

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF PAST
25 YEARS

OF THE

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

IN CANADA



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We are celebrating to-day the 25th Anniversary of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, which marks the close of a quarter of a century's work. It has been thought a wise and fitting thing, by your Executive Committee, that we should make a retrospect of the work from its beginning, that we may be able, *first*, to give a reason for our existence as a Society, *second*, to know how and by whom it was formed, and, *thirdly*, to record the difficulties encountered in the formation of an organization such as this, and the amount of strength and untiring energy it has required on the part of those who have gone before us, to bring it to the point where we stand to-day. A glance at what has been done in the past, makes our duty very plain. We must be up and doing, that our link in the chain may be lasting and strong, and we must be faithful to the charge entrusted to us, so that those who follow after us may find we have left them a worthy heritage, which they will be glad to take up.

The Woman's Missionary Society (Home, French and Foreign) had its origin in one of the oldest of such organizations in Canada. In the year 1864, there was formed

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in the City of Montreal, a Ladies' Auxiliary Association, in connection with the French mission work of the Church of Scotland in Canada. This society did valuable work for some years. It began by supporting a French City Missionary, Monsieur Antoine Geoffroy, who assisted the Rev. John Tanner in his pastoral work in Montreal, and conducted a Mission at Cote St. Paul. A year or two later they started a day school in connection with St. John's Church, which had about that time been erected on Dorchester Street, Corner of Bronson's Lane. For eleven years work was continued along these lines with varied success. Frequently it was at the point of breaking down, when by renewed effort it revived, until a fresh impetus was given to it, and to *all* Mission work, by the union of the various Presbyterian churches in 1875. In the autumn of that year, the Association was re-organized under the name of the "Ladies' French Evangelization Society." Its object was to co-operate with the General Assembly's Board of French Evangelization in extending the Gospel to the French speaking people of the Dominion. The president and officers with representatives from the several Presbyterian congregations, formed the Executive Board, which met regularly on the first Tuesday of each month, in the Session room of St. Paul's Church. With the late Mrs. John Redpath as President, and a band of energetic workers, much more extensive work was undertaken. Just here we may note with advantage to ourselves, the course pursued by these faithful women, who desired that the work undertaken should be done in such a spirit and in such a way, that in helping others it might also be a blessing to their own souls. In the spring of 1875 they leased a house on Lagauchetiere Street, which was furnished by the liberality of members and friends. A matron (Miss Bean) was secured, and in this house meetings were held, classes taught, and a soup kitchen conducted. In this Mission House three meetings were held weekly, on the afternoons of Monday, Wednesday and

Saturday. On Monday a mothers' meeting was conducted by the matron, religious instruction was imparted to those present, and the time was occupied in making articles of clothing, materials of which were provided by the Society, and given to the needy. As many as 80 were in attendance at these meetings. On Saturday afternoons a sewing class for girls was conducted by Mrs. A. B. Stewart with much success. We wish, however, to mention specially the Wednesday afternoon meetings for Bible study and religious instruction, held throughout the winter, conducted by Mrs. John Campbell. These meetings were largely attended, the numbers present averaged 60, while 90 and 100 were present when the weather was more favorable. They were highly appreciated by the French Canadian women who regularly attended, and were productive of much good.

The Rev. C. A. Doudiet of St. Paul's Church Mission, and the late Rev. Dr. Warden took a personal and deep interest in this work, and were present at the Mission House every Wednesday evening to give counsel and assist in the management thereof. The sick were visited and the needy helped. The Bible woman visited as many as 410 French Protestant families in one year. In 1881, under the presidency of Mrs. John Campbell, the work was changed in several important features. The Mission House was a centre from which went forth help, comfort and blessing to many a troubled soul, so that it was with some hesitation and doubt, that many of its most earnest workers consented to re-model the constitution and extend the work to the Home and Foreign fields.

This change was brought about by a proposal from the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society (Western Division) that the Society, which had previously been almost wholly devoted to French work should become an Auxiliary of their Society, and aid them in their work in the foreign field. It was felt that to unite with the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society (Western Division) would mean entire

withdrawal from French Evangelization, which had been so successful, and was so dear to the hearts of its members. It was also felt that a division of the work into three societies would mean decrease of strength, division of effort and separation of the funds raised. On the other hand, it was plain to all that a society interested in Home and Foreign Missions, as well as French Canadian work, would enlist the sympathies of a large number of women, and become a greater power for good in this Province of Quebec.

