

proportion of their congregations than of ours were already paying the minimum, and of course a correspondingly smaller proportion required to be aided by Supplement. A few facts will fully establish this statement. The whole number of congregations in the Western Section is 573. The whole number in the Eastern Section 180. The number of congregations in the West giving less than the proposed minimum when the Scheme was started was 256. The number in the East was nearly 120. The number in the West giving less than the proposed minimum was 45 per cent of the whole, while in the East it was 66 per cent.

On the other hand, the number in the West that gave the minimum and upwards was 55 per cent of the whole, while in the East it was only about 34 per cent of the whole.

But some of these congregations both East and West do not need to be Supplemented, because when they fulfill the Assembly's conditions, they will be raised to the minimum by their own efforts. But even after these are eliminated from the calculation, the balance is still very largely in favour of our Western brethren, for the number which will require to be supplemented after the Assembly's conditions are fulfilled is about 25 per cent of the whole number of their congregations, while the number in the same position in the East will be about 47 per cent. In other words our task relatively is nearly twice as difficult as theirs.

It is important that these facts should be borne in mind.

1.—To enable brethren to perceive clearly the magnitude of the effort which we require to make in order to attain complete success.

2.—To prevent any of our people from leaping to the conclusion that we are sure to succeed simply because our Western brethren have succeeded. And,

3.—To obviate discouragement or disappointment in view of the fact that it is taking us a little longer than it took them to reach the desired goal.

But to return to the narrative. As soon as the Committee had their estimates prepared they sent them out to Presbyteries, appointing a Deputy to lay the matter before each Presbytery, and to urge prompt, united, and so far as possible, uniform action in the way of bringing the subject before all the congregations of the Church. This matter has been generally attended to with what measure of success I shall now attempt briefly to indicate. Broadly it may be

said that the progress made has been most substantial and cheering. Permit me to specify a few details.

Within the past few months 50 congregations, or nearly one-third of the whole number within the bounds of the Synod, have increased their contributions for the support of their own pastors and the aggregate amount of their increase is the handsome sum of \$3061; or an average of over \$100 each.

Of the 8 congregations which a year ago were contributing from their own resources less than \$400 and a manse, 5 have increased to that amount; 2 of which have considerably exceeded it; and it is confidently anticipated that the other three will fulfil that condition immediately.

Of the 34 congregations which, by contributing at the average rate of \$4.50 per communicant, would have come up to the Assembly's minimum without any aid from the Supplementing Fund, 20 have raised the required amount, of which no fewer than 9 have gone beyond it. 7 congregations more have reached or exceeded \$700 and a manse. With reference to the number of congregations raised to the minimum within the bounds of particular Presbyteries the position of honor must be assigned to the Presbyteries of Marimichi and Truro, each of which reports 5.

With respect to the aggregate amount of increase, the first position is taken by the Presbytery of St. John which heads the movement with the sum of \$1703.00. It is followed at a respectful distance by the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island with an increase of \$745; of Victoria and Richmond, with an increase of \$596; of Halifax, with an increase of \$525; of Miramichi, with an increase of \$518; of Truro, with an increase of \$425; and of the rest of the Presbyteries, with an increase of smaller sums.

21 of the congregations which have been placed upon the supplemented list have increased their contributions by the goodly sum of \$2640 or an average of \$97 each. Special attention is directed to this fact, because it indicates the willingness of those whom we are asked to assist to help themselves, and because it furnishes a pledge of their strong desire to work towards the position of self-sustaining congregations.

The Supplementing Committee are not in a position to make any full or accurate statement respecting the collections which have been made, or which may yet be made, by the great body of our con-