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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF SYNOD ON THE SUPPORT OF THE GOSPEL MINISTRY.

Your Committee, in considering the important subject, remitted to them by the Synod, have met with unexpected difficulties, owing to the imperfect manner in which the returns have been made. It should, however, be distinctly understood, that your committee attach no blame whatever to the respective secretaries: we believe they have done what they could to render these returns full and satisfactory. From these returns there appear to be 52 places of worship, and 35 congregations connected with the Synod; 13 of these congregations have given in no report.—Seven congregations assign no reason for not reporting, and 6 are vacant.

We now proceed to classify these returns, premising that the answers to the queries are, as might have been expected, very similar to those of the previous year.

1. Title to Church property.

Held by deed to Trustees 12 places of w'shp

do	do	Incorporation,	6	do
do	do	Possession,	4	do
do	do	Fec Simple	2	do
do	do	Lease,	4	do
do	do	Grant	1	do
do	do	Verbal Gift,	1	do
do	do	No Title,	1	do

2. Stipends Promised to Pastor.

2 congregations promise £200 each;

5	do	do	150
1	do	do	140
2	do	do	130
1	do	do	125
6	do	do	120
1	do	do	114
1	do	do	110

3	congregations	promise	£100	each
1	do	do	80*	
2	do	do	50	

The average amount of Stipend promised is £120 9s.

3. Amount of Stipend paid last year :

Throughout the three presbyteries, the total amount paid is £2,509 4s 1½d. The average stipend paid each minister is £92 18s 8d, and the average deficiency of stipend is £27 10s 4d.

2. Balance due pastor :

8 congregations owe nothing; 5 congregations are from £100 to £170 in arrears; 6 congregations from £40 to £75; 5 congregations from £2 to £24.

5. Surplus funds after paying pastor :

Two congregations in the presbytery of Pictou have reported surplus funds, one of which has paid their pastor £20 more than promised, and has £29 of surplus funds.

6. Termination of the congregational year :

The periods vary so much that they cannot be classified.

7. Methods of raising stipend :

Four different methods appear to be followed, viz., by voluntary subscription, 22 congregations; by seat rents and subscription, 4 do.; by seat rents, 2 do.; by weekly collections, 2 do.

8. Terms and mode of payment:

* In this sum there is a mistake, the amount here mentioned being only what was promised by *one section* of the congregation. The same is the case in one if not both the two following cases.

These are irregular. Some few pay in cash and in advance; some half cash and half produce, &c., &c., &c. Some pay quarterly; others half-yearly; and others appear to pay as it suits them.