

Missionary and Benevolent Funds.

The following are the chief purposes for which the General Assembly invites all the congregations to contribute annually :—

I. Home Missions. The support of religious ordinances to settlers in the new districts of the country, such as Muskoka, Algoma, Parry Sound, Manitoba, the North-West Territories, and British Columbia, as well as in the more remote and scattered districts of the older Provinces. The amount required for the whole Church for the current year is \$60,000. In the Western Section of the Church, for which our contributions are asked, there are upwards of 200 mission fields and 714 preaching stations; and 7,900 families receive religious instruction. The amount contributed by these mission stations themselves last year was \$40,000.

II. Augmentation of Stipends. Upon the principle that the strong should help the weak, this fund was instituted a few years ago by the General Assembly, with a view to supplementing inadequate stipends in some of the smaller congregations, the desire of the Assembly being that none of the ministers should receive less than \$750 a year with a manse. To accomplish this the amount required for the current year, East and West, is \$36,000. The number of congregations in the western section requiring to be aided in this way is 136.

III. Foreign Missions. The Presbyterian Church in Canada has a staff of 29 ordained missionaries engaged in preaching the Gospel to the heathen, besides a number of other labourers, among whom are several Canadian ladies. The missions are—[1] To the Indians in the North-West; [2] The mission to Formosa, China, which has been so wonderfully prosperous through the instrumentality of Dr. G. L. Mackay and his associates; [3] The mission to Central India, in which there are now 5 ordained missionaries employed; [4] in the New Hebrides; [5] in Trinidad; [6] in Demerara. The amount required this year for all these missions is about \$86,000. The number of native communicants in the different fields is upwards of 3,500; the number of teachers and native helpers 250, making with the ministers and their wives, a total effective force of about 300 labourers in the mission work to the heathen.

IV. French Evangelization. The number of French Roman Catholics in the Dominion is estimated to be 1,300,000. The estimates for French Evangelization for the current year, including the enlargement of the school buildings at Pointe-aux-Trembles, is \$50,000. The Board of French Evangelization expends \$35,000 annually in its efforts to bring these our fellow-countrymen under the influence of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Some thirty schools, attended by nine hundred pupils, are under the care of the Board, and at present there are openings for several others in districts where the need is very great. The number of preaching-stations supplied by the missionaries is eighty-three. In many of these services are conducted in English as well as in French, and in not a few of them, the only Protestant service in the district is that given by the missionaries of the Board. There has recently been a decided improvement in the attendance and in the number of Roman Catholics present at several of the stations. Especially is this the case in Ottawa, in St. John's Church, Montreal, and in St. Gabriel de Brandon, where a series of week-evening services have just been held. At Ste. Anne, the missionary reports a morning attendance in French of 300, and an evening attendance in English of 150, with an average attendance of 170 at the Sabbath-school. The number of French students at the Presbyterian College, Montreal this session is 19, all having the ministry in view. This is the largest number there has ever been. Three of them graduate next spring, all of whom are able to conduct services both in French and English.

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