

papers books and Bibles are made to needy and remote Sabbath Schools. But certainly one of the most interesting branches of work is that devoted to sailors on the canals, rivers and lakes of Canada. Especially gratifying are the passages in the report describing Mr. Bone's work on the Welland Canal and Mr. Potter's on Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence. The Sailor's Rest in Kingston was open for the third season all last summer and 1,055 visits were made to it by the sailors. Four hundred Sailors Bags sent by Christian women, Young Peoples' Societies Sunday school children and others were distributed on board vessels last year.

The Directors pay a well-deserved tribute to the indefatigable Secretary who in addition to all his office work in Toronto, travelled last year over 10,000 miles, gave 122 addresses, preached 75 times, and also addressed 106 public meetings, so as to keep the steadily increasing work of the Society fully before the churches. By his Sabbath services and collections, he has again this year paid all his travelling expenses, and also passed over an excellent balance to the general funds of the Board.

Altogether the operations of the Society have been so gratifying as to call for special thankfulness for the past and faith for future prosperity.

W. F. M. S. MEETING.

THE proceedings of the Woman's Missionary Society are being followed with more than usual interest this year. The Mission Work of the Church is receiving great attention at the present time, and as the Woman's Society is the great auxiliary of the F. M. Committee, the reports presented at its annual meeting, now taking place, and the decisions arrived at, furnish interesting intelligence to the Church. The Bill of Fare for the Sessions of the Society shows the care and thought expended upon the programme and the speakers selected are minutely acquainted with the subjects assigned to them. We go to press too early to publish a report of the proceedings this week, but an extended report will be given in our next issue.

AN EXPLANATION IN ORDER.

THE Rev. R. M. Dickey, of Skaguay, in a letter which has been wisely published in the *Record* and elsewhere dated March 15th, says:

On Wednesday last Rev. Dr. Campbell, a minister of the Episcopal Church from Katchekan, arrived here. He is expecting the Bishop of Alaska by every boat, and informs me that they are going to form a mission here. They have got sufficient money from the Mission Board to build a church, school and hospital, without asking the people here to subscribe. He conducted an Episcopal service on Sabbath afternoon and preached for me at night. Dr. Campbell is a college friend of Dr. Robertson, to whom he sends kindest regards.

In the last issue of *The Living Church*, of Chicago, there appears a letter from the Bishop of Alaska, Rev. P. T. Rowe, dated Skaguay April 5th, in which occurs the following passage:

You know I called Dr. Campbell, and sent him here. He has been a treasure, and the work he has done for the Church and the souls of men is beyond words of praise. He has taken, religiously, possession of the whole community. We are the only missionaries on the ground. The people had built a union church. We are occupying it. We must have our own, and a little cabin for the missionary to live in. I must leave Dr. Campbell here when I go away.

None can hold the place, so far as I know, as he can. The people, in the great sickness that has prevailed here, bought a log house 30 ft. x 18 ft., turned it into a hospital—Union Hospital; have cared for the sick to their best ability. But their best was very crude and poor. Eagerly they have taken advantage of my advent. They have begged me to take charge of the hospital work. I have done so. They have transferred to us, to our Church, this hospital building, its work, everything, etc., with no debt. I have taken the great trust, the wonderful opportunity thrust into our hands. By God's help I have done it.

Now we do not know all the facts, but the above looks like misrepresentation of the worst kind and calls for an explanation. If this is the spirit in which the Episcopal Church of the United States is going into Alaska the less our missionaries have to do with them the better.

THE PLEBISCITE VOTE.

ARRANGEMENTS are in progress for a monster demonstration on July 5th at Toronto in connection with the voting on the prohibition plebiscite, when the real campaign will be begun. The Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance is active and the counties are being organized for the vote. Reports thus far indicate awakening interest in the cause, and the churches and temperance societies are fanning that interest by meetings, lectures and the distribution of literature bearing on the questions at issue.

AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS.

THE semi-annual meeting of the Committee on the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund held last week at Toronto was of more than usual interest. Mr. J. K. Macdonald presided, and there was a good representation of the members of the Committee present. The first action of the Committee as was met was to appoint a sub-committee to prepare a resolution respecting the death of the Secretary and Agent, the Rev. Wm. Burns. The members present referred to the great loss sustained by the death of so energetic and faithful a servant of the Church. The Committee also approved the action of the Executive in the appointment of a Provisional Agent and Secretary, whose report indicated that there were twenty-two applicants to join the Fund this year. Ten of these were at once accepted, for nine of the remainder it was resolved to make application to the General Assembly recommending their acceptance, and three were rejected because they had passed the age limit of fifty-five years. Seven of the annuitants had died during the year, but seven others were applying for benefit, leaving the number on the annuity list the same as last year. The Financial statement for the year indicated that the income is still not sufficient to meet the demands upon it. The year began with a deficit of \$1,763.56 and there is an additional deficit for the present year of \$1,570.08, making a total deficit when the books closed of \$3,233.64. The receipts from congregations were \$721 in excess of last year, and the receipts from ministers' rates was \$94 in excess of 1897. It is expected that there will be a handsome donation from the Hymnal Committee which will reduce this deficit to some extent. No recommendation as to who should be appointed Secretary and Agent as successor to the late Mr. Burns was made, the disposition of some of the Committee being to leave the matter in the hands of the General Assembly. The report of the Committee will bring the matter under the notice of the Assembly.