The final result was the determination to continue the work of the Society in the French field with increased vigor, assured that they could be loyal to the work among their French Canadian fellow citizens, and at the same time reach out helping hands in response to the cry from heathen lands and of voices nearer home. Thus it was that on April 7th, 1882, the present constitution was adopted, authorizing the Montreal Presbyterian Woman's Missionary Society to carry on, under one board of management, Home, French and Foreign Mission Work, and for this purpose to organize auxiliaries wherever possible. With the formation of the new Society, a large Executive Committee was appointed, with Mrs. Robert Compbell as convener, to meet once a month. At its regular meeting, held on June 26th, 1882, the following resolution was adopted: "Resolved that the Ladies' French Evangelization Society, haaving completed the necessary financial arrangements, do hereby hand over the work done by them to the care of the Montreal Woman's Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, hoping that this step will further the interests of this important work." The ladies who composed the French Evangelization Society, were appointed a Committee to continue the work already in operation, and two other committees were formed to look after the Home and Foreign work to be taken up.

It is needless to say that the work of the first year was slow, and many of the members were oftentimes discouraged.

To review the work of twenty-five years of a Society such as ours, embracing as it does three branches, in the short time allotted to us, is no easy matter. Perhaps it might be well to consider it under three heads: What has been done; How it has been done; and By Whom it has been done.

The French work was carried on as far as possible as formerly. The services of Mr. Lockert were obtained for City Mission work. In April, 1883, Mr. Lockert, having been called to another sphere of labor, it was deemed advisable to secure in his place the services of an intelligent Bible woman, who might gain an entrance to closed doors by the services she could render. Madame Coté, a widow, and daughter of one of our respected French families, was selected for the position. Her knowledge of the Scriptures, and her ability to communicate them to others, were considered sufficient qualifications for this difficult work. In June, 1883, she was engaged at a salary of \$20 per month and is still with us. For twenty-four years she has pursued her daily task of visiting among the French poor of our City, Roman Catholic as well as Protestant, also among the poor of our French Protestant congregations, relieving the temporal needs of those in difficulty and distress, with clothing and food, and money to a limited extent, rendering assistance in the home or ministering to the sick, endeavoring to enlighten the ignorant, to guide and strengthen the weak by reading the Scriptures, and ever and anon repeating "the old, old story of Jesus and His Love." Sewing Classes, Helping Hand Circles, and Mothers' Meetings have been conducted by her, and much good accomplished. Madame Coté annually makes an average from 1,000 to 1,150 visits. Her work has proved to be a great help to the French pastors of the City, and thus it was that her assistance was thank-

fully received and welcomed. All this paved the way for hearing of better things, and many have been led to believe in God's love and trust in His Providential Dealings.

The Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Duclos were conducting a mission about this time at Hochelaga with much success.

In 1887 the Society undertook to raise \$5,000, the sum required to remodel the girls' school at Pointe aux Trembles. The following year it was found that this estimate of the work was too small, and that a much larger sum would be required. At the end of the year, Mrs. Robert Campbell, convener of this Committee, was able to report the sum of \$4,118.00 collected. We have seen the work at the schools at Pointe aux Trembles grow and increase in usefulness. In 1898 the support of four pupils was undertaken by this Society at a cost of \$200. In 1902 this number was increased to eight pupils, at a cost of \$400, and in 1903 we reported a further increase to twelve at a cost of \$600.

The Society has contributed regularly to the Board of French Evangelization, and, as it grew in strength and numbers, it has always aimed at extending its usefulness, and having workers under its own control; and so in 1904 it undertook to support a colporteur: Mr. George André was secured to do Mission work throughout the Province of Quebec at a cost of \$400 annually, and a student is employed to assist in the same work during the summer months. The success of this move warrants the outlay, and it is expected that this work will be productive of good results in the future. As yet it is only in its infancy.

The Home Mission work undertaken by this Society was confined to the City for the first four years, and was really City mission work, carried on with a view of assisting the City clergymen, in conjunction with the Rev. Mr. Patterson, City Missionary of the Church. Miss McIntyre, a trained nurse, was employed to visit the Protestant sick poor. We can readily understand how, in our trying

winter months, Miss McIntyre was welcomed by those in distress, her average number of visits being 170 per month, and as many as 1,191 visits made in a year. What Madame Côté does among the French, Miss McIntyre did among the English—distributing literature, linen, clothing and comforts, endeavoring chiefly to assist the very young and the very old. Miss Watt, Miss Oswald, Miss Burden and Miss McSween continued this work in the order named. It would be impossible to estimate the value of the work done in this department. To none but those who have a personal knowledge of the cases, can a full knowledge come. Suffice it to say: many sick ones were relieved, shelter was secured for others, situations were found, advice given, and many, unwilling at first to hear the truth, were glad to accept of "the true bread which cometh down from Heaven."

