

Our Home Work.

In a note just received from Rev. Dr. Warden, the Agent of the Church in Toronto, he states that the receipts for all the schemes in the Western Section are far behind the corresponding period of last year; Home Missions receipts are about \$9,000 less than those of last year to date, and Foreign Missions in the least favorable condition of any of the Funds.

Into the opening gold fields of our Far West men are pouring from all lands. There are many reasons why we should have Home Missionaries at all available points. 1. The forces of evil will be very active and will make plague spots in our land unless counteracted by the Gospel. 2. Many of our young men from the East are going there. If the Church and Sabbath be not there some of them will be ruined. 3. These mining districts will be the source of at least some wealth and churches established there should early become self-supporting and help to support others. 4. Christ's command is, the Gospel "to all."

YOUNG FOLK'S AUGMENTATION FUND.

Hitherto the Augmentation Committee has made no special appeal to our Young People's Societies and Sabbath Schools, chiefly because we did not wish to divert their attention from the various Home and Foreign and French Mission objects, to which they have been contributing. As the circular which has been sent out shows, we think that at the present time we may make this modest appeal, which practically asks our young people and children, to search "the corners of their pockets," and give to Augmentation the cents, or larger coins, which they had not intended to give to any of the Schemes above mentioned.

Is there any special reason why this appeal is made? Just this, that the Committee finds difficulty in extending the work in the new districts, and especially in the North-West and British Columbia, to fields where it is most important that there should be settled ministers. In many of these fields young men who have "gone West," are in the majority, and we have thought that it should be an inviting object of mission effort to our Young People, that they should help in casting cords around these young men, which will draw them in right paths. Our children too, many of whose older brothers are out there, may surely be expected to be interested in such an effort. Our idea, therefore, is to have the Young Folks' Fund specially devoted to such work in new districts. It seems to be work which is in true accord with that well known Endeavor hymn, "Throw out the life line," and I trust that the members of Young People's

Societies, may cordially fall in with the suggestion of the circular, and that a Rally evening, on behalf of our friends in the West, may be held. They have gone to seek a fortune, and let us seek to keep them always within hearing of the tidings of that Gospel, which offers them the unsearchable riches of Christ.

I have also to ask Superintendents of Sabbath Schools, to explain the object of the Committee to the children, and if possible, to have an Augmentation day in their respective Schools.

Just a little from every Society and School, and the result will be an important and exceedingly beneficial extension of our Church's work. The following circular has been sent out.

To Young People's Societies and Sabbath Schools:

Dear Young Friends:—

In Nipissing and Algoma and our great North-West there are many weak congregations wishing very much that they could have *their own minister*, one likely to remain with them for a number of years. The Augmentation Committee would like to help them, for we think it would do them good; but it is so hard to get the money, for all the older people say that they are giving us every cent they can spare and yet we have not enough.

Sometimes we have thought of you young people and children, but we know about your Mission Bands and Home Missionary Societies and pupils at Pointe-aux-Trembles, and so we thought you, too, might be giving every cent you could spare. Now we think you may have a cent or 5 cents or 10 cents over what you intended for the other missions. So we ask you to consider whether between now and the end of March you can have an Augmentation night in your Young People's Society, or an Augmentation day in the Sabbath School, and send on the collection to Rev. Dr. Warden, Confederation Life Building, Toronto. Don't be afraid to send it because it's small—twenty-five cents or a dollar or five dollars, may be—a great many small gifts will make a large fund and do ever so much good. We shall put all we get into a Special Young Folks' Fund, and use it only for very weak fields in new districts, and after a while let you hear about the results.

I send you a leaflet which may help your meeting, but better still, get your minister to tell you about our work, which I am sure he will be glad to do.

Hoping Dr. Warden may soon hear from a great many of you.

I am, yours very faithfully,
R. Campbell,
Convener.

Renfrew, January, 1897.