

very same difficulties as those which press upon ourselves. We ought not, therefore, to allow ourselves to be discouraged, but press forward all the more resolutely because of them. Indeed, in view of all the circumstances of the case, your Committee think that the time has nearly come when the church should seriously consider the propriety of establishing a general Sustentation Fund. To do so would no doubt interfere materially with existing arrangements, and would make a large demand upon the public spirit, the liberality, the wisdom, of the members of this Synod and of the church as a whole. But the advantages of such a fund would be so many and so great as to justify the Synod, in the opinion of your Committee, in making it the matter of their early and serious consideration.

All which is respectfully submitted.

GEO. CHRISTIE, *Convener.*

THOS. SEDGEWICK, *Sec'y.*

The following is the action of Synod on the Report:—

1st.—It was agreed that the Balance due the Treasurer be paid from the funds of the Board of Home Missions, and that the deficiency of money received since June 1st for meeting the July payments be also met from the funds of the same Board, in the expectation that the Church generally will, within the year, meet all the proper demands on the fund for the year.

2nd.—To enable the Committee to meet whenever business may require, between meetings of Synod, it was agreed that several additions be made to their number.

The Committee having recommended, though with acknowledged reluctance, that in the event of a deficiency of funds to meet all demands this year, payments be made proportional to the means in hand, the Synod refused to accept the recommendation, and directed that no deductions be made.

3rd.—The Synod adopted the following recommendation. To enjoin Presbyteries to appoint one of their number whose duty it shall be to see that all the congregations within their bounds contribute to all the schemes of the Church: or to make it the duty of the Clerk of Presbytery at the first meeting after he has tabulated the Statistical Returns to report all delinquents, that the Presbytery may deal with them as circumstances require.

4th.—It was also agreed that the different Presbyteries be directed during the year to review the list of supplemented congregations under their charge, and to make special investigation whether the allowance may not be reduced in some of them, or relinquished altogether, and to report to

the Committee before next meeting or Synod.

The Synod gave ample powers to the Committee to take what steps they think best for improving the condition of this important Fund. They may visit the churches by Deputations, rouse them to their duty by timely circulars, or use any other measures that may be deemed expedient.

Publication Committee.

The Report of this Committee showed that there is an increase of 500 in the circulation of the *Record* for the present year, as compared with the last year. Still the circulation of the organ of the Church should be more than doubled.

Travelling Expenses.

The Committee reported that \$784.14 had been received, and bills for travelling expenses amounted to \$724.47. This left a considerable balance to be met for delegations, &c.

SYSTEMATIC BENEFICENCE.

Rev. E. A. McCurdy submitted the Report on this subject, which is as follows:

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SYSTEMATIC BENEFICENCE.

It is with feelings of exultation and gratitude to God, that your Committee on Systematic Beneficence present to Synod their third Annual Report. The progress which has been made during the past year in developing the interest of the church in the subject which has been entrusted to them, has been unprecedented, for whether we consider the number of congregations which have adopted your recommendations, the almost uniformly encouraging reports which they give of their success, the hearty good will and sympathy which pervades nearly every communication which the Committee have received, or the extent to which the subject seems to have gained a hold upon the hearts and consciences of many of our people, we cannot resist the conviction that the tide of Systematic Christian Beneficence is on the flood, that our members and adherents are more generally recognizing their Stewardship, and that it only requires unwearied fidelity on the part of those to whose guidance the affairs of the church have been entrusted, to bring about such a change in the methods, measures, and spirit of Christian liberality, as will