For four years the City Mission work was under the direction of Mrs. Peter Laing, followed by Mrs. A. C. Leslie and Mrs. Tasker. Then Mrs. Haldimand ably and acceptably conducted it for fifteen years. She was followed by Mrs. Robert Campbell. In 1901, Miss McSween (who had worked so acceptably for this Society) resigned her position after thirteen years of service. During this period, the City was gradually changing. Many new institutions of a philanthropic character had been established. Among others the Diet Dispensary, The Day Nursery, The Moore Home, The Victorian Order of Nurses and our Ladies' Aid Societies, all working for the poor of our City, made it apparent that this branch of their work might be discontinued without causing hardship to its former beneficiaries. Therefore, no one was employed to replace Miss McSween. In 1886 Mothers' Meetings were started. These were held every Wednesday afternoon in the Mission building, corner of Nazareth and Wellington Streets. This work, under the direction of Mrs. Robertson and Mrs. Millar, and afterwards under Miss McPherson and later Mrs. A. B. Mackay, Mrs. Slessor and Mrs. Crawford

was carried on for many years with much success. The Cote St. Antoine Mission Band and the Band of Willing Workers, rendered valuable assistance to this department of the home work.

In 1886, through the liberality of our North Georgetown and English River, and Lachute Auxiliaries, your Society was able to make a grant of money to Mission Work among the Indians in the North West. In 1887, the claims of the North West were urged upon us, and two boxes of clothing were sent to Broadview, Assinaboine, for distribution among the needy. This branch of our work rapidly extended, and was willingly taken up by every Auxiliary. Some Auxiliaries send one or two boxes, others three and four annually, to our North West brethren. Mrs. Dewey, convener of the Home Mission Committee, reported, in 1901, that the work of this Committee was principally the sending of clothing to the North West. Ten Auxiliaries sent their own boxes to Dr. Reid for distribution among the Doukhabors and Galicians, and thirteen auxiliaries sent clothing to other fields. It is almost impossible to estimate the value of these gift boxes (if we may so call them) to the recipients. And then let us recall the self denial practiced, the labor expended, the enjoyment experienced, as well as the interest taken in preparing these boxes and bales! In one Auxiliary of which we know, where the members had worked long and faithfully to prepare a box of clothing, they formed a circle round it, before closing it up, and sang: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow"! In 1900, our Society undertook to support one Missionary in the North West at an outlay of \$250. In 1901, another was added, and for work among the foreign population we gave \$334. The same number of Missionaries was maintained in 1902, and for medical work among foreigners in the North West \$456 was expended by the Society. In 1903 and 1904 we were responsible for four missionaries, and in 1905, we increased this number to five.

Our Home Mission stations are Ladysmith, Vancouver Island, at present without a pastor; Stand Off, Southern Alberta, in charge of Rev. Calvin McQuistan; Valley River, Dauphin, Manitoba, in charge of Rev. J. F. Cowan; Warren, in New Ontario, in charge of Mr. William Anderson; Orford, Quebec, in charge of Mr. L. E. Lynd.

Since undertaking the support of these Mission Stations, the Home Mission Field has become doubly interesting, through the letters and reports received regularly from the pastors, and we have been gratified at the results of the work. Two of our stations, Sintaluta and Weyburn, have become self-supporting during the past year. Valley River, in Manitoba, and Warren, in New Ontario, were assigned to us in 1906 in their stead, and, as a new station, Orford, in Quebec, was added to our list. Your Committee feel that this branch of our work is a great blessing to both givers and receivers. Our one hope is that we may be able to greatly increase our laborers in this part of the Lord's Vineyard!

