

PALM ✻ BRANCH.

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ST. JOHN, N. B.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER, 1899

REPORT OF THE N. B. and P. E. I. BRANCH MEETING.

This branch held its fourteenth annual meeting in Charlottetown the last week in September; its first regular session on the morning of the 27th, in the lecture room of the First Church, which was beautifully decorated for the occasion. There were 72 delegates present. One pleasing feature was the large number of Band and Circle delegates, both from Island and mainland. The weather was most propitious, from the time we crossed the capricious straits till we reached the beautiful island, which was just doffing her summer dress to array herself in the richer drapery of autumn. Her good people, as hosts and hostesses, vied with each other in making us welcome—and we did ample justice to their hospitality. This was especially evidenced in the generous supper and delightful social hour spent in the parlor of the church on the evening of the 27th. Afterward all adjourned to the church, where the public anniversary meeting was held. A large congregation gathered there. After the opening services the president, Mrs. J. D. Chipman, gave her address, which was admirable, touching, as it did, all points of the work. Good music was rendered by the efficient choir and a solo by Miss Collings. The Corresponding Secretary reported 82 Auxiliaries, with a membership of 1,732—increase of one. The Band Corresponding Secretary reported 56 Bands, with a membership of 1,463—increase 193. The Treasurer's report showed the amount raised this year in Auxiliaries, Circles and Bands to be \$5,162.53—an increase of \$34.57. Rev. Mr. Teasdale, pastor of the church, in a glowing speech, congratulated the workers and the work. "Giving—a mosaic," by Miss Knowlton, of St. John, was appreciatively read by Mrs. W. B. Coulthard. This gem has been published as a leaflet by our Literary Committee.

Every session was fraught with interest, from the reports of the district organizers, showing the success-

ful efforts of these busy women, to the smallest details of the work. Some helpful papers were read, followed by interesting discussions. One, by Miss Thorne, of Fredericton, read by Mrs. Coulthard, had many good points. Subject: "The Most Helpful Report to Take Home from a Branch Meeting." The points of this paper and of the discussion which arose from it you will find in "Echoes from Branch Meeting" on the third page.

Thursday's meeting was devoted to Band and Circle work, even the prayer service having relation to it. Mrs. Coulthard, M. B. Secretary, after having given her report of Circles and Bands, was asked to take the chair, which she did, and a very helpful, interesting hour or more was spent in gleanings from the delegates, by skilful questioning, the story of their difficulties, failures and successes. Some of the points gained here may also be found on page two—Echoes from Branch meeting. Palm Branch report gave a paid subscription list of 2,557—a decrease of 62.

N. B. and P. E. I. Branch, 850, decrease 3
 N. S. and Nfld Branch, 535, decrease 45.
 Toronto Branch, 289, decrease 2.
 Montreal Branch, 243, increase 46.
 Bay of Quinte Branch, 340, decrease 5.
 Hamilton Branch, 206, increase 57.
 London Branch, 92, decrease 50.
 Manitoba Branch, 78—the same.
 B. Columbia Branch, 17, Decrease 15.
 United States, 2.
 Missionaries, 2.

The name of one subscriber could not be found in Report, which is good and sufficient reason why the name of the Branch to which the subscriber belongs should always be sent with the order.

Thursday afternoon a very interesting consecration memorial and sacramental service was held in the church. In the course of the service Miss Howie, the young lady who will go from this branch to Japan, gave, in very modest, unaffected words, her call to this great work. She said that ever since she was a little girl she had felt herself called to the Foreign Field. Sometimes the impression had been stronger than others, sometimes almost faded away, but now it had come back with greater power, and she had given herself wholly for this service. It is anticipated that another young lady from this Branch will early be ready to offer for foreign work. What offering more noble, more acceptable to God than one's self. "They first gave their own selves to the Lord" is still told as a memorial of some who lived long centuries ago.

The officials elected for the present year are: President, Mrs. J. D. Chipman; the 3 Vice-presidents, Mrs. Strong, Mrs. Dr. Johnson and Mrs. H. Sprague; Recording Secretary, Miss H. Stewart; Cor. Secretary, Miss Palmer; Band Secretary, Mrs. W. B. Coulthard; Treasurer, Mrs. S. E. Reid, Tryon, P. E. I.; Auditor, Miss Hyde. Delegates to Board, Mrs. Strong, Mrs. Coulthard; alternates, Miss Stewart, Mrs. Hart. Conference Representative, Mrs. Enman. This Branch has been invited to meet next year at Woodstock.