

REPORT  
OF THE  
HOME MISSION COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
**Presbyterian Church in Canada**  
(WESTERN SECTION).

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The Home Mission Committee, in presenting their Annual Report, desire to express their devout gratitude to God for the continued and increasing prosperity that attends their labours, as seen in the many new fields that have been occupied during the past year. They regret that the funds for Home Missions and Augmentation are both far short of the expenditure. The hopes indulged in at last Assembly, that this year's contributions for Augmentation would at least meet the year's outlay, and probably help to make up former deficits, have not been realized, many congregations still giving nothing to the fund, and others far below their ability. The reserve fund for Augmentation is now wholly exhausted; while that for Home Missions has been drawn upon heavily to meet the liabilities of the year. The largely increased demands for British Columbia, and certain other unexpected payments to the Synod of Manitoba, partially account for the large deficit in Home Mission funds; but in any case, the increasing demands upon the Committee, consequent upon the constant expansion of the work in the newer fields, will require for the year 1887-'88 an amount equal to the expenditure of 1886-'87.

In the Report submitted, there will be found notes of the progress of Home Missions and Augmentation, in the different Presbyteries of the Church, certain changes recommended by the Committee, and a detailed statement of the state of both funds. The reports of the Students' Missionary Societies and the Lumbermen's Mission are also presented, in a condensed form. In the appendix, complete statistics of all the mission stations and augmented congregations are given, and the names of all the Missionaries, Probationers and Catechists, employed under the direction of the Committee.

SUMMARY OF MISSION AND AUGMENTATION WORK.

PRESBYTERY OF QUEBEC.

*Missions.*

Home Mission work is carried on in this Presbytery under many difficulties and discouragements. There is a French Roman Catholic majority in every county within its bounds. These persistently oppose every progressive movement, and they systematically seek to weaken the strength of all English Protestant communities, by buying out as many families as they can; furnishing money at a low rate of interest for the purpose. In some localities the land is very inferior, the average product of a farm ranging from \$100 to \$200 per annum. In these places our farmers are very poor, many of them involved in debt to the full value of their farms; and in order to be able to live at all, have to draw largely upon the earnings of their sons and daughters, that go from home to work in the United States. As a result of this poverty in part [and *vice versa* perhaps?] education is sadly neglected. In answer to questions on this subject one elder replies:

*"There are 18 heads of families and 12 youths past fifteen years of age in this neighbourhood that can neither read nor write."*

A minister of one of our congregations said: *"The schools through this section are open for two and a half months only in the year. I have but one man in my congregation that can keep the financial accounts of the Church."*

That such a state of things is a serious drawback to any Christian work among this people will be evident to all—and something should be done to mend this matter. We need to see to the secular education of these people, as well as to having religious ordinances among them, else there can be no permanency to our work.

During the summer, seven fields were worked in this Presbytery under the Home Mission Scheme: Three by ordained missionaries, who continued on through the winter; four by students. Three of these had to be left without supply for the six winter months; leaving about one hundred and sixty families for that period uncared for, further than by sending a student for two or three Sabbaths during the Christmas holidays.

These fields cry for more permanent supply; and the Presbytery is very anxious to be able to respond to that cry. We hope to find *one* or *two* ordained missionaries to take the place of the students when they leave the field at the close of this summer's work. Our only hope is in pressing onward more vigorously than ever. Only thus will the Lord be on our side.

*Augmentation.*

The Augmentation Scheme is a most precious boon to this Presbytery. While formerly we numbers. The people eagerly debytery continuously, and these lasting, in each case, from one to and part of a settled charge. Sho