Turning to the Foreign Field, the work of the Society during its first year was restricted chiefly to correspondence with Missionaries. Letters were written to Revs. J. W. McKenzie and Joseph Annand of the New Hebrides, the Rev. J. M. Christie and Miss Blackader of Trinidad, and Mrs. Fraser Campbell of Mhow, India, with a view to ascertain and decide where our work should begin. It was resolved to support a native teacher in Formosa, and, if funds could be raised, to pay the salary of a native teacher for the Zenana Mission in India. For some years after its inception, the Executive Committee did all in its power to arouse interest in Foreign Missions, by having papers prepared on Foreign Mission subjects for the monthly meetings, and addresses by City ministers were frequently given. A box of clothing was prepared and sent out to Mrs. Fraser Campbell at Mhow, India, in 1885 and \$100 was devoted to the Foreign Field. In 1886 the amount was increased to \$175, in addition to \$123 from North

Georgetown and English River. In 1887, with increased funds and evidence of growth in our Auxiliaries and Society, the Executive Committee greatly desired to take up work in India, and send out a Missionary of their own. On corresponding with the Foreign Mission Board, we were informed that no woman missionary could be sent to India, except through the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society (Western Division). This was a great disappointment. However, at a special meeting, held in March, 1889, the Society decided to turn its attention to Honan, where the Church already had so many missionaries. In April, 1892, the Society resolved to pay the salary of Miss Lucinda Graham, a medical missionary in Honan, and the Executive expressed the hope that all moneys raised for Foreign Mission purposes, be first given to meet this obligation. It must be understood that all auxiliaries were at liberty to distribute their money as they saw fit; hence the Society had some misgivings about undertaking the support of Miss Graham. However, in the faith and hope that the means would be forthcoming, Miss Graham's salary was assumed.

The Society now realized, with much pleasure, the increased interest aroused in having a Missionary of its own. Her letters and reports were gladly welcomed, until, in October, 1894, the Society was deeply grieved to hear of Miss Graham's death, which occurred on the 13th of that month. For a time all seemed dark and mysterious. Miss Graham's letters breathed a spirit of hopefulness and devotion to her work, and indications of the coming harvest were most encouraging. For a time, the funds of the Society were placed at the disposal of the Church's Foreign Mission Board, whose work was suffering for want of means, until another Missionary could be found to take up the work so ably begun by Miss Graham.

Still desiring to have a missionary of their own in the Foreign Field, the Foreign Mission Board assigned to the care of this Society, Dr. Jean Dow for Honan, China, and

it was the privilege of your Society to see and hear Miss Dow in June, 1895, before she left Canadian shores for the distant field of China. At this time Dr. Dow quite won the hearts of all who heard her. We have no hesitation in saying that a more consecrated and devoted missionary to her work than Miss Dow, is not to be found. Thoughts of herself, her surroundings, and her personal comforts, are forgotten. Her work, as we read of it in letters and reports, seems imbued with piety and an intense longing for the saving of souls. Her only, and constantly repeated request is: "Pray for us. Pray that the Spirit of God may be poured out upon us. Pray that we may have strength and courage to perform the duty that is ours, in a land where sin and ignorance reign."

In January, 1896, Mrs. J. C. Thomson, who had recently returned from China, laid before the Society the urgent and pressing need of more workers in China, and dwelt particularly on Macao, in the southern part. The district is four miles in extent, beautifully situated, and a place particularly adapted for the extension of the work. The great need of the women and children in this part of China was laid before us. The earnestness of Mrs. Thomson's appeal, accompanied by a personal knowledge of her subject, and a desire for the well-being of these people, left an impression upon the Executive Committee which bore good fruit. The Society, having been strengthened by the formation of new auxiliaries, decided to become responsible for the salary of a native teacher in Southern China. Until its 16th year, the Society was hampered by the fact that under the constitution, subscribers and auxiliaries could allocate their subscriptions to any department of the Society's work, and the Society was never able to undertake the support of a Missionary, or a special field. They could not be assured of the sums they might pledge themselves to provide, and hence, we find, among the disbursements of its funds, sums varying in amount, donated to Formosa, Mhow, Erromanga, Indore, Zenana

Work in India, Nemuch, Bheel Hospital India, Armenia, the Canadian North West, Klondike, and so on. While this was a very great work, these sums were, after all, only subscriptions, varying in amount, and the longing in the hearts of many of the Executive was to have a Missionary or a field of labor it could call its very own—something definite to work for, believing that if all our auxiliaries could be united in one common effort, the results would be far greater, while the scattered work we were doing was like a drop in the bucket, or like seed scattered by the wind, lost to view. The Executive Committee felt strongly that it would be wiser to concentrate its efforts upon a special field of labor. The only way to secure this end was to have the constitution altered, and we find that notice of motion was duly given for this purpose. Here many difficulties arose. All our members were not of the same mind. It would have been strange if they had been! After much correspondence with each auxiliary, the desired point was gained, Article V. was dropped from the constitution, and it was agreed that all moneys raised should be disbursed as the Executive Board should direct. It may be well to state here that each auxiliary has two representatives, who, with its president, have a voice in the allocation of the funds of the Society.

