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Home Mission Fund.

CONVENER'S ANNUAL CIRCULAR.

As the season of the year draws near when congregations make their appropriations to the various schemes of our Church, permit me to remind you of the pressing claims of our Home Missions. This department of our work is now so well known, that lengthened appeal is unnecessary. The appendices to the Report presented to the last General Assembly, contained the names of 165 Mission Fields or 517 Preaching Stations, under the care of the Committee, with a Sabbath attendance of nearly 18,000, and a communion roll of 7,000. These stations contributed last year for the support of ordinances \$33,000, and for building purposes \$26,000, showing that the people themselves, despite of their average poverty, are giving to the utmost of their ability for the maintenance of a gospel ministry, and that they value very highly the aid given them by the wealthier congregations of the Church.

MANITOBA AND THE NORTH-WEST.—The great North-West continues to appeal for men and means, to overtake the spiritual destitution that prevails. The work in that field has certainly been encouraging in the past, and promises still better results in the future. A large number of the Mission Stations in Manitoba, have, during the past

year, attained the status of regularly organized congregations, and soon will, it is hoped, be independent of our aid. As these congregations, however, become self-supporting, other different fields are opening up for settlement, quite beyond the ability of the committee to overtake, unless its resources are greatly increased.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.—The committee are just entering upon mission work in British Columbia, a field that of itself will require a large expenditure of money, if our Church is to respond to the appeals that come from the ministers and members of our churches in Victoria and New Westminster. Already, a considerable emigration has taken place from Quebec and Ontario to that distant province, and as the completion of the Canada Pacific Railway draws near, the number of Presbyterian settlers will be greatly increased. What we have accomplished as a church in Manitoba, is proof of what can be done in British Columbia, by timely and energetic action.

That the continuous growth of our Church and the success of all other schemes depend largely upon the ability of the Home Mission Committee to prosecute its work need hardly be said. But for unexpected bequests and liberal donations received last year, the contributions of the churches, would have been insufficient to meet the expenditure. This ought not to be. The members of our churches in Quebec and Ontario, are well able to furnish the amount required, and