

bonds. The assessment would be high as the church buildings are usually the best and most expensive in a community and the taxes would mount high. These considerations are important and those entrusted with the financial interests of the church ought to see to it that the question is agitated in Ontario this summer.

CLOSE OF CHURCH YEAR.

The Church year terminates on the 30th., April. The books close promptly on the evening of that day. Only contributions received prior to that date can appear in the books and accounts for the year. The Rev. Dr. Warden informs us that he has made a careful estimate of the amount still required by the several Mission Committees, to enable them to end the year free from debt.

The amounts are as follows :—

Home Missions.....	\$ 6,000
Augmentation.....	2,750
Foreign Missions.....	20,000
French Evangelization.....	3,000
Pointe aux Trembles.....	2,000
Knox College.....	7,500
Aged and Infirm Ministers.....	2,750
Widows and Orphans.....	2,500
Assembly Fund.....	1,000

The sum above given as required for Foreign Missions is over and above the amount to be received from the M.F.M.S.

A WORD FOR THE AGED.

The closing of the financial year being at hand it behoves the congregations who have not already done so to send in their returns to the agents of the church. In the allocation of the funds it is to be hoped the strong and pressing claims of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund will not be overlooked. Not a few congregations there are which subscribe nothing, and very many whose contributions are so small that the aggregate amounts to a meagre sum. Why should this be so? Are there no bowels of mercy for the Aged and Infirm Ministers? Are the fountains of sympathy and liberality drying up in the cause of our aged and helpless fathers? Surely that cannot be so. Surely the services of these devoted servants of the one Master, their hardships and their straitened circumstances deserve better recognition at the hands of the people than seem to be indicated by the apparent apathy shown this far. We look for better things and believe that if the pastors as a class would take the trouble to direct the attention of their people to the fund and its needs there would be a fair and full response. We hear of ministers refusing their pulpits in the interests of the fund without the knowledge of session or managers, an attitude which if persisted in can only be regarded with deep regret. It has been often pointed out in these columns—for the prosperity of this Fund appeals very strongly to our sympathies—that ministers who view the latter days of their brethren with indifference give evidence of a narrow outlook indeed and of not too generous a spirit. We plead with them in the name of Christian charity to cast aside any narrow prejudices and stand boldly forth in behalf of those who once bore the heat and burden of the day in this Canadian vineyard and hewed the rough places of Presbyterianism long ago. What shall it profit a man to fortify himself with plausible technicalities if the right spirit hath fled? Let not the financial year close without a general effort to place the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund on a proper footing financially.

In thus advocating the cause of this fund we do not forget that there are large requirements to be met in

the other schemes. From Dr. Warden's list given above, it will be seen that many of the funds at present show heavy shortages, but even the sum total is too trifling to be considered serious by the wealthy prosperous Presbyterians of Canada. Why, what should a matter of \$50,000 be to the church? and it would not be much if the hearts of the people were opened. With respect to the Aged and Infirm Fund, we are apt to forget that its liabilities are increasing yearly. Each General Assembly leaves the number of annuitants larger than before, and unless congregational contributions increase in proportion, what is to be done? We again urge upon congregations to devote a fair proportion of their revenues to this good cause with which is bound up the honor of the church, and so raise the fund from any difficulty that may now exist.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

The net result of the work of the Lord's Day Alliance in connection with the Session of the Ontario Legislature just closed, may be difficult to sum up, but a few important points can already be noted as satisfactory.

Two formal deputations waited upon the Government and a number of communications passed bearing on legislation. The first interview was the result of the judgment given in the Hamilton street car case, when a memorandum was submitted requesting that the Act be made applicable to all classes in the community and not restricted as at present to merchants, mechanics, etc., as specified; also to corporations; and that the conveyance of "travellers" should be defined as "through" in contra distinction to "local" traffic.

Following that interview came the fight before the Private Bills Committee, on the Toronto Bill in which were clauses bearing on the running of cars on the Sabbath. The deputation contended that there should be no change on the charter as legalized in 1892 and 1894, and they carried their point by a good vote. Afterwards by a procedure which it is difficult to understand or explain on ordinary grounds, the vote of the committee was reversed or reported to have been reversed, and it was so reported to the House.

Then came the great deputation of last week when a supreme effort was put forth. It is seldom indeed that so strong a presentment is made to any government, and the impression made on the mind of the premier, was evidently deep. Several times since he has taken occasion to express his sense of its importance, and as a result of the arguments made by the speakers, a provision was introduced and passed which goes far to meet the views of the Lord's Day Alliance. It shows what determined, respectful but unflinching advocacy of right principles may bring forth. Some legal men of good standing say that the clause referred to establishes the principle of no Sunday Cars as the policy of the legislature, and that no charter rights are enjoyed by the Toronto Street Railway Co. for a Sabbath service, no matter how the popular vote there may go. The Premier counselled an appeal to the Privy Council and it is of the greatest moment that the Hamilton case should go there. But at the same time it would be unreasonable that the Government should expect the cost of such an appeal to be borne by private citizens, as the Lord's Day Alliance are, when the case is one, not of private but eminently of public interest and importance. The Government ought to foot the bill and probably will not decline to do so. It is apparently therefore with no small reason that the Alliance may feel that they have done well this Session at the Legislature.