,589, and Hamilton \$3,519.

At the afternoon session two excellent addresses were given, one by Dr. Margaret McKellar, the other by Mr. J. R. Dow, Gravenhurst, who made a clearcut practical speech. Mrs. R. N. Grant, Orillia, gave some gleamings from the pool in 1904. Dr. McKellar exhibited a map of Central India, where the Canadian Presbyterian Church is at work, showing the 17,000 villages scattered over the territory. Her stories of personal experiences with the sick in the hospitals and villages were models of interest, good taste and Christian spirit. Reference to the support of the work, prejudice and indifferences were, she said, the foes of foreign missions, but ignorance was the mother of them both. One often heard now of the simple life and the strenuous life, but there was a better, the consecrated life.

Mr. Dow urged that the foreign missions were tremendously worth while or not worth while at all. Because of the genesis and great results of missionary activity it was incumbent upon the Church to prosecute the work more earnestly. The auxiliaries, he believed, had been too exclusive. They had counted long enough on one-sixth it was time to count on five-sixths of the churches' membership.

Mr. Sinclair of Fenelon Falls led in a discussion on young people's work that was participated in by many delegates.

The feature of the evening session was the address of Rev. Sidney L. Gimes, D.D., of Japan, on the new attitude towards Christianity developed within the last five years in Japan, consequent upon the changed political situation resulting from the Anglo-Japanese treaty and the improved status gained by the Japanese army in the Boxer rebellion. There had come, he said, into Japanese thought a newer view of western civilization and a recognition of the fact that, while there were great evils and problems in Christendom, they were in part the result of the industrial revolution. Japanese who had at first been disposed to put in Christianity as they had put on some other phases of western life later came to see that the stern morality and thought of the Christian religion had to be taken very seriously. The result was a new vitality in the life of the Church of Christ in Japan, and the inauguration of social and moral reform movements, the building of hospitals and asylums all originating from the Christian idea.

Third Day.

Winnipeg will be the place of meeting