

## THE UNITED BAPTIST WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

Mrs. D. Hutchinson, President.

To the U. B. W. M. U. of the Maritime Provinces belongs the honor of the organization of the first Women's Foreign Mission Board in Canada, and the first Baptist Women's Foreign Mission Board in the world.

The organized work of the women's missionary movement in the Maritime Provinces dates from the year 1870, although the records of denominational history show that as early as 1819 Female Mite Societies existed in certain of the churches "for the purpose of giving the gospel to the destitute at home, as well as in the foreign field."

At first the work of the societies was conducted by Central Boards in the three provinces, the amount contributed the first year being \$1,114.20. Within the next few years independent work was undertaken by the Foreign Mission Board in the Telugu country, which had been assigned to Canadian Baptists as their field for work in India.

Increasing interest and enlarged giving on the part of the home constituency prepared the way for greater service, and led to the union of all the Women's Missionary Aid Societies to form the Women's Baptist Missionary Union, and the Provincial Boards were merged into one Executive Board. In 1885, the number of Societies reporting was 123, and the amount contributed \$3,726.42.

In 1886, the claims of Canada as a Home Mission field were brought before the Union, and with loyal hearts the women responded. Necessary changes were made in the constitution, and from that time Home Missions have been included in the work of the Union.

The great importance of work among the young was early recognized, and a Mission Band Department has proved a most effective and fruitful branch of the work.

In the year 1906, after the union of the two Baptist bodies in the Maritime Provinces, the Women's Baptist Missionary Union and the Free Baptist Women's Missionary Society were united under the name of "The United Baptist Women's Missionary Union," and the Executive Board was enlarged to permit of a representation adequate to the new conditions.

A year later the Baby Band Department was instituted and has ever since

been exerting its sweet influence and performing its helpful work.

The membership of the U.B.W.M.U. is constituted as follows:—

Each W. M. A. Society is entitled to send two of its members as delegates to any meeting of the Union.

Each Mission Band may send one delegate over fifteen years of age.

Any person, by the payment of \$25.00 within one year into the funds of the Union for Foreign or Home Missions, or both, may become a life member and be entitled to a vote at the Annual Meeting.

The list of officers comprises a president, three vice-presidents (one for each province), recording secretary, corresponding secretary, a Mission Band treasurer (to whom all funds from Mission Bands are sent), and a general treasurer. The last named office has been ably and devotedly filled for more than a quarter of a century by Mrs. Mary Smith, of Amherst, N.S., a service worthy of special mention in this connection. In addition to these officers, three Provincial Secretaries are appointed to conduct the work, each in her respective province; also a Mission Band Secretary and a Baby Band Secretary for each province. County and District Secretaries keep in touch with the local Societies and report the work to the Provincial Secretary, who in turn reports to the Union.

The Annual Convention is held in October. Its sessions extend over two days, with a public meeting each evening. Meetings of the Executive Board are held the day preceding the Convention, when reports are submitted, problems and plans discussed and estimates for the ensuing year considered. Many important matters, including the Annual Estimates, are brought before the Union and passed upon in Convention. Quarterly meetings of the Executive are held during the year at St. John, N.B.

The Union supports seventeen single lady missionaries and their work in India, and contributes \$1,080 for work in Bolivia. The total estimate for Foreign Mission work is \$16,500; this includes a contingent fund of about \$750.

Contributions to Home Missions are divided among the following objects:—Western Missions, including Hungarian,