

Our Contributors.

ONE GOOD REMEDY.

BY KNOXIAN.

About two months ago Lord Rosebery delivered a speech that attracted a good deal of attention in England. His subject was trade and the special thing that aroused the attention of John Bull was what his Lordship said about the growth of German manufactures. He showed that the Germans are making more and better goods than they ever made before, that they are pushing their trade in many places more vigorously than they ever pushed it and that they are underselling John Bull in markets that he has hitherto considered peculiarly his own.

Rosebery might have shown that English trade is growing perhaps as fast as the trade of Germany, but he did not say anything about that side of the question. His Lordship is too skillful a speaker to try to put everything into one speech. He did just what he wanted to do—he called the attention of British business men to the fact that Germany is giving them a hard run in certain lines of business. The press soon showed that England is holding her own in business, but that German methods are well worth studying and that British manufacturers must be alive and alert if they wish to keep at the head of the procession.

John Bull is very sensitive about his trade. He says little about his flag and nothing about his loyalty, but he is always ready to discuss a question of trade. When Rosebery's speech appeared in print there was a roar in reply from every corner of the three kingdoms. The substance of that reply was,

MAKE BETTER GOODS.

Make better stuff than Germany and then Germany can't drive you out of your markets. Keep down the cost of production and Germany can't undersell you. Study the business methods of Germany and where they are better than yours adopt them and go on and beat Germany.

That was a British reply. That reply lays bare one of the secrets of Britain's greatness. If your rival is gaining ground, just do your work better than he does. The spirit of that reply won Waterloo. If the old French Guard attack splendidly, the British squares must stand all the more firmly. If the Russian horse come on like a whirlwind at Balaklava, the killed Highlanders must fire the more steadily, and shoulder to shoulder keep the thin red line unbroken. Britain's course in this horrible Armenian business seems to be a shameful exception to British methods, but it is only an exception. The rule is to rise to the emergency.

How would our American neighbours meet the superior goods manufactured by German brains, German skill, and German plodding industry? They would shut the goods out with their tariff. Instead of calling on their manufacturers to make better goods they would call on McKinley to put up the fence.

How would we Canadians meet an emergency of that kind? Probably we would meet it by putting another rail on the N.P.

British people meet foreign goods by making better goods.

It is no secret that some of the churches in Canada and the United States are having a hard time. Owing to shrinkage in values and business depression the funds are low. Cutting down the estimates for our work in India was the first distinct retrograde movement ever made in the united Church. The large deficit in the revenue of Knox College and the death of the *Knox Monthly* are bad symptoms, but not the only or the worst that may easily be detected.

What is to be done? How is the emergency to be met? One way is to meet it as England meets Germany, by better work. Let ministers preach better and do better pastoral visiting. Let the hundreds of elders bring into exercise the latent power which we all know, they have, but which is largely

unused, partly no doubt because fair opportunities have not been given for its use. Let teachers and all connected with our Sabbath schools work better and always aim at the conversion of the children under their charge as well as at their instruction. Let our financial men manage church business with at least as much skill and care as they manage their own. There is power enough in the Presbyterian Church in Canada to grapple with an emergency a hundred times as great as the one that now confronts us if that power were once aroused and wisely directed.

There is no use in complaining about the past. Growing in England will not prevent the Germans from bringing their splendid educational system to bear on the manufacturing interests of the country, nor will growing in Canada prevent depression from coming after a "boom." Whine until the millennial era dawns, but whining will not raise the value of farm property. Groan until the last day comes, but groaning will not stop the shrinkage in Toronto real estate. The times call for better work and more of it and we should cheerfully do more and better work.

Does some good man say the times call for more earnest

PRAYER.

Glad you raised that point, brother; very glad, indeed. A few years ago Thanksgiving Day was pushed near to the end of November, the dullest and least suitable time in Autumn. Why? So that farmers could get their fall ploughing done before they took a day to thank God for His mercies. A day's ploughing was a matter of more importance than a day's thanksgiving. Thanks could be given at a time when we can do nothing else.

