

The benefits claimed for Home Missions are two-fold, Civil and Religious.

1. Home Missions help to bind the East and West of the Dominion more strongly together. The Dominion is like a dumb-bell, weak in the centre, and if it is not to break, in time of stress, about Lake Superior, it should be strengthened. These Missions help to assimilate the Foreign population and make them loyal; they help to maintain law and order, and enhance the value of property; they make home and social life pure and sweet; make life sacred and property secure, and help to make men honest and honorable. In France and the United States crime is rapidly increasing, and the decay of religion, it is maintained, is the procuring cause.

2. Home Missions have strengthened the Church; they have dotted the waste places of the land with churches; they are moulding public opinion in the plastic stages of society; they are bringing tens of thousands of souls to the knowledge of the truth; they help to keep up the religious temperature in the land, and to strengthen city churches. The drift of population is city-ward, and the Church that cares for the people in the country gathers them into its folds in the city. To secure a larger and more steady revenue for Foreign Missions, a larger Church is needed; but a larger Church is the result of Home Mission effort.

Work so beneficent, so successful, one would think, would be well maintained on patriotic, denominational, and religious grounds. This does not seem to be the case. In 1890 the communicants in the Western Section gave, on an average, 31 cents for its support, and last year only 25. During the past 7 years contributions from congregations increased, for Home Missions, 10 per cent., for Foreign Missions, 60 per cent; from all Canadian sources in 7 years for Home work, 8 per cent., and for Foreign 50 per cent.

But for the help from Britain the Home Mission work would have been stranded. And British help is not likely to continue. Once let the Mother Churches be seized of the fact that, while our contributions increased for Home work only \$4,000 in seven years, they increased \$40,000 for For-

eign work, and the streams of the generosity will dry up. This Home work must receive more generous aid from Canadians else future generations will lament our shortsightedness, as we do that of those who lived fifty years ago.

MISSION TO LUMBERMEN, WEST.

This mission has added a new department, work amongst seamen. During the last two summers, Rev. C. B. Ross, of Lachine, assisted by members of his Christian Endeavor, has worked steadily amongst the seamen passing through the Lachine Canal. The Rev. Orr Bennett, of Hawksbury, and Rev. James Bennett of L'Original, have done similar work for the Ottawa River. These all have used the literature furnished by our mission. The Rev. C. B. Ross has written several times, speaking of the excellence of the literature furnished and of the good accomplished. The others bear similar testimony.

The work amongst the lumbermen is fairly under way again this winter. Revs. James Taylor and A. McLaren are visiting the lumber camps on the Gatineau. Rev. D. A. McDonald, who did such efficient work in past years along the Parry Sound Railroad, has left, but his place is ably filled by Rev. C. E. Ferguson. The vast Temiscamingue region is under the care of a missionary, Rev. Mr. Gilchrist, appointed to this special work. In order to maintain Mr. Gilchrist in this region and Mr. McLaren at the Desert, this mission is undertaking to raise part of their salaries. Rev. Wm. Sharer, of Sherbrooke, with several others, are looking after the work in the Eastern Townships. Rev. Mr. Crombie, of Fort Coulonge, is attending to the work on the Coulonge and Back Rivers. The Colporteurs of the Bible Society will carry our literature as in former years. We have always received enough in past years for the work of this Mission, and we expect an equal measure of support this year. Owing to the generosity of the religious Tract Society in London, we are able to do this great work, year after year, for the modest sum of \$350.

MATTHEW H. SCOTT,
Convener and Treasurer.