It had long been the desire of our Society to work in India. This desire was gratified in the sending out of Dr. S. McCalla, who left Canada in October, 1900, for mission work in Central India. Her period of service was not long, for in scarcely two years after she began work in Central India, her marriage to the Rev. Harvey Grant, necessitated her departure to Honan.

In 1900, owing to the Boxer uprising in China, Dr. Jean Dow, with many others, was obliged to return to Canada. When our Society was looking forward to having her with us here in Montreal, and was prepared to receive and welcome her as their Missionary, we learned with regret, and some surprise, that she did not belong to us, and that we

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had no control over any of her movements. The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society (Western Division) had been assigned the field of Honan as their own special field of work, by the Foreign Mission Board of the Church, consequently, we had no right to have a Missionary in that field. The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society (Western Division) asserted their control over Dr. Dow, and we were obliged to submit. Dr. Dow returned to China in 1901, and resumed her work in Honan. We have continued to support her as a Missionary of The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society (Western Division), to the present day. The time has come, we think, when this support should be withdrawn from the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, much as we shall regret to lose our correspondence with Dr. Dow, whose letters are a constant inspiration to any one interested in missions. The Foreign Mission Board, knowing that we desired to have a field of our own, and that we were dissatisfied with an arrangement whereby, although supporting a Missionary, we had no control of her work, offered us the field of Macao and it was accepted to *have* and to *hold* as our own special corner of Mission work. Steps were at once taken to secure two lady missionaries for Macao, and Dr. Isabella Little and Miss Agnes Dickson were designated to this work in Erskine Church, September 16th, 1904. They sailed on October 31st of that year, and arrived at Macao November 22nd. Another disappointment awaited us, as before these ladies had been in Macao one year, Miss Little had resigned her position. Happily, a successor was found in Dr. Jessie McBean, who, willing to go at once, was designated to work in Macao, in St. Paul's Church, Montreal, December 14th, 1905. Miss Little remained in office till December 31st. We cannot yet speak of the fruits of this work. Suffice it to say, that Miss Dickson has mastered the language to a considerable extent, and has already been privileged to reap some fruit from her labors.

The question of a Leaflet was agitated as far back as 1888, but it was not until April, 1904, that we were presented with the first issue of the "Outlook." This publication, so concise and pithy, yet overflowing with useful and interesting missionary news, is filling a long felt want. It was the one thing required to keep our auxiliaries, out of the City, in touch with the work of the Society. It is also the medium by which every member may enjoy the letters received from our Missionaries.

For some time it was thought that perhaps the name of our Society, "Montreal Woman's Missionary Society," kept some churches from organizing an auxiliary, as the name might appear local, consequently, after due notice of motion had been given, and the question discussed, at the suggestion of the Montreal Presbytery, the word "Montreal" was dropped, and the wider and broader name adopted of "The Woman's Missionary Society (Home, French and Foreign) of the Presbyterian Church in Canada." Soon after this change of name, the Society was the recipient of the banner which you now see before you, with the name and motto of the Society inscribed thereon—the gift of Mr. Robert Munroe.

In 1900 the "Topic and Prayer Card" was adopted. This was revised by a Committee in 1902, and is now in use.

Letters of congratulation and thanks from the General Assembly for the work accomplished by this Society, in assisting the Church in its Mission work, have been received annually.

How Has All This Work Been Accomplished?

By meetings held regularly once a month; by stimulating and inciting an interest in Missions, through papers prepared and read at meetings, as well as by reports and letters from those in the field; by addresses on Missionary

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topics from our pastors, and by lectures and addresses by returned missionaries.

