

the address as an epoch-making speech, considering Dr. Ross standing as a public man, and the significance of the arguments he so ably used. Recognizing the importance of the utterance, the press has given the speech in extenso to the world, and it is not too much to say that its clear British ring will find a responsive echo in Great Britain and her dependencies. Great Britain he accepted as the goal to which Canadians should aim at both for commerce and for national ideals. His words regarding Canada's attitude to the United States were forcible and sensible. Friendly and neighbourly these two countries ought to be, and everything in reason ought to be done to maintain the most cordial national relations between them, but treaties of commerce were mere makeshifts, temporary expedients and therefore not to be sought after as long as the natural market for Canada, Great Britain, was open to Canadian products. He argued for preferential trade and showed how a preference would benefit the Mother Country itself as well as Canada. The speech is not only well worth perusal; it ought to be carefully studied by every citizen interested in the future of the country and its trade relations with Great Britain.

AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS.

THE untiring interest taken in the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund by Mr J. K. Macdonald, the worthy convener, is well known to the Church. He has just issued a statement, admirable in its presentation of the case, being "the plea of a layman on behalf of the Fund." The following extracts are worth reproducing. He first deals with the question of ministers making provision for themselves, and he finds that.

"A careful consideration of the salary which the majority of ministers have received in the past and are now, for the most part, receiving, taken in connection with what is expected from them, will show that it is scarcely possible to make such a provision. While the State and all classes of the community have derived enormous benefit from the labours of these men, they have been and are, by the very nature of their office, denied the opportunity of "making money." Indeed, nothing can so soon and so utterly destroy a pastor's influence, and sap that spirituality of life essential in our spiritual teachers, as "money-making." By the requirements of his calling and the measure of stipend received, for the most part, our ministers only receive what may be termed a *maintenance* while in actual work, and therefore it is only reasonable that a fair, if moderate, provision be made for them, when from infirmity or old age they are compelled to relinquish active work. We demand that they shall be essentially different from mere labourers, that they shall be intelligent and well educated, that they shall be open-hearted and open-handed, and also bear their full share in responding to the demands made on the congregation, and it is a fact that they are often the largest contributors, and yet it is only too true that they are frequently judged from the day-wage labourer's stand-point. And while this is so, we who sit in pews demand a measure of education which requires years of careful training at great expense, and entire giving of themselves to the work of the ministry. And do we not at the same time expect an open house, a respectable manner of living and an educated family? Speaking from the best information I have been able to gather, and as a business man, I am free to say that I do not think it is possible for the majority of our ministers to make adequate provision for possible infirmity or old age."

Mr. Macdonald deals with the claim the Aged and Infirm Ministers have for a reasonable measure of help. The divine command is cited and then he remarks.

"When we cease to look upon this claim as one of charity, we will begin to recognize its true nature. It is a fact, generally overlooked however, that the Minister who is paying Rates to the Fund is doing his fair share in providing for the future, so that at most congregations are only asked to do their share. This fact has been the more readily overlooked because, while the rates should have been capitalized, they have had to be used in the payment of Annuities, because we of the congregations have failed to come up to the measure of our duty. In other

Congregational Contributions have been far less than was required. Ministers themselves have failed to realize the facts of the case and have refrained from speaking to their congregations on behalf of the Fund. There is no reason why this should be so, and on behalf of our large list of Aged and Infirm Ministers, let me beg them to set aside the false feeling that they will be begging for themselves, and honestly and faithfully place the claims of the Fund before their people."

The number of annuitants on the Fund is 87, and besides the revenue derived from interests on investments and ministers' rates, \$14,136.70 will be required from congregations to meet the demands sanctioned by the General Assembly.

It might be pointed out that congregations are deeply interested in this Fund, if for no other reason than that provision such as it aims at will enable many ministers to retire from active service, when age or infirmity renders them unfit for full pastoral duty, allowing younger men to take their place, but who without suitable provision could not really give up as long as the people would bear with them, however inefficient they have become. From this point of view it is quite proper to regard the Fund; it is a practical and kindly standpoint.

AUGMENTATION OF STIPENDS.

FEW Committees of the Church command greater sympathy than that charged with the administration of the Fund for the Augmentation of Stipends, over which Rev. Dr. Campbell so worthily presides. We are just in receipt of Dr. Campbell's appeal for the Fund and we earnestly hope a liberal and creditable response will be made. The Committee expects to receive about \$30,000 for its work this year, so as to be able to meet the demands of its important field. Dr. Campbell says:

"Our main dependence is on the congregational contributions and the commendatory words and sympathetic measures, which may be hoped for from over 800 ministers and 5,250 elders, are all important. We plead for your co-operation, knowing that, if we have it, all will turn out well. This year, as last, we are seeking further help from Young People's Societies and Sabbath schools, which appeals will also come under your notice, and it is trusted that you may encourage and direct our children and young people in a movement which aims to interest and instruct them with regard to Augmentation as one of the great sisterhood of the Church's Schemes."

In connection with the scheme a leaflet has been prepared by Rev. Dr. Warden which deserves careful perusal by all to whom it will be sent. It is an admirable statement of interesting facts and conveys information that ought to prove satisfactory to the Church.

WORTHILY CELEBRATED.

THE Canadian Church has marked the 250th Anniversary of the Shorter Catechism in a manner at once worthy of the occasion and of the Church. At the various centres meetings have been held the effect of which, it is not too much to believe, will materially deepen the interest of the people in the Westminster Assembly and in the Catechism. This of itself will be the most desirable result of all, and it was a happy conception that the anniversary should be taken advantage of with this especial end in view. Already the booksellers have circulated quite an unusual supply of literature on the famous Assembly and its Catechism, for the purpose of constant study. There is little doubt that the demand for such literature has been greatly stimulated by the meetings we have referred to. Then much valuable information has been disseminated by the addresses delivered at the meetings by leaders in the church. These brethren have rendered great service to the cause of truth by their