

was no wonder that transcontinental railways were centreing there, and words were inadequate to express his conceptions of what that great British American district might become. It was there that missionary effort was needed. Society was marred by all the drawbacks of new countries. There came a cry to establish a Congregational church there to assist in the evangelization of the people there. What response would be made? Out there he had preached to young people at Puget Sound who for the first time in their lives heard a sermon, and one lady told him that for twenty-five years they had buried their dead without prayer. He read the letter of a mother, who asked to know if her son, who had died out there, had received a christian burial. He grieved to say to his hearers that the young man had died in a brothel, in a town where there was neither a church nor a schoolhouse, but seven saloons. It was from that region, in our own land, the cry came for help and missionaries.

We gladly add that at a meeting of the general committee, one thousand dollars from the two thousand some generous heart gave three years ago, was placed to the credit of the mission work to be begun in British Columbia. Mr. Oatis, whose presence inspired us, impressed us with his earnestness and tact; under his direction our work in British Columbia will, in the meantime, be carried on, we have no doubt with ability, prudence and success.

Mr. J. C. Wright, of Edgar, presided at the hour of prayer on Friday morning, after which the union assembled.

The Statistical Secretary's report came first in order. The following is a summary:

Number of preaching stations, 99; average attendance, 14,234; total under pastoral care, 22,582. Additions to membership—by profession, 727; by letter, 87—total 914. Losses—by death, 74; by letter, 166; by discipline, 14; dropped on revision, 130.

Present membership—Males, 2,219; females, 3,506; particulars not given, 1,591; total, 7,316.

Sunday Schools—Number, 85; officers and teachers, 893; scholars on roll, 7,594; average attendance, 5,668.

Baptisms—Adult, 65; infant, 557.

Finances—Value of church edifices, \$575,375; value of parsonages, \$43,350; debt on church property, \$132,112; balance, \$486,613; amount raised for local church purposes, \$78,149; union, \$461; C. M. S., \$4,100; C. C. B. N. A., \$1,438; foreign missions, \$2,018; other denominational objects, \$1,091; general benevolent purposes, \$2,477; for all purposes, \$110,824. Total increase on last year, \$5,361.

One remark we would make on these figures. Com-

pared with larger bodies the nett increase in membership appears small, it is however an increase of nine per cent, which, we think we are safe in saying, is larger than that of the larger bodies, though very far behind what a living union of churches can desire.

Returns are necessarily incomplete, as nineteen churches have failed to report.

The Union Committee presented their thirty-third annual report, in which reference was made to this meeting as being the first held in the Capitol City of the Dominion. Touching allusion was made to the departure from our fellowship here, during the past year, of Rev. Mr. Walker, the Indian pastor of the Indian church at Saugeen, who has laid down his work with his life. Also of Rev. Wm. Burgess, of Tilbury, who passed to his reward on the 6th of last May. Mr. Burgess was one of the pioneers of Congregationalism in Western Canada and deserves lasting mention for his work of faith and labor of love.

Mention was also made of the departure of the first missionaries of the Canada Congregational Foreign Missionary Society. On the 3rd of April, Rev. W. T. Currie, B. A., and his young wife set sail from Boston, and by this present time must be nearing their field of labor in Central Africa. For them, and for their work, the fervent prayers and generous support of all our churches are asked.

Testimony was borne to the conviction that ecclesiastical exemption should cease, and a motion embodying this view was carried. Tribute to whom tribute is due, and no partiality.

The report reported a legacy of \$204 from the late Mr. Duncan Bain, of Buxton, Ont., which was disposed of by the following recommendation:—That the Rev. Jno. Wood, Dr. Cornish, Dr. S. N. Jackson and the secretary of the union be a committee to prepare for the guidance of our churches, a manual of Congregational principles and usages, and that the Bain bequest be placed at their disposal in preparing the first edition.

The committee appointed last year regarding the confession of faith put forth by the committee appointed by the committee of the National Council of the American churches reported, recommending the adoption by the union of that declaration, with a slight omission. The declaration of our American churches will therefore be printed instead of the declaration of the English Union as our general declaration of principles hereafter, until another departure is deemed wise.

The greater part of Friday afternoon was taken up with the college reports. Two points of interest were discussed. The first as to the manner in which aid should be given to deserving and needy students. At-