

Since the removal of the Rev. Mr. Pitblado, Chief Justice Taylor has, at the request of the Board, acted as chairman, and Mr. C. H. Campbell has, since the death of Mr. Robertson, been appointed solicitor. The latter has agreed to act as secretary-treasurer also in the meantime.

There is herewith submitted a financial statement. The balance at credit has accumulated since building operations were suspended last autumn. With the contemplated activity in church erection this season, the balance will soon diminish and disappear.

The Manitoba and North-West Land Co. has continued its liberal policy of granting sites for churches free of expense, and the C. P. R. Co. has given free sites at some points and at others sold lots at greatly reduced rates. The owners of town plots are, generally speaking, quite ready to donate lots for immediate use and land has, in several cases, been secured during the year in this way.

From the census of the Province of Manitoba, taken by the Dominion Government in 1886, and published last year, it would seem that the Presbyterian population of the Province is large. Out of a total population of 108,640 no fewer than 28,406 are Presbyterians, while the adherents of the Anglican and Methodist churches number respectively 23,206 and 18,648. The rate of increase of the whole population in five years was 74.5 per cent., and that of the Presbyterian population, 104.4. The increase of the Methodist and Anglican churches respectively was 97.7 and 69.2. As stated in a previous report, 32 per cent. of the white population in the North-West Territories belong to our Church. To overtake the wants of these people the work of church extension must be vigorously prosecuted for years.

At present the expense of Home Mission work in the North-West falls almost exclusively on the Province of Ontario. Since so many settlers come to the North-West from the Maritime Provinces, surely assistance should be given by the members of the Church there, at least for the work entrusted to this Board. The claims of the work need no advocacy, and it is hoped that the presence of the General Assembly in Halifax this year will result in securing the co-operation of the eastern section in the future to a much larger degree than in the past.

From Scotland and Ireland settlers in increasing numbers are coming to the North-West. For the most part they come with little capital, except their brawn and brain, their thrift and perseverance. In some instances, the Board has assisted colonies of this class to erect churches, and in others defrayed the whole cost of church edifices. Although some efforts were put forth to enlist the sympathy of members of the Church in Britain in caring for their children, no help has yet been received. The Board knows of no more promising Home Mission field than the Canadian North-West, and hence presses the claims of this work on the attention of the colonial committees and private members of the Church. The judicious expenditure of a moderate amount of money in a new land such as this, will confer an untold benefit on the generations to come.

The thanks of the Board and Assembly are due to the generous members and adherents of the Church in the eastern Provinces, especially Ontario, for the liberal aid extended to the Board in the prosecution of its work. It is impossible to estimate the service that is being rendered to the cause of religion and morals by the vigorous prosecution of Christian work in a land of such possibilities as North-western Canada.

With gratitude to God for what has been done, this report is respectfully submitted.

WINNIPEG, 23rd May, 1888.

T. W. TAYLOR, *Chairman.*
JOHN B. McKILLIGAN, *Secretary.*

TREASURER'S STATEMENT, YEAR 1887-88.

RECEIPTS.

1. Balance from last Account.

1887.
May 9. To balance in Commercial Bank of Manitoba per last account \$6,094 39

2. Subscriptions.

1888.
May 23. To amount of subscriptions paid to date, per detailed statement hereto annexed :
1. On subscriptions reported in former statement \$1,575 33
2. On present year's subscriptions 702 40
2,277 73

3. Repayment of Loans, etc.

1888.
May 23. To the following congregations in payment :
Whitewood \$9 85
Morden 40 00
Greenridge 22 50
Elton 152 55
Fort Qu'Appelle 200 00
High Bluff 104 40
Brant and Argyle 110 00
Manitou 464 85
Brandon, First Church 775 50
Virden 431 50
Greenridge 150 00
Springfield 300 00
Burnside 237 00
2,997 15