

because it is all from our own people. The gifts from Scotland, for which in past years we were called upon to record our hearty thanks, have not come to hand this year. We are very grateful for past valuable aid, and now that it has ceased, we cannot be too thankful that our own people have shown themselves able and willing to supply the necessary funds for this work. The committee strive to keep down expenditure to the lowest point consistent with efficiency, and last year expended considerably less than the year previous, but our people must count on an average increase, if we are to deal fairly by our Home Mission fields. We trust that during the coming year, the debt will be completely cleared off and current expense fully met, as well as the North-West liberally remembered. To do this we will need at least \$16,000 or about \$1,000 more than was given last year.

The Superintendent of Missions in the Presbytery of St. John has continued to do excellent work. The Committee have resolved to pay him a salary of \$1,200 and travelling expenses. He will give all collections made at his meetings and money received for supply of vacant churches, which will amount to over \$200, to the Home Mission Fund. The W. H. M. S., that formerly applied their funds to the partial payment of the Superintendent's salary, now send all their money to the treasurer for the support of special fields.

During the winter months, the Home Mission fields, which were made vacant in the fall by the return of the catechists to their College studies, were committed to the Presbyteries for such oversight and dispensation of ordinances as might be found practicable. All the Presbyteries report that regular or occasional supply has been given to nearly all the fields within their bounds.

By means of our Home Mission work, the Church is kept alive and growing. The growth is not rapid, because our population, especially in rural sections of our provinces is not increasing. But there is, and will be gradual growth. Groups of stations which till lately, could not more than pay for a catechist during half of the year, are now raising \$400 for an ordained missionary, whilst others, that a few years ago were mission charges, are now nearly self-supporting congregations. The encouragement to continue the work with unflagging zeal, is very great. Whilst we must aid the western brethren to overtake the rapidly increasing fields in our new North-West, it would be most fatal for us to slacken our effort on half of our people in the East. To leave sections of our country without the gospel and the means of grace, would be to consign them to the blight of religious indifference and social disorganization; and to rob the Church, to which they should belong, of the prestige they now give, and the strength they are destined to impart, at no distant day.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The Foreign Mission Report carefully prepared by the Secretary, Rev. H. P. MacKay, contains much valuable information. We make very brief extracts:

NEW HEBRIDES.

Of this mission the report says: This, our first-born F. M. child, retains its hold on our hearts and gives us new joy every year, by the progress which marks its yearly history. Although the number of our missionaries remains satisfactory, we rejoice that the Australasian Churches and the Free Church of Scotland have together added four men to the staff engaged in the work a year ago. Two of these, the Rev. Thompson McMillan, of South Australia, and the Rev. F. H. Paton, of Victoria, are settled on Tanna; and two, the Rev. James Sandilands, of Victoria, and the Rev. Gatherer Bowie, of the Free Church of Scotland, are at work on Santo. The number of native laborers grows rapidly, and in this respect our service is well abreast of that of the sister Churches. Mr. Robertson employs over forty, and the native Christians support a quarter of them; whilst on Efate, under Mr. McKenzie, although the number is much smaller, it is increasing, and the workmen are paid in full by the native Christians.

As throughout the whole group, both Mr. Robertson, of Erromanga, and Mr. McKenzie, of Efate, speak warmly of the liberality of their converts, and point to the fact as indicating, along with a growing appreciation of Divine Ordinances and correct lives, a deepening spirit of true Godliness among the Christians. They both bear testimony also to the influence thus exerted on the few remaining heathen on their islands, in disposing them to view with increased favor the claims of Christianity. There is a large reduction of the stubborn remnant of heathenism, both on Efate and Erromanga. Additions to the communion roll were eighty-five in Erromanga, and seventy-four in Efate.

Dr. Annand devotes his whole time and strength to the institute located at Tongoa, for training teachers and preachers.

TRINIDAD.

The work has extended in many new settlements and centres of population, following up the people, who are flocking out into the country as roads and railways prepare the way. In this work our catechists are a most valuable branch of the service.

