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Toronto, March, 22, 1894.

Work for the Young.

AMONG the schemes of the Church none should be more carefully and favorably considered than that the purpose of which is to make provision for the Aged Ministers who through years of toil served the Master well. Their claim is an exceedingly strong one. They are of our own household. Fathers in Christ to not a few whose sense of filial duty must be strong. And yet, a brief statement issued recently would confirm previous reports and appeals, that the duty has been most inadequately discharged. The purpose of this article is to set forth a few facts regarding the fund, its object and scope, and to suggest a possible means by which it could be placed in a very short time on a secure and adequate basis.

The idea of making provision for aged ministers originated in the Presbytery of Toronto thirty-six years ago. In 1857 the Synod of Kingston approved of an overture on the subject, sent up by the Presbytery and in 1860 it became a scheme of the Church. In earlier days its fortunes are associated with the name of Rev. John McTavish, D.D., now of Inverness, Scotland. From 1877 until 1887 Dr. Middlemiss filled the position of Convener, now so ably filled by Mr. J. K. Macdonald of Toronto. For a long period the scheme did not receive the attention it deserved, but in 1887 the Winnipeg Assembly directed that a capital fund of \$100,000 should be raised. In the following year the amount was placed at \$200,000, and Rev. Wm. Burns became Agent for the Fund. The committee has displayed praiseworthy activity and had the same spirit of earnestness characterized the Church at large, there would have been but little cause now for further effort.

The following are some of the conditions and regulations which govern the Fund:—

The Fund shall be sustained by annual congregational contributions, ministers' rates, donations and bequests.

The invested capital shall not be entrenched upon for the purpose of paying annuities, and all bequests made to the Fund shall be added to the capital, unless otherwise ordered by the testator.

Settled pastors, ordained missionaries, home and foreign, professors in colleges and church agents, shall, in order to participate in the full benefits of the Fund, pay into it an annual rate of: For ages under 30, at date of connection, \$4; for age 30 and under 35, \$5; for age 35 and under 40, \$6; for age 40 and under 45, \$7; for age 45 and under 50, \$9; for age 50 and under 55, \$12.

When a minister has obtained permission of the General Assembly to retire from the active duties of the pastorate on account of age or infirmity, he shall be entitled to an annuity only on application of his Presbytery, such application to include all necessary information.

When a minister is allowed by the General Assembly to retire after ten years' service, he shall receive an annuity of one hundred dollars (\$100) with five dollars (\$5) for each additional year of service up to twenty; and for each additional year of service over twenty and up to forty, ten dollars (\$10), if the state of the Fund permit.

When a minister's health is impaired, but not so much as to render him wholly unable to discharge the duties of his profession, the Committee may grant him half the allowance to which he would be entitled in case of complete disability.

When a minister who has paid rates to the Fund attains the age of seventy years, he may claim the privilege of retiring from the active duties of the Ministry, and of being placed upon the Fund.

When a minister is mainly dependent upon his annuity from this Fund, the Committee shall have power, after careful inquiry, to grant such additional allowance as the condition of the Fund will permit, such additional allowance in no case to exceed one hundred dollars.

There are now seventy-five ministers on the list of beneficiaries. A considerable number of these never had more than \$600 a year, some of them not more than \$400. The congregational collections have never reached \$10,000 a year and this year the amount will be about \$2,100 below that of two years ago. To be able to give each minister an average of \$250 the sum required in the collections would amount to \$18,750. Ministers of forty years standing should be entitled to \$370. Last year the limit was \$275 for this class, and this year, unless the collections are much better than last year, this small amount must be further reduced. The subscription list now amounts to about \$120,000, of which \$94,000 has been paid. This is short \$80,000 of the amount aimed at, but \$20,000 has been promised by a single donor; should the \$180,000 be raised in a reasonable time. Toronto has contributed over \$40,000 of the sum secured, and of this amount the city ministers have given one tenth. These figures show the position of the Fund, but they give no indication of the difficult task the Committee has been called upon to perform. The questions which come before them, the cases they have to deal with, do not come within the category which can be proclaimed before the world, and sympathy elicited by a parade of heroic suffering and patiently borne need. But surely the church must see that the peculiar circumstances require a prompt and liberal response, and that without sufficient funds the demands, however urgent, cannot be met.

There are many agencies in the Church which are excellent sources of revenue. There are the Womens' Societies, the Young People, the Sabbath Schools, etc. Now were one of these agencies, the Young Peoples' Societies, for instance, to take up the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund and make it a special object of effort for two or three years, every cent required by the Committee would be found. It would be an admirable work for the young men and women of the Church to do. They would have the advantage not only of doing good work, but of having something definite to do, a