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TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 1885.

APPREHENSIONS of a rising of Half-Breeds and Indians in the North-West Territories are proved to have been only too well-founded. The duty of the hour is not so much the discussion of the causes leading up to this disastrous outbreak of pent up resentment, as the most speedy and effective suppression of the revolt against authority. Then it will be the proper time to make a thorough investigation of the claims preferred by the discontented inhabitants of the North West. It must be put beyond the power of Louis Riel to do any further mischief. Former leniency has been thrown away on him. One of the most gratifying and reassuring things in connection with the present serious trouble is the universal eagerness of young Canadians to spring to the defence of their country against the treacherous attacks of a cunning demagogue. It is to be hoped that the measures so promptly taken will speedily result in the restoration of peace and order in the disturbed North-West, and that after this trial it will enter on a new era of prosperity.

HERE is a good way to form an estimate of the chief difficulty that our Church has to contend against—over one hundred students begin work in the Home Mission field in a few days. Next autumn every man of them will return to college. What does this mean? It simply means that at several hundred points we gather people together during the summer and preach the Gospel to them, and when autumn comes, allow them to scatter and go without the Gospel or pastoral work for the next six months. How long would self-sustaining congregations live under that kind of treatment? How long would the best congregation in Toronto keep together on six months preaching during the year? It makes the matter worse to say that the people in many of these stations have nowhere else to go. Are we to set up their extreme necessity as a plea in favour of doing nothing for them? Either these students are not needed in summer, or we have several hundred stations that we do not supply in winter. Now, would it not seem more reasonable to send one half the number in summer and the other half in winter and thus provide for the wants of our people all the year round? Granted that such an arrangement would make considerable changes in our college work, is it more important to keep the colleges as they are than to allow several hundred stations go without preaching one half the year? That is the question in a nut-shell as we understand it.

No part of our church work calls for more gratitude than our Home Mission Department. Just think of it; we have over 300 mission stations in Manitoba and the North-West, besides eleven self-sustaining and sixteen augmented congregations. A few years ago the late Dr. Black was our only representative in that immense region. It is expected that between pastors, probationers, students and catechists we will have over a hundred laborers in the North-West this summer. Nor is progress confined to the North-West. The Presbytery of Renfrew is pushing its work along the C.P.R. until it meets the work of the Presbytery of

Barrie at Nipissing. Mr. Findlay has lately been in that region, and has gone west on the C.P.R. as far as the junction of the Algoma branch with the main line. Several stations will be opened in that region soon. In a very short time the work will be extended along the north shore of Lake Superior. For this marvellous success of our Home Missions the church owes much to the enterprise, pluck and wisdom of the Home Mission Committee. While conducting their operations with due regard to the resources at their disposal, they have never hesitated to take responsibility and go right forward at the call of duty. The Church has always backed them up and will continue to do so. Calamity hunters and timid men have always been ready to shout "debt" or "ruin" of some kind when the committee entered upon some fresh aggressive movement; but the people stood by the committee, sent in the money and the work went on. Presbyterian people always admire a plucky policy and support it.

IN a few weeks the number of preachers in our Church will be increased by over one hundred. One hundred and forty-three students applied to the Home Mission Committee for work, and the majority of them were located somewhere between Metis and the Rocky Mountains. Student labour is fast becoming a most important factor in our Church work. Without the assistance of these young men it would be simply impossible to carry on our Home Mission operations. We bespeak for them a hearty welcome, and co-operation in their many fields of labour. It is to be feared that many mission stations are exacting and unreasonable in their demands for visiting. We have known cases in which they expected students not only to visit Presbyterian families, but all the other families in the village or neighbourhood. Indeed, one of the signs of a live young man in some people's estimation is that he "visits all the denominations." If the young man feels it to be his duty to do mission work in that way, good and well, but he should never be expected to visit and take tea with every family in the station once a month or oftener. We know whereof we affirm when we say that some mission stations are far more exacting in the matter of visiting than the congregations that pay for sending them supply. Some of them ask more visiting than the people get who pay thousands into the Home Mission Fund. People should be reasonable even in mission stations. It would be well too if the Conveners of Home Mission Committees in Presbyteries would make a point of changing students as frequently as possible. A young preacher has no sermon barrel to run to when he doesn't feel like making a new one.

