

## Our Home Work.

### AUGMENTATION.

BY REV. E. SMITH, CON., EASTERN SECTION.

IF a member of any family is weak and delicate the attention of the other members will be fixed upon this one. Within the bounds of our Church we have many weak congregations which are not able to maintain ordinances unless they receive assistance. And to whom are they to look for help? Certainly to the strong members of the same body.

In bringing the claims of the Augmentation Fund before our people we submit the following points:—

(1) We have on the Fund this year, in the Eastern Section, 55 congregations.

(2) These congregations though augmented do well in their efforts to help themselves.

(3) We require at the very least \$9000.00 to cover our demands, and if the committee is to meet its obligations we should receive this amount in full.

(4) These last two years we have drawn from our Working Balance thereby reducing the amount considerably: but this year the Committee hopes that the response from our congregations, members and adherents will be so liberal that we will be saved the necessity of repeating the action of former years.

(5) The allocations have been made, and Presbyteries and Congregations know what is expected of them. Already about one third of the \$9000.00 has been forwarded to the treasurer, and we make an earnest appeal to the congregations which have not yet contributed to do so immediately. Hitherto the Augmentation Fund has had a grand record, and our earnest prayer is that when the balance sheet for this year is produced it may show that the income has met the expenditure.

E. SMITH, *Convener.*

### THE NEEDS OF THE NORTH-WEST.

BY REV. DR. ROBINSON.

TO lend force to our contentions about a summer session, we have to acknowledge that 34 important missions with about 150 stations are this winter without supply. At all occupied points our church work is being vigorously pushed. There must be a large expansion in spring. The good crop reaped last year is going to stimulate immigration to the west, we must do our part in providing for them. The C. P. R. people extended their lines last season and are still further extending branch lines this season; Settlers follow the railway and we must follow the settlers. Between Calgary and Edmonton in a distance of 200 miles we have only one missionary. In the mining district of British Colum-

bia the people are asking for four missionaries where we have one now. In a stretch of 80 miles with a railway in S. E. Assiniboia, we had not this winter a single missionary. We should have four next spring, for the district is well settled. In Manitoba important districts are also waiting for suitable men.

Last spring Stonewall and Richmond became self-sustaining congregations and since that time, Oak Lake, Souris, Fort William, Alexander and West Westminster, have followed them; while Shanks, Hamiota, MacGregor, Whitewater, Wawanesa, Chilliwack, Indian Head and some other missions have become congregations. Lethbridge and Augustine churches, Winnipeg, have called pastors and both are self-sustaining. Careful nursing will give the church a large list of congregations in the near future in Western Canada.

Church building is going on too. The church and Manse Board has helped to build over 20 edifices, and a few were built without its aid. The board is appealing to the church for \$45,000 additional aid for this fund. In nine years it has helped to build 192 churches and manses and yet the whole capital was only about \$55,000. The fund gets no collection from the church and the wealthy never remember it in their wills. And yet it has given visibility to our church and housed her congregations and pastors. A larger fund is urgently needed. Of the \$45,000 the North-West will itself give \$15,000.

Through the aid of the summer session we want to man our fields the whole year. We are losing heavily now by leaving so many fields vacant for six months or more. Winnipeg students appear willing to accept the summer session in the present crisis of our work, but they cannot undertake the burden alone. Seventy or more men at least will be required for Ontario and the West. Are 35 or 40 students from eastern colleges—Pine Hill to Toronto—willing to come to our aid? The staff in Winnipeg as provided for cannot be excelled in any of our colleges, there will hence be no loss in teaching. The emergency would seem to demand whatever of sacrifice may be involved in changing from a winter to a summer session for one year. The success or failure of the summer session seems to depend now on the young men.

The Home Mission Fund must receive a larger share of the Church's givings. The present revenue should be increased 30 per cent. at least to meet the winter supply and extension. And is there any better investment of mission money than in starting and cherishing healthy shoots planted on the prairie and in the mining districts of the West? Ten years ago we had only two congregations in the West and now about 70, while the revenue has gone up from \$15,100 to \$194,700. Seven years ago we had only one congregation in British Columbia, and now 11 con-