

Application having been made to the Dominion Legislature for an Act to amend the Act of the late Province of Canada, 22 Vict. ch. 66, an Act was passed during the last session of said Legislature, and assented to by His Excellency the Governor-General on the 18th of May. The provisions of the said Act are identical with those of the Act of the Quebec Legislature 38 Vict. ch. 64, save and except that the clause in section 2, providing "that the successors of ministers of congregations in the Province of Quebec, existing at the time of the union, which do not enter into such union, shall retain the same rights to the benefits of the Temporalities Fund which they would have had if such union had not taken place," is omitted; and the following clause was inserted respecting the final disposition of the Fund: "After the first and third classes of payments named in section one shall have been extinguished and provision shall have been made for the annual receipt in perpetuity of the sum provided for in the second class of payments (viz. Queen's College), each congregation which declined to become a party to the union and which shall not have entered the union before the time of the extinction of such payments; shall be entitled to a share of the residue, such share to be in the proportion of one to the whole number of congregations on the Synod roll on the fourteenth day of June, 1875, the date of the union." The Act further provides for a meeting of the Beneficiaries within 12 months from the passing of this Act.

FINANCE. The payments made to ministers since the date of last report partially cover the claims of three half-years. Acting under the advice of its Solicitor and the written opinion of Mr. Strachan Bethune, Q.C., at a meeting held on the 17th day of May, 1881, the Board instructed the Secretary to make the usual payments to all the Beneficiaries that became due on 31st December, 1880, but which had not been paid at that time, and also to issue cheques for the usual amounts to the commuting and privileged ministers and to Queen's College on the 30th June and 31st December, 1881. The expenditure for the year, including as already stated one full half-year's payments and the partial half-yearly payments, was \$41,659.87—of which there was paid to the ministers \$33,917; to Queen's College, \$3,000; for law expenses, \$2,707.50; ordinary expenses of management, \$831.77; and transferred to the contingent account, \$1,200; interest on overdrawn account, \$3.60. The balance due the bank, as per statement of account at the 1st of May, was \$444.62; to which must be added two outstanding cheques for \$219 each; making the balance due the bank \$882.62 the 1st of May last.

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