

and the trustees are five in number. The building is seated for 750, and is secured for the use of ministers of the Church of Scotland. The amount of stipend promised by the Salt-springs section of Mr. McKay's congregation is £100, which has been all paid; so that there are no arrears due the clergyman. This part of the congregation is very large, numbering no less than 225 families.

GAIRLOCH.

The Presbytery met at Gairloch on the following day, and, after sermon by the Rev. Allan Pollok, proceeded to the examination of the Gairloch section of Mr. McKay's congregation. Mr. McKay reported that four prayer-meetings were kept in the Gairloch district. The ordinary collection on the Lord's Day—the congregation only meeting on alternate Sabbaths, were all given to the Bible Society; and, during last year, the sum given to that society was £12 10s.

There are, in the Gairloch congregation, only four elders, which was considered, by the members of session, quite an insufficient number. The whole of the required registers are not kept in Salt-springs or in Gairloch, but minutes of session are kept in all important cases. During last summer, two Sabbath Schools were kept, numbering about ninety scholars, and taught by seven teachers. There are 108 communicants on the roll in Gairloch, and, during the past year, there have been 8 accessions. The general attendance at Church is very good, averaging 800. All the schemes of the Church are, as a rule, collected for, but, during last year, there were some omissions, owing to Mr. McKay's absence.

The Church at Gairloch, which is a very fine and large building, is not held under a deed of incorporation. It is intended for the use of ministers of the Church of Scotland. The stipend is raised by subscription, and amounts, in the Gairloch section, to £100, which is all paid. The Church is quite out of debt, but the building committee still hold notes only for a small portion of the cost of building. The number of families in Gairloch alone is 150, by which it appeared that the Salt-springs section of Mr. McKay's congregation was much the larger.

The members of Presbytery present, both at Gairloch and Salt-springs, addressed the people, expressing their satisfaction with the state of both parts of this large charge. It was hoped that a way would be opened for the separation of the two congregations, under distinct clergymen, as the extent of the field was taxing, far too severely, the strength of one clergyman. The punctuality of the people in Church attendance, the number of prayer-meetings, and the absence of debt, furnished cheering evidence of the zeal of the people and the diligence of the minister. The Lay Association was reorganised in Salt-springs, by the Presbytery, but this important business was overlooked in Gairloch. It is hoped,

however, that, considering the obligations of our Church to the Colonial Committee, this matter will not be lost sight of by the Gairloch people, but that an association of a similar nature will be formed among them without delay. After a few remarks upon the Dalhousie College Scheme, the meeting at Gairloch was closed with the benediction.

WEST AND EAST BRANCH CONGREGATIONS.

The Presbytery of Pictou met at West Branch East River, for examination there, on the 22d March. After sermon by the Rev. William Stewart, the Presbytery was constituted. There were present—Messrs. Pollok, McKay, Herdman, Stewart and McGregor.

By questions put to the incumbent, it was found that Mr. McGregor preaches in one place of worship at West Branch, and, in other ways, occasionally three times on Sabbath. No Bible Classes are kept, as it is inconvenient in the country congregations. There is a monthly prayer-meeting held in the Church, and other prayer-meetings in districts of the congregation. Pastoral visits are paid to the families, and diets of catechising are held. The Bible is generally used in the common schools.

The elders being examined, considered their number sufficient. They are in the habit of visiting the sick and taking part in prayer-meetings. They interest themselves in the management of the Sabbath Schools in their districts. Meetings of session are held on Sabbath, and on other days, minutes of which are kept. The four registers are kept, but no register of deaths. There are 7 mixed Sabbath Schools in the district, which are attended by 210 scholars. There are 118 communicants on the roll, and, during the past year, there have been 6 accessions. The average attendance at the West Branch Church, on the Lord's day, is 650. The removals by death, during the past year, have been 15. The ordinance of baptism has been administered to 18 persons, during the past year. Family worship is kept universally in the families of the district. All the Schemes of the Church are supported, but the Lay Association is not at present in operation.

The Church at West Branch is not incorporated, but three managers conduct the temporal affairs of the congregation. The Church accommodates 800 people, and is secured for the use of ministers of the Church of Scotland, so far as it can be without incorporation. The stipend promised is £100, of which the whole has been paid. The congregation, during the last few years, has expended £1900 in building a new Church, erecting a very superior manse, and purchasing a large farm for a glebe,—their exertions in this way far surpassing those made by any other congregation. It is not surprising, therefore, that they should be somewhat in debt. Their debt amounts to £300. The members of