THE proposal of the Home Mission Committee to meet but once a year is one of those questions on both sides of which a great deal can be said. The main argument for one meeting is, we presume—economy. A meeting of the Committee costs a good deal of money. The travelling expenses for members from Manitoba, Quebec, and other distant points, are considerable. There is force in this argument metallic force. But, on the other hand, is it quite clear that the whole Home Mission work of the Church should be left entirely in the hands of a small executive committee for a whole year? That the present executive committee would do the work well, we have no doubt; but we don't know who their successors may be. It is quite within the bounds of possibility that there may be an executive committee a year or two hence that the Church would not care to trust with the management of our immense mission field for a year, and the disbursement of \$40,000. Our Home Mission work is becoming colossal in its proportions, and we doubt very much if the Church is prepared to carry out the opinion expressed by the Committee at its late meeting. Of course, due weight should be given to that opinion. The Committee have special facilities for knowing the situation. They ought to be the best judges. No doubt, some money would be saved by meeting but once a year. That argument, however, is not of itself conclusive. Still, more money would be saved if the Convener or Mr. Warden ran the business without any meeting at all. A small committee managing the business for a year would have an immense amount of patronage at their disposal. The arrangement would, no doubt, work quite well under present circumstances; but the Church should be careful about making it in view of future contingencies. The subject will bear discussion.

THE HOME MISSION COMMITTEE.

LAST week one of the most important executive committees of the Presbyterian Church met in Toronto for the transaction of business. The magnitude of the affairs entrusted to the Home Mission Committee invests their responsibilities and labours with more than ordinary interest. The well-being and prosperity of the Church are in a sense dependent on the action of this Committee. The consideration of details in relation to the entire mission field of the Church from Quebec to Vancouver is committed to their care. However conversant members of the respective Presbyteries may be with particular fields, the ultimate decision naturally rests with the Committee. As a safeguard against sectional favouritism, the body is composed of representatives from each Presbytery throughout the Church. The men appointed are admirably fitted for the work assigned them. Their visit to Toronto is no holiday trip. The duties of their office are exacting. From early morning till late at night they closely devote themselves to the work they have to accomplish.

Another thing that strikes a visitor to the Committee room is the practical business-like method with which the work of the Committee is transacted. It is no place for the idle lounge. Business is not inconsiderately rushed through. There is due deliberation so that all points may be fairly presented before a conclusion is reached, but there is no time wasted. If any good brother imagines that he is gifted with the power of persuasive eloquence, and that the Home Mission Committee will afford a fitting sphere for its exercise, he will speedily be undeceived; he will meet with no rude repulse; his delicate sensitiveness will not be shocked by any sarcastic or uncivil remark; he will simply perceive that the atmosphere of the Committee room is entirely unsuited for the exercise of the oratorical gift. The man who desires to impress his own personality, to dominate as it were, also finds that there is no vacancy for him on the Committee. Facts, figures, business, only are in order. At the same time, every one must feel that there is nothing frigid, stiff, or chillingly formal in the proceedings. The Home Mission Committee is a good specimen of what Presbyterianism is. Order and parity are nicely blended.

The entire Church under the care of the Western Section was well represented. The east sent Messrs. A. B. Mackay and Warden from Montreal, and Mr. Dewey from Quebec. Dr. Campbell, of Renfrew, and Mr. Farries, from the capital, looked carefully after the interests of the Ottawa Valley, while Muskoka and Parry Sound had an able representative in Mr. Moodie, of Stayner; and the west was especially strong in its delegation—Messrs. C. B. Pitblado, D. M. Gordon, J. Robertson, Superintendent of Missions, and Mr. Farquharson represented the interests and pleaded the cause of Manitoba and the great North-West.

In the transaction of the routine business of the Committee there is nothing calling for special remark except that as each individual case was submitted for consideration, whether a new mission field or the customary grant to an older one, the case was fairly judged on its merits. There is no disposition to take things for granted. Full inquiry is made if the slightest reason exists for doing so. The Convener's active efforts in behalf of Home Missions enabled him to make the gratifying announcement to the Committee that the Free Church of Scotland had made a handsome grant to the cause in the North-West, and that the students of the United Presbyterian Church in the old land had resolved to send some of their number into the field, and that they had concluded to make the North-West Mission their Society's scheme for the year.

Although contributions to the Augmentation Scheme had not as yet come up to the measure of last year, the hope is entertained, not without reason, that sums yet to be received will enable the Committee to satisfy the expectations which those dependent on the fund have been led to cherish. A little effort on the part of congregations and individuals who have not yet contributed would make this most commendable endeavour a complete success.

Contrary to expectation, the Home Mission Fund proper has this year obtained larger contributions than ever before. Considering existing business depression, this is an admirable testimony that Christian people are realizing more fully their sense of duty to contribute of their means for the maintenance and extension of the Gospel. It is also an evidence that effort in