

in the Maritime Provinces are under two committees, one called the "Home Mission Board" and the other the Supplementing Committee.

#### WESTERN SECTION.

Dr. Cochrane spoke first and gave a bird's-eye view of Western operations. "As yet," said he, "we stand upon the threshold of our great work as a United Church, which is nothing less than to plant a church in every village and hamlet of our land, and send forth our missionaries to the distant islands of the sea. With us it is still the day of small things, but that same God who so highly blessed the churches from which we sprang, still lives to prosper us, in our endeavors to emulate their missionary spirit and realize their fondest expectations. Cheered and encouraged by the past, let us go forward to possess this goodly land; which the Lord God of our fathers hath given us. The past year has been one of great financial depression. The hopes entertained at last Assembly, of a speedy revival of trade and an abundant harvest, have not been realized. The year has passed, with increasing stringency in the money market, and more wide-spread anxiety among all classes of society. Every department of industry has been more or less paralyzed, and large numbers thrown out of employment. As a consequence, Christian merchants have been forced to curtail, and in some cases entirely to withdraw their accustomed contributions to benevolent objects, and our operative classes, who according to their ability, are ever ready to give for missionary objects, have had a strong struggle to provide the necessaries of life for dependent families. In such circumstances, it is not matter of surprise that the missions of our church should share in the general depression that still exists, and cripples the operations of every branch of the Church of Christ."

In last October the Committee made some reductions in appropriations, and also made special appeals to Presbyteries in order to secure greater liberality on the part of congregations able to help. This appeal was responded to. At the last General Assembly, the Committee's indebtedness amounted to \$9124.65. In order to liquidate this deficit, the Assembly resolved to make an immediate appeal to the Western section of the church, distributing the debt among Presbyteries on the basis of membership, to be again distributed by Presbyteries among congregations. The committee appointed for this purpose at once carried out the instructions of the Assembly. In reference to the appeal, some Presbyteries,

with an alacrity exceedingly commendable, at once sent in the full amount apportioned them. Other Presbyteries,—equally able in point of resources,—have fallen below the sum required of them, so that the entire amount aimed at has not been reached. The Committee are, however, glad to report that the special effort has reached the sum of \$8791.35.

Valuable aid had been received from the British Churches: from the Irish Church £100; from the Free Church £300; and from the Church of Scotland what is virtually a larger contribution,—the support of Missionaries in British Columbia.

The Home Mission field in the Lake Superior region, at Sault Ste. Marie, Manitoulin Island, in Manitoba, and in British Columbia, and then in the Presbyteries further east, was briefly surveyed. The *Record* cannot of course, give all; but the following from Manitoba will prove of general interest: The past year has been marked by the favor of God, so far as temporal things are concerned in the Northwest. The ravages of the grasshopper, which for three years had been so great, have happily been unknown in Manitoba during the past year, and the settlers have had plenty, enough at least to wipe off the indebtedness incurred for the necessaries of life during the years of suffering. As was to have been expected, there has been an effort made in almost all our stations to raise as much as possible, and so secure ministers for the several groups of stations. The want of a sufficient number of labourers has up to the present frustrated the hopes of some of the most likely groups of stations. When the work is opening up on every hand it is a source of great regret to this Presbytery to note the scarcity of money at the disposal of the Committee, and to see hints thrown out of a probable diminution of expenditure in the Northwest. It is the opinion of the Presbytery that the tide of immigration will for the present and future years far exceed anything the past has seen, and we shall be unfaithful to our position as a church if the expenditure, instead of being diminished, be not greatly increased in these future years. In order to help on the work of the church, the Presbytery pledges to do all in their power to raise as much as possible from local sources. On account of there being little, if any, immigration to the Province during the past year, no new stations have been opened, unless it be the ground taken up by our most western missionary in this Province, Mr. Stewart, of Palestine, by his visit during the winter to a group of families on the Little Saskatchewan, a point 160 or 170 miles west of Winnipeg.