

## Our Home Missions.

The third Sabbath of December is the day appointed by the Assembly for the collection for Manitoba College. This is all important as a part of our Home Mission work in the wide North West. Let it be liberal.

**Beaver Bank.** During the past twenty years the Halifax Presbytery has been diligently cultivating a mission station at Beaver Bank, Hants Co., N.S. For many years this isolated region, some eight miles from the Windsor and Annapolis Railway line, had been sadly neglected. As a result the people were growing up in ignorance. Sabbath desecration prevailed. From 1854 to 1863, not a single sermon had been preached in this locality. Rev. Dr. Currie, now professor at Pine Hill College, Halifax, visited them 26 years ago, when they heard their first sermon from a Presbyterian minister. Since that time more or less supply has been given and every summer a student catechist labors there. In October, 1883, a neat and well finished Presbyterian Church was opened free of debt, and there is now a communion roll of nineteen members.

On Sabbath the 9th October, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed. Several children were baptized, one mother carrying twin babes in her arms, driving six miles in a rain storm to receive the ordinance. A Sabbath school and prayer meeting has been kept up during the summer. What can now be done to furnish "winter supply?"

**The Western Missionary.** This breezy little sheet always comes with a smile, showing that, to it, at least, missionary life is a pleasant thing. In beginning its third year it says, "We aim at giving mission news from first sources and giving it briefly and pointedly. Our circulation is four thousand, and of this, we send some twelve hundred copies free to prominent persons in Eastern Canada, United States, and Great Britain. We need some assistance to meet the expense of our free circulation. To meet our free list we shall be glad to receive contributions of a few dollars from any one of our generous friends."

Welcome dollars! May you fly to the Lord's Treasury in the North West as doves to their windows; but we rejoice to be able to show our bright, earnest, little friend, a more excellent way. What hundreds of dollars could not do, along this particular line, we are ready to do without any charge.

The RECORD is trying its utmost to foster and deepen throughout the church an interest in the great Western Home Mission Field. It has pleaded and begged, *largely in vain*, for "mission news from first sources" in that field. It will gladly receive *all* such, and bear it, free of all cost, to the places above mentioned, to the number of, not merely twelve hundred copies, but more than *forty thousand*, besides its circulation Manitoba and the North West, while the *Children's Record* to the number of *eighteen thousand* stands waiting to bear similar tidings to the young.

## AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS' FUND.

### EASTERN SECTION.

AT the recent meeting of the Synod of the Maritime Provinces, the following changes were made in the Rules of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund.

**Rule 3.**—Requiring ministers to pay to the Fund at the rate of one-half per cent. of their salary, has been changed to the following:

Settled pastors, ordained missionaries, home and foreign, professors in colleges and church agents, shall, in order to participate in the full benefits of the Fund, pay into it an annual rate of:—

For ages under 30, at date of connection, \$4; for age 30 and under 35, \$5; for age 35 and under 40, \$6; for age 40 and under 45, \$7; for age 45 and under 50, \$9; for age 50 and under 55, \$12.

In **Rule 4.**—"8 dollars" has been changed to "his usual rate" as follows:—

When a minister resigns his pastoral charge without leave from the General Assembly to retire, but continues in the service of the church as a preacher, he shall pay into the Fund his usual rate, otherwise his annuity shall be only in proportion to the time of his service as pastor.

In **Rule 9.**—The annuity after ten years service is changed from \$150 to \$100, and reads:—

When a minister is allowed by the General Assembly to retire after ten years' service, he shall receive an annuity of one hundred dollars (\$100) with five dollars (\$5) for each additional year of service up to twenty; and for each additional year of service over twenty and up to forty, ten dollars (\$10), if the state of the fund permit.

In **Rule 15.**—\$25 is changed to \$100 as follows:—

When a minister is mainly dependent upon his annuity from this Fund, the Committee shall have power, after careful inquiry, to grant such additional allowance as the condition of the Fund will permit, such additional allowance in no case to exceed one hundred dollars.

Fearing that the new rules might bear heavily upon members long connected with the Fund, it was made optional with ministers already on the Fund to continue the old rate of payment or to adopt the new.

The change in payment of annuities applies only to those coming on the Fund after this date.

It is hoped that the adoption of these changes will tend to commend the Fund to the favorable consideration of the younger brethren, and that our membership will be speedily and largely increased. One great drawback to the growth and extension of this Fund has been the lukewarmness of ministers, and the consequent indifference of congregations. The last report shows that not more than one-half of the ministers in the eastern section are connected with this Fund as rate-contributors, and can we be surprised that one-fourth of our congregations overlook this scheme in their annual appropriations.