

## Mission Circle.

REPORT OF OUR DELEGATE TO THE WESTERN BRANCH  
MEETING OF W. M. S.

The Ninth Annual Convention of the Western Branch of the Women's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church of Canada met in King Street Church, Ingersoll, on Tuesday, October 13th, at 2.30 p. m. The President, Mrs. Dr. Burns, occupied the chair. A portion of Scripture was read by Mrs. Dr. Sutherland, and Mrs. Russ led in prayer. The roll was called, eighty-four delegates responding. Mesdames Jackson, Wright and Scarf were chosen as nominating committee. After a brief consultation they reported the delegation divided into three committees; first, committee on courtesies, second, committee on memorials, and third, committee on modes of work. Our president, Mrs. Gayfer, was placed on the memorial committee, your delegate on the modes of work.

Memorials were read from many auxiliaries respecting the publication of a paper by the Women's Missionary Society, independent of the General Society. Decided opinions were expressed, both for and against this paper. Some very influential members were in favor of it; among these we noticed the representatives from Dundas Street Church, London, and St. George Street, St. Thomas; but the majority held that the establishment of such a paper would alienate us from the parent society, to which we are indebted for the space occupied by the Women's Missionary Society in the *Outlook*. We all know that union is strength, and if we are to do our utmost for heathen women we believe we must have the hearty co-operation of the General Missionary Society of the Methodist Church. The new enterprise was strongly urged in committee and open convention, but upon motion was lost.

Another memorial requested that Mission Circles unite in supporting some special branch of work, suggesting the Kenazawa Home. This also was lost.

We must not forget the reception and tea given on Tuesday evening. A very social time was spent from six to eight o'clock. We were pleased to meet many old friends.

Rev. Mr. Snider took charge of the evening session. Mrs. Phelps spoke on the French work. She said that the Girl's Institute had been founded at Astonvale in 1886; later a large and commodious building was erected for the accommodation of both sexes. Last year there were forty-five male

and forty female students in attendance. There are several rooms still unfurnished, and Mrs. Phelps asked for donations of bedding. The cost of furnishing a room is fifty dollars.

Mrs. Dickson addressed us on Chinese work in British Columbia. In 1888 Miss Leake was appointed matron of the Rescue Home, with ten girls as inmates. All of these have been converted. Miss Leake never leaves the Home without some responsible person being in charge, as it is not safe to do so. Miss Cartmell went to Victoria last year, where she has been working in Chinatown. The population is five thousand, the condition of the people deplorable. Mrs. Dickson spoke of the need of a young lady missionary who would learn the language. In Chinatown girls are sold from the age of four to twenty-four. One girl sold for three dollars, another for three hundred dollars, and another for nine hundred dollars.

Mrs. McMeachen spoke on Japan work. The school at Tokio was built nine years ago; nine hundred girls have attended, three hundred have become Christians. Think of the influence these girls will have in three hundred homes! The appropriation to Tokio last year was \$5,120. The school at Shialzuoka was opened four years ago, the appropriation here being \$1,550. Another school at Kofu is under the charge of Miss Wintermute, a graduate of Alma Ladies' College. The appropriation here was \$2,400. The people of Kofu have offered \$1,200 towards a new building. There are fourteen foreign missionaries in Japan. The work of the Bible women in visiting in the homes is very helpful. There are 40,000,000 people in Japan, of whom 5,000,000 are professing Christians.

Mrs. Burns gave some statistics on Indian work. There are 122,585 Indians in the Dominion, 14,000 of whom are children; of these 5,649 are in the industrial schools scattered throughout the North-West, prominent among which are the Chilliruck Home, the Home at Port Simpson, and the McDougall Orphanage.

An address of welcome prepared by Mrs. Snider was read, and replied to by Miss Morton of Hamilton. Friendly greetings were extended by the Episcopal, Baptist and Presbyterian Societies; Mrs. McMeachen replied in a very acceptable way. She is a very graceful speaker.

Wednesday morning the meeting opened at 9.30. After devotional exercises the roll was called, one hundred and sixteen