No change has been made in the Education Ordinance during the year, and the present cumbersome fee-system still continues, to the annoyance of Teachers, Managers, Wardens and Education Officers. Changes of some kind will probably be effected before the end of 1897. We reaffirm our conviction that school fees must be abolished, and a moderate measure of compulsory attendance enforced to get the full benefit of the expenditure on Education.

The death of three teachers within two months greatly

weakened the staff in Couva, and nearly all our schools suffered during the year from the prevalence of measles.

Sabbath school work has greatly extended in 1896, and there are prospects of still further advance in the future.

The East began the year with a debt of \$4,290.61, and closed with one of \$1,228.10. The receipts, in that section, were \$28,008.70, and the expenditure \$27,946.19, being \$62.51 within the income. When it is remembered that a good deal was given for the purpose of extinguishing the debt, this condition of affairs does not strike one as very satisfactory. Still it is encouraging to note that, outside of gifts for the removal of the debt, the giving is better than ever before. As compared with the previous year, the real increase was more than the apparent, because \$1,200 that for many years came from the W. F. M. S. W. was last year withheld, for good reasons, which were stated when the fact was announced. Apart from this amount, the increase in the East was \$3,975.47, showing that the extension of our work to Demerara, and the increased cost thereby entailed, met the hearty approval of our people.

INDIAN MISSIONS IN WESTERN CANADA.

This section of the report is of great interest. Details are given with sufficient conciseness to avoid tediousness. The summary is as follows: The year now closed has been a year of concentration, rather than of expansion.

Exclusive of the Indian Missions in British Columbia, which are reported elsewhere, the work of the Presbyterian Church among the Indians of Manitoba and the North-West Territories is carried on from sixteen centres, on twenty reserves, and with regular Sabbath services conducted at thirty-five places, besides occasional services at many other places. The number of communicants is 234, of whom fifty-eight were added during the past year, a net gain of forty over the previous year. There were twenty-three baptisms of adults and thirty-nine of infants. The number of industrial and boarding schools is six, which is one less than last year, on account of the closing of the Lakeside school. These schools have 331 pupils enrolled, an increase of one over last year, and an average attendance of 274 for the quarter ending March 31st, which was the severest months of winter weather, and is lower than for any other period of the year. There are three day schools, which have an enrolment of forty-three, and an average attendance of forty-four. These missions have contributed \$512 to religious and benevolent work of various kinds, of which \$335 was given to the Scheme of the Church.

The stringency in the funds of the Foreign Mission Committee has been severely felt in the West, and the erection of several much needed buildings, for which plans had been prepared, had to be abandoned. A new and very promising opening for work which the committee now has under consideration cannot be entered upon until the finances are in better condition.

The most distinctive feature in the history of the year's work was the Conference of Indian Missionaries and Helpers held in Winnipeg last November. It was attended by sixteen of those engaged in the Church's work, and was carried on for three days, and it is a matter of common agreement that it proved of great advantage both to the committee and to the missionaries.

Nearly every missionary makes grateful mention of the assistance which his work received from the clothing and other gifts in kind provided by the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. These gifts provide for the children who attend the boarding schools, and so reduce in a considerable measure the cost of maintenance, and for the sick and infirm Indians on the reserve, with their tendency to pulmonary troubles, the abundant and warm clothing which the ladies provided is a means of warding off disease and prolonging life.

Reports from Formosa and China are on the whole very satisfactory, the sunshine and the sorrow, blending and modifying each other.

Central India furnishes important and interesting material for the report. The many important stations report at some length, and generally in a hopeful tone.

The Chinese in British Columbia afford a ready and hopeful field for the missionary and good work is being done. The same applies with respect to the Indians in that province. An interesting chapter is that telling of Dr. Thomson's work among the Chinese in Ontario and Quebec.

The great help rendered by the W. F. M. S. is gratefully acknowledged.

AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS' FUND.

The report of the Western Committee states that: With reference to the "Ordinary Fund," a comparison with the previous year will show the following results: A decrease of \$401.93 in congregational contributions and donations also a