Mortgages are being foreclosed by the dozen on land on which military reviews were held and football matches played in lieu of thanksgiving to Almighty God. Is it any wonder that farm lands and city property have shrunk in value? Did the Presbyterian Church ever lift its voice against that national sham that we call Thanksgiving Day? Not once. Scores of our churches had scarcely a score of people in them to give thanks, and in many communities union meetings had to be held, ostensibly to cultivate "union sentiment," but really to hide the ingratitude of the land. Is it any wonder the times are hard? The only wonder is that we have anything to eat.

An effort is being made to push Thanksgiving Day a week further on so as not to interfere with navigation. How would it do to put it into the middle of February? The weather would then be in keeping with the hearts of a good many of the people.

There was no trouble in getting a good date in September for a national holiday when the politicians were after the labouring man's vote.

REVIEW OF HOME MISSION WORK.

The work on the whole field has been prosecuted with vigor by the men in charge, although serious drawbacks have occurred in some instances interfering with its advancement. Yet in most cases honest effort has produced its invariable results. Since my last report two of the fields in Algoma—Thessalon and Webbwood—have become settled charges, under the care of the Augmentation Committee. In both of these progress is to be noted, and the hope is entertained that soon they will become self-supporting charges.

In the Presbytery of Barrie, two of our mission fields formerly having student supply are asking for ordained missionaries viz., Emsdale and Baysville. In the Presbytery of Kingston three ordained missionaries are asked for by the following fields, viz., Consecon, Sharbot Lake, and Mattawatchan; and two fields formerly being practically without winter supply, viz.,

* The above is the report presented by the Rev. Allan Findlay, Superintendent of Missions in Muskoka and Algoma, to the convener (Rev. Dr. Cochrane) of the Assembly's Home Mission Committee at its meeting in Toronto last week.

Deseronto mission and Wilbur. In the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew, are one ordained missionary and one student on fields that are quite new.

But more particularly I may report that the months of April, May and June were given to the Presbyteries of Barrie and Algoma, during which time fifteen fields were visited on which ordinances were dispensed and elders ordained as occasion required, besides attention given to a variety of other matters affecting the welfare of the work. At different points it has suffered reverses of a serious character. At Warren, in the Presbytery of Algoma, a disastrous fire swept the mill, causing many of our people to find work and homes elsewhere. Cartier, another of our stations in the same Presbytery, also suffered severely from fire, and will not likely be rebuilt. The closing of the mills at Cache Bay and Chelmsford affected our work seriously at these points; while at Ophir the failure of the Mining Company to pay their men, and the disappointment many of the settlers experienced in connection with their pulp wood, has quite upset their calculations in church matters as well as those of a more private nature. The depression in the lumber trade which is severely felt in every part of this mission field—Barrie and Algoma—has produced a very marked change in many of our fields. Some of the large mills being overstocked shut down much earlier than usual, while a number of the lumber companies will not operate in the woods this winter. This means no work for the bread-winners of many families in their usual calling, forcing many for the time being to leave the country. This, in turn, as at French River and at other points which might be mentioned, has caused the people to ask that no service be given this winter, as the few that are left have no possible means of supporting ordinances. This state of affairs is brought out in the reports of many of the missionaries for the past summer. Many of them show much larger deficiencies than usual, but from no fault of the people, and certainly from no fault of the missionaries. These facts call for generous treatment on the part of the Committee, as the Presbyteries of Barrie and Algoma make special cases in one or two instances where the circumstances seem to call for it.

