

the better to call out the liberality of the Church to this and to the other Schemes, to enjoin Presbyteries to appoint one of their number whose duty it shall be to see that all the congregations within the bounds contribute to all the schemes;—or it might be made the duty of the Clerk at the first Meeting of Presbytery after he has tabulated the Statistical Returns, to report all cases of delinquency that the Presbytery may deal with them as circumstances may require.

In conclusion, the Committee hope that there is no need of defending or even of dwelling at any great length upon the principles upon which this scheme is based. It seeks to proclaim in a most impressive way, the unity of the body of Christ, and the consequent duty of the strong to help the weak. It is true that the weak should be really such—that no undue burden should be imposed upon the strong—and that it should be made plain that they are doing as well as can be fairly expected of them.

The Committee think that on the whole these conditions are complied with in the congregations they recommend for aid; and they may state here that as roughly gathered from the last Statistical Returns the rate per family in 22 Supplemented congregations is \$11.45, while in the remaining congregations which receive no Supplement it is \$10.82.

Further it should never be forgotten that this is really a Home Mission scheme and that the most efficient as well as the cheapest way of doing the Home Mission work of the Churches is to set down a labourer permanently in a given locality, and to supplement the efforts of these among whom he labours by such aid as this scheme can give.

The Committee trust therefore that the above statement will be remembered by our people who have already responded so nobly to the calls made upon them and that in the future as in the past they will come up with increasing liberality to the support of a scheme which seems to be so essentially important to the prosperity and advancement of our beloved Church.

All which is respectfully submitted.

#### Action of Synod.

The recommendation to pay the deficiency in the Supplementary Fund to meet current expenses out of the Home Mission Fund was adopted. The Clerk was instructed to convey the thanks of the Synod to the Colonial Committee of the Free Church for their past assistance to this church, and more especially for the last four years.

Presbyteries were enjoined to see that the

rule of the Synod be enforced that all supplemented congregations contribute to the funds of the Home and Foreign Mission and the Supplementary and Educational Funds.

The committee further recommended that Presbyteries be required to appoint one of their number, whose duty it shall be to see that the congregations within their bounds contribute to all the schemes, or that it shall be the duty of the Clerk at the first meeting of the Presbytery, after he has tabulated the statistical returns, to report all cases of delinquency, that the Presbytery may deal with them as circumstances may require. The reception of this recommendation was in the meantime deferred.

The Synod recommends Presbyteries, in compliance with request of the committee, to transmit all applications for supplement to their Secretary not later than the first of June preceding each meeting of Synod.

It further recorded with gratification the fact that the congregation of Sheet Harbour last year, and the congregation of River Charlo this year, had voluntarily assumed the whole responsibility of maintaining their own Pastor, thus enjoying at once the high honour and privilege of self-reliance, and relieving funds to be applied in extending ordinances to weaker congregations.

The Board of Home Missions received discretionary power to pay the passage money of Ministers or Probationers coming from Scotland to labor in connection with the church.

#### Psalmody.

Dr. Bayne read the Report of the Committee on Psalmody. The Report was received, and the Clerk instructed to convey the special thanks of the Synod to the Committee for the abundant labour bestowed upon the preparation of the valuable Music Book lately published. The Committee was re-appointed, and instructed to promote as far as they could the revival of congregational singing throughout the Body.

#### State of Religion.

Dr. Bayne submitted the Report of the Committee on the State of Religion. The Report was received.