In 1893, it was thought a wise move to hold quarterly meetings of all auxiliaries, for conference, at which important questions could be discussed, and interest in our work aroused. These meetings were held in January, June and October; that in October being the Thank-offering. These meetings were continued for ten years until 1903. It was then decided to discontinue them and hold united meetings whenever returned missionaries were available. As many as twenty-four returned Missionaries have addressed either annual or special meetings. In December, 1884, the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Fraser Campbell of Mhow, Mrs. John Morton of Trinidad, Rev. H. A. Robertson of Erromanga, and the Rev. Hudson Taylor of the China Inland Mission, were with us. In 1891 we had Miss Margaret Rodger of India, whom many of us knew as a pupil in Erskine Church Sunday School. In October, 1892, Dr. Swanson, of Swatow, China; 1894, Dr. Marian Oliver of India; 1895, Miss Jamieson of Nemuch; 1896, Dr. Jean Dow, of Honan; 1897, Miss Sinclair of Indore; 1898, Rev. Norman Russel of Mhow, India; 1899, Dr. Margaret McKellar, and Dr. O'Hara; 1900, Miss Chase and Mr. Wilkie, Indore; 1901, Mrs. Goforth, Honan; 1902, Mr. Spencer Walton, South Africa and Dr. Marian Oliver; 1903, Miss Edge, Bombay, and the Hon. Emily Kinnaird, Zenana B. and Med. Mission; 1904, Miss Sinclair; 1905, Mrs. Buchanan, India, Miss McKellar and Dr. O'Hara; 1906, Rev. John Griffith, Honan.

The chief means by which the work of this Society has been accomplished, is the organization of auxiliaries. Forty-six have been organized. Beginning with North Georgetown and English River, the increase has been gradual and continued. North Georgetown and English River is the oldest Auxiliary of the Woman's Missionary Society. It was in existence before our Society was formed, in connection with the Canadian Woman's Board of Missions. After the organization of this Society in 1882, it joined its

forces with ours, and has been a strong right hand of the Society ever since. In 1885 there were added, Lachute, Russeltown, Covey Hill and Athelstan; in 1886, two, Valleyfield and Sherbrooke; in 1887, Lachine; in 1890, St. Gabriel, Stanley, Knox, Erskine, St. Paul's, Crescent; in 1892, Grenville; in 1893, St. Cuthbert, St. Matthews and Beechridge were added; in 1894, Chalmers; in 1895, Taylor and Melville; in 1896, Rockburn, The Gore, St. Giles, Westminster, St. Johns and Huntingdom; in 1897, Beauharnois; in 1900, two, Leeds and MacGillivray; in 1901, St. Mungo, now known as Cushing, Montreal West St. Hyacinthe, Richmond, Windsor Mills, Danville; in 1903, two, Elgin and Hemmingford; in 1904, three were formed, MacVicar, Dufferin, Ste. Thérèse; in 1905, two, Scotstown, and St. Andrews East; in 1906, four, Kinnear's Mills, St. Louis de Gonzague, Chateauguay and MacVicar Memorial; in all 46. For various reasons five, Grenville, Rockburn, St. Hyacinthe, Windsor Mills and MacVicar, have lapsed. Two Danville and Sherbrooke, have joined the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society (Western Section which reduces our number to 39.

Another aid to our work is that of the Mission Bands. These are five in number. St. Andrew's Church, Westmount, formerly called Willing Workers' Mission Band, was organized by Mrs. John Dunlop in September, 1884, and is now twenty-two years old. It has proved a great success among the young people. The others: Knox Church, St. Johns, Grace M. B., Richmond, and Montreal West are all doing good work.

The funds for the maintenance of all our work have been raised through the auxiliaries. By the growth of our auxiliaries and increased liberality, which is to be seen in the returns made from year to year, it is evident that our interests in Missions is much increased. The total amount raised since 1882 is \$71,679. In its first year the Society raised \$1,326. In the thirteenth year the receipts were double those of the first. In the twentieth year they

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were almost three times those of the first. In the twenty-third year they were more than four times those of the first. In only four reports is there to be found a perceptible decrease on that of the previous year. This year the receipts, exclusive of our 25th Anniversary Fund, which amounts to \$1,309.50, are \$5,499 as compared with \$1,326 subscribed in the first year, and are \$346 in excess of the receipts of last year.

