

Hitherto your Committee has confined its action, in regard to this fund, to loans and investments on behalf of churches needing help, but it is worthy of consideration whether it might not afford wholesome stimulus to the churches to free themselves from debt, were we, in special cases, to offer to pay, on the plan of our American brethren, the last few hundred dollars of church debt, on condition of the Missionary Society having a reversionary interest in the property in case of its being no longer used by the denomination for public worship. A small sum has been voted during the year, to enable the Scandinavian Congregationalist of Weterskiwin, N.W.T., to acquire a lot of land, on which to build a house of worship, the title being, for the present, vested in the Society.

THE SUPERINTENDENCY.

This office yet remains vacant, for the two-fold reason, that the Committee has not yet met with an available man, in all respects adapted, in their judgment, for the position; and because, had they had such a man in view, the financial outlook has not been such as to warrant the making of such an appointment; it being useless to send an agent prospecting without having the means of entering openings when he has found them. The Colonial Missionary Society, however, which so long and generously assisted us in our Canadian work, has offered jointly to bear the expense of such an agency, if a suitable man can be found, on the condition that he devote the first year of his work entirely to the development of the great North-West, and British Columbia. This arrangement not having met with the full approbation of the Executive, the matter is still the subject of correspondence between us. We hope soon to arrive at a wise solution of the difficulty.

THE SHURTLEFF BEQUEST.

Your Committee are happy to be able to report that the suit in which they were involved with Mr. Taplin, at the time of last annual meeting, and carried by them to the Supreme Court of Canada, has been decided in our favor, and that thus a sum amounting to nearly \$3000, exclusive of very heavy costs, has been saved to the Society. One or two properties remain yet unsold, but these they hope shortly to dispose of, and by so doing to increase the income from the estate. A special report by the Treasurer will be submitted to you, fully explaining the condition and capabilities of the fund.

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