

OUR WORK FOR 1896-97.

The following are the estimates of what will be required for the coming year for the work of the various schemes which, as a Church, we are carrying on :

WESTERN SECTION.

Home Missions.....	\$80,000 00
Augmentation of Stipends.....	28,000 00
Foreign Missions	78,600 00
Woman's Foreign Missionary Society..	50,810 00
French Evangelization (including Pointe aux Trembles Schools).....	40,000 00
Colleges, viz. : Knox (including deficit —\$6,576—from last year).	18,500 00
Queen's.....	4,000 00
Montreal.....	5,000 00
Manitoba (exclusive of amt. from Synods of Manitoba and British Columbia).....	5,000 00
Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund (over and above Ministers' Rates and Interest from Investments).....	10,000 00
Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund (over and above Ministers' Rates and In- terest from Investments).....	13,500 00
Assembly Fund.....	6,000 00

EASTERN SECTION.

Foreign Missions.....	\$30,000 00
Home Missions	14,000 00
Augmentation.....	9,000 00
College	6,000 00
Aged Ministers	3,000 00

NOTES.

1. French Evangelization and Assembly Fund are common to East and West alike, and alike supported by both.

2. Home Missions in the far North-West, and the support of Manitoba College, are in some measure common to East and West, and the Maritime Synod is asked as in former years to help in this work.

3. Mission stations as well as congregations are enjoyed by Assembly to contribute to the schemes of the Church.

4. Congregations are recommended by Assembly to send their contributions quarterly, instead of keeping them to the end of the year, to save borrowing money to carry on the work of the Church during the year.

5. STATED COLLECTIONS FOR THE SCHEMES.

The General Assembly has directed that the Stated Collections for the Schemes of the Church, in congregations where there are no Missionary Associations, be made as follows :

Augmentation Fund, 3rd Sabbath Jan.

Aged and Infirm Min. Fund, 3rd Sabbath Feb.

Foreign Missions, 3rd Sabbath March.

French Evangelization, 4th Sabbath July.

Home Missions, 4th Sabbath Aug.

Colleges, 3rd Sabbath Sept.

Widow's and Orphan's Fund, 3rd Sabbath Oct.

Assembly Fund, 3rd Sabbath Nov.

Manitoba College, 3rd Sabbath Dec.

HOME MISSIONS IN CANADA.

THE following vivid picture is given by Rev. C. W. Gordon, of Winnipeg, in the *Missionary Herald* of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland :

Our Home Missionaries in the Presbyterian Church in Canada conduct services in seven languages, at 1,007 points, with an average Sabbath attendance of 35,779. Their ministrations are enjoyed by 11,356 families, and 3,734 single persons not connected with these families, while the Communion roll in these missions numbers 14,253. In fact, one-eighth of the families of our Church, and one-sixth of the young people in connection with it are to be found in these mission stations under the care of the Home Mission Committees, East and West.

In eastern Canada the work has features of its own, not so striking, perhaps, as those in the west, but still, so important as to command attention and sympathy. For instance, the work in the Province of Quebec, where there are 44 mission stations, 617 families, and 874 communicants, is especially valuable for forming "a breakwater against the inroads of the Roman Catholic Church." These stations are, of course, in addition to the regularly organised Protestant congregations in the province, and must be maintained if we are to keep hold of our Protestant people, and prevent their assimilation by the Roman Catholic Church, with which the vast majority of the people of this province are connected.

In Ontario the mission work is chiefly amongst the lumbermen in the Ottawa Valley, and in the new settlements of Muskoka and Algoma.

But the great Home Mission field of Canada lies west of Lake Superior, and extends from the great lakes to the Pacific Ocean. It is in this vast territory—a country larger than Central Europe, and becoming more or less rapidly settled—that the chief battle for Canadian Christianity is being fought.

We have found it to be a serious thing to neglect new settlements. Let me give some instances. In one valley in British Columbia we found Scotch Presbyterians who had been there twelve years without missionary services. They had intermarried with the natives there, their children had been brought up untaught, and lived more like the savages surrounding them than civilized people. The Sabbath was not observed, and nothing in the valley reminded one of the religion so dear to their Scottish ancestors.

The missionary writes : "I have found here a man who says he has not heard a sermon for thirty-five years ; and another man said to me, 'This is the first sermon I have heard for fifteen years.'" Another writes : "Neglect has told seriously not only upon religion, but upon the decency of the people here." Another missionary