

HOME MISSIONS IN BARRIE AND ALGOMA.

IN this large Home Mission district, during the past six months, not reckoning the country lying south of the Muskoka region, 55 fields have been occupied in the two Presbyteries. In the 27 fields of Algoma Presbytery, there have been six ordained missionaries, fifteen student missionaries and six catechists, and in the 28 fields of Barrie Presbytery, two ordained missionaries, twenty-four students, and two catechists.

Of the students, eighteen were appointed by the Students' Society of Knox College, and twenty-one by the H. M. Committee.

"My time since my last report," says Mr. Findlay, "has been fully occupied in visiting among these stations, perfecting the organization in some cases, in others attending to the election and ordination of Elders; in seeing not only that boards of management were appointed but also doing their duty; dispensing ordinances in all the stations visited. During this term, over fifty stations have been thus visited, some of them more than once, as occasion required, and more than one hundred meetings held.

As in past years, we must report changes; in some cases, losses being sustained by the removal of our families to other parts of the country. In many instances, we have had considerable additions to the membership, both by profession and by certificates, from other congregations; while in not a few cases, we have been called on to strike off the names of those who have left the bounds.

Two features mark the work as hopeful.

The first is the increasing desire expressed by the members, in not a few of our stations, to have the organization of their respective stations perfected by the appointment of ruling Elders.

The second is the almost universal desire for service during the entire year. Experience has taught them that supply for six months tends neither to their own welfare nor to the upbuilding of the cause among them, and that, consequently, it is not in the interest of the Fund by which supply is made possible.

Time was, when this request would have been made in vain, as the number of men available for winter supply was altogether inadequate. This difficulty is being removed by the fact that the number of young men who are studying for the Ministry greatly increased during the past few years. These cannot all receive appointments to the field during the summer, so that the services of many of them are available for the Mission field during the winter.

A much better arrangement would be for the Theological students in greater numbers to take the winter out, and allow their juniors to press on with their studies in proper course. The Assembly, by establishing the summer session,

has made provision that they shall lose no time, and their doing so would give them a grand opportunity to obey the Apostle's injunction, 'Bear ye one anothers burdens, etc.'

Another department of the work which has made encouraging progress during the past year, is that of church building. This is directly traceable, I think, to the assistance we have been able to give those engaging in this work. A little over \$1000.00 was collected last year, in the face of great difficulties. With this slender means at our disposal, ten churches were assisted. Our object has simply been to encourage those who stood in need of church accommodation to help themselves. In some cases, I know, the work would not have been undertaken but for the aid received.

In connection with the lumbering industry within the bounds of these two Presbyteries, I believe that a wide door of usefulness is being opened to us which we ought not to be slow in taking advantage of. In many of the lumber camps are to be found young men from our families in different parts of the country, and others who would highly appreciate any attention that was given to their spiritual wants. Even were this not the case, their claims are urgent, they are within our bounds, and the likelihood of their being successfully approached is greater in winter, when they are shut out by their employment from the world and its temptations.

I am happy to report that Algoma Presbytery heartily endorsed these views, which I laid before them, and made it an instruction to all its missionaries, to do what they can among the camps in Eastern Algoma and Nipissing.

In the Presbytery of Barrie the matter of supply to the camps has been carried a step further and through the instrumentality of Mr. Moodie, our Convener, a committee has been appointed to act in conjunction with the Assembly's Committee on the Mission to the Lumbermen, to secure, if possible, a Missionary who will give his whole time to this important branch of the work.

In connection with this new departure we can make use of considerable quantities of wholesome literature. Already kind friends have sent in a small supply, but more will be required, directions for the sending of which will be gladly given to any who may wish to help on by this means the good work.

Barrie, Oct. 8th, 1894.

A. FINDLAY."

Contributors to the scheme of Higher Religious Instruction will please note the acknowledgments from month to month.

In the *Children's Record* for this month the Home Presbyteries of our Church were wrongly given. There are nine in the Synod of Manitoba and the North-West; fifty in all, or with the Foreign Presbyteries, fifty-three.