On the 2nd of July I commenced my work in the Presbytery of Kingston, visiting all the fields in that Presbytery assigned me by Mr. McLean, the convener for that Presbytery. Consecon and Hillier I found ready to receive an ordained missionary. Under the care of a faithful and energetic man this field may be expected to develop considerably. The mission at Deseronto, which has been under the fostering care of Mr. McTavish and his session in the past, has now reached the stage where something more is necessary to keep the work moving. Mr. Clark, their missionary for the past two summers, has done excellent work, and because of this and the growth and interest consequent thereon, they must now have regular service during the whole year. The work in the new station on the Reserve some five miles from the town, is most interesting. The congregation is almost entirely composed of Indians, who not only take a deep interest in the services, but also appreciate very highly what is being done for them by the Church. A new building for worship is very much required by them.

On the Ernesttown field I found the people ready to appreciate a word of encouragement. This is perhaps the oldest mission field in our Church, one of the stations in the group being organized in the year 1800. Though somewhat weak and discouraged at present, they still show signs of vitality, as is evidenced by the fact that they contributed the sum of \$33.79 to our Home Mission Fund and promised to make a vigorous effort to secure an ordained missionary. Want of proper organization seemed to be responsible for a good deal here as in other parts of the Church,

My visit of last year to Sharbot Lake and associate stations I found on my return this year had borne fruit. Last year they were content to let well enough alone, fearing that the promise of \$400 per annum for an ordained missionary was too much for them. This year as the result of actual canvass they are able to promise \$425. Under the right man, growth may be expected here also. The people are now alive to the desirability of this arrangement, and I am sure will give a hearty welcome to whoever may be sent.

On the Wilbur field a new departure was made, which goes to prove what may some times be done by an active, wide-awake missionary. I found that Mr. A. M. Currie, the missionary on this field, being of an enquiring turn of mind, had been looking around and had discerned some points where Presbyterian service was very much required. In company with Mr. Currie, I visited these points contiguous to his field, in each of which there were a number of our people who were anxious for Presbyterian service. These are Ardoch, South Canonic and Plevna. In the three stations hitherto wrought by Mr. Currie, and known as the Wilbur field, there are thirty-six Presbyterian families, besides others who gave attendance at the services. In these new stations there are thirty-three Presbyterian families and others who in time may consider it their duty as well as their privilege to cast their lot with our people there. In order to work this field up, in order that it might fall in with the Wilbur field, I assumed the responsibility, after consulting with the convener, of placing for the remainder of the term a student on the field to assist Mr. Currie to get things into shape. After this, with the hearty approval of our people on the Wilbur field, the six stations will be worked as one field, giving fortnightly service in each station. When they get a church or two erected they will be ready to ask for the appointment of an ordained missionary.

Mattawatchan, though shut off very much from the outside world, I found in a very healthy condition. The people as a rule were very hearty in their desire to enjoy the services of an ordained missionary. There is room here, too, for development, as at one or two points within easy reach there is an opening for service, but under present circumstances, with service only during the summer, there is very little encouragement to take these up. Their first need is the man to take the lead in these matters, and with the right man to work up available material there is no reason why this should not become a settled charge ere long.

At the request of Rev. Dr. Campbell, of Renfrew, I spent a fortnight within the bounds of the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew, visiting what is known as the Temiscamingue field. This is practically two fields, and may be better known as the Temiscamingue and Kippewa fields. Until June, '95, no Presbyterian service had been held in this wide district, except an occasional service in the winter by the late Mr. McKechnie, of Mattawa, in connection with the Lumberman's Mission. In '95 the Students' Society of Knox College sent Mr. Shaw as their missionary. He did a good work and is kindly remembered by the people, but he found the field too wide to accomplish anything efficiently. This year Messrs. Wishart and Scott were sent in by the same society, and by them the work commenced a year ago by Mr. Shaw has been successfully carried on. The Kippewa field lies entirely within the Province of Quebec, Pontiac County, with the exception of one station on the Ontario side of the Ottawa, opposite Gordon Creek, the river being about one-third of a mile wide at this point.

In company with Mr. Blaine of the Presbytery of Kingston, who wisely chose this trip for his summer outing, I first visited the Kippewa field, as being the nearest, spending one Sabbath, and dispensing ordi-