

REPORT OF MISSION BANDS FOR THE CONVENTION YEAR END- ING OCTOBER 15th, 1917.

During the past year Band work as a whole has progressed very favorably. Most of the directors have reported increased interest in the work and growing attendance at the meetings.

In the Associations of Elgin, Peterborough, Northern Middlesex and Lambton, Niagara and Hamilton, and Owen Sound, new Bands have been organized, and old Bands have been reorganized, and have taken on more vigorous growth under new leadership. We can scarcely appreciate the difficulties that have to be contended with in some of the Associations, where distances are so great, where there are few leaders, and where there seems so little encouragement to carry on Band work. But where there is a will there is a way. In the Northern Association three new Bands have been formed, and in Owen Sound Association there are two. One Band in this Association is unique in having as superintendent the pastor of the church.

An especially encouraging report has come in from Norfolk Association. There every Band is giving to both Home and Foreign Missions, five students are supported in India, and four have been made life members of the Bands this year, but even in this Association there are five Bands without leaders. The banner Band of the Convention is reported in Middlesex and Lambton Association. It is that of Talbot Street Church in London. There are 95 members, and they have given \$200 to Missions, and have raised \$70 among themselves for a Mission Band library. N.B.—Baddow Band, Whitby and Lindsay Association, heads the list for individual giving. In this Band there are 14 members, and they have given during the past year \$55.00 to the Home and Foreign work, an average of almost \$4.00 per member.

In some cases the report has not been so favorable. Several Bands have been disorganized, and others are without

leaders. Wherever a downward step has been noted, the fault has not been with the children, but with the leaders, or rather lack of leaders. The need of energetic leadership has been mentioned by many of the directors. Surely there are some here this morning who could take up this all important work.

One hundred and thirty-two Bands have sent in reports. These Bands range in size from the little organization with seven members to a big Band with 104 in regular attendance, and the giving ranges from \$1.00 to \$200.00 for the year, though in most cases we can judge little of the real missionary spirit of sacrifice by the size of the contribution. In many cases, apart from the actual money given, quilts have been pieced, cards, scrap-books and other things useful in missionary work have been sent to Home Mission pastors. Most of the money contributed has been divided equally between Home and Foreign Missions, though in some cases it has been given for special purposes. For instance, one Band gave largely to the support of a missionary in India, and another Band gave \$10.00 Memorial church fund instead of to the general Home Mission Fund.

There has been a marked increase in Band giving in almost every Association. This year 118 Bands and 3 Junior Unions gave \$1,464.97 to Home Missions, as compared with last year, when 99 Bands and a 4 Junior Unions gave \$1,125.27. This year 132 Bands gave \$1,963.81 to the Foreign work, while last year \$1,474.97 was given by 128 Bands. This means not only an improvement in the giving, but a large increase in the number of Bands contributing to the work.

I have been asked to say a word regarding the support of native students in India. It will save much time and confusion if Bands desiring to take up this work will write to me for any information regarding names and standing of students, as I now have Miss Pratt's list in charge of this part of the work. But all money for this purpose should be sent to the regular Foreign Mission Treasurer, Mrs. Glen Campbell, while all funds for our Home Mission work should be sent to Miss Wright, the Home Mission Treasurer.

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