And now, you may ask, who have been the workers in this organization? The hand of time that moves incessantly, and leaves its impress on everything, has dealt gently with us; and yet, we have not escaped untouched. Many who entered into the work, at the organization of the Society, with energy and zeal, have "been called to a higher service above." They have been sadly missed, and others have accepted the vacant offices with much hesitancy. The names of Miss Henrietta Gordon, first treasurer of the Ladies French Evangelization Society; of Mrs. Coussirat, Miss Dunmore, Miss Saunderson, Mrs. A. C. Leslie, Mrs. Archibald Campbell, Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. A. B. Stewart, Mrs. Drysdale, Mrs. Slessor, Mrs. Tasker, Mrs. W. P. Yuile, Mrs. Boyd and others will never be forgotten in this Society. From other circumstances, such as increasing years, declining strength and removal from the City, many workers have been obliged to withdraw from active service. We would remember them with gratitude and thankfulness, and while they have served faithfully (many of them in office) and deserve a well earned rest, we know their sympathies are with us and their financial support gladly given. We respect and revere the names of Mrs. Duclos, Mrs. Haldimand, Mrs. Davidson, Mrs. Haldane, Mrs. A. B. Mackay, Mrs. Furlong, Mrs. Morton, Mrs. Nichols and many others.

We are thankful and happy to say that many who began this work at its organization, are with us to-day in their full strength and vigor. For this we are more than grateful. They have been the mainstay and strength of the Society.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to Mrs. Robert Campbell, who has been in office since the formation of the Society in 1882, and is the only active member who was connected with the original Society. In the first year of its existence, when no one could be found willing to assume the responsibility of President, Mrs. Campbell presided, and she has filled almost every other office. To her devotion to its interest in the early years of its struggle, to her intimate knowledge of its work and detail, as well as by the energy and influence of her example, she has on many occasions given an added interest to its affairs, and has largely contributed to bring about the measure of success to which it has attained. It is the desire and sincere wish of every member that she may be long spared to help us with her wise counsel and her ripe experience.

Mrs. John Campbell was president for one year; Mrs. W. J. Dey for two years; Mrs. Archibald Campbell for one year and Mrs. Robert Campbell for two years. Mrs. Grier, our present presiding officer, has been President for seventeen years, and has seen the growth of the Society from year to year under her faithful, devoted and most acceptable leadership.

The late Miss McMaster filled the position of Recording Secretary from the formation of the Society till 1903, when, owing to, failing health, she was obliged to withdraw from the office she had so ably filled for twenty-one years. Last spring she was called away to her eternal rest. The record of the minutes, and her annual reports glow with the deep missionary spirit with which she was imbued, and her name will always be remembered as one of the builders

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of this Society. Mrs. Walter Paul succeeded Miss McMaster for two years.

Miss Saunderson, who was Treasurer of the Ladies' French Evangelization Society, was Treasurer of the Woman's Missionary Society during its first year. She was succeeded by Miss Isabella Macintosh, who retained the office until 1904 another period of twenty-one years of faithful service, joyfully and gladly rendered. Miss Macintosh extends to the Society the use of her home for all sub-committee meetings, of which it thankfully avails itself. It is in deed and truth a home for the Woman's Missionary Society. When, through force of circumstances, Miss Macintosh was compelled to withdraw, her resignation was accepted with much regret. Our hope is that she may long be spared to cheer and stimulate us in our work! The Society was fortunate in its choice of a successor to Miss Macintosh in our present Treasurer, Miss Harvie, who has been in office for four years.

The corresponding secretaries are responsible for much. We know some difficult letters have been penned by those who have served in this office. Our first Corresponding Secretary was Miss Henderson (now Mrs. Paul), in office for two years; she was followed by Miss Jean Samuel for four years; the late Mrs. A. C. Leslie followed for three years; Mrs. Hawthorne, one year; Mrs. R. Campbell, three years; Mrs. E. Scott for five years; Mrs. R. A. Dunton, three years; and Miss Muirhead, now in office, for four years.

Since the beginning of last year we have frequently been asked, "How shall we celebrate this 25th Anniversary"? For a Society such as this, that exists solely for one purpose—that of sending the Gospel message to those who have not heard it, there seemed to be only one thing to do, namely, to increase our funds, if possible, that thereby we might increase our usefulness as a Society. Many things were suggested, but it was not until October that it was decided to raise one thousand dollars to com-

memorate the 25th Anniversary. This amount was to be raised over and above the usual annual revenue. It was suggested that each Auxiliary should, if possible, collect enough money to send in the name of one or more life members. Many had grave doubts and fears as to the result of such a scheme, others thought it rather late in the year to expect to raise such a sum. We soon realized, however, that it was a great stimulus to have something definite to work for.

Ours hopes have been fully realized, and it is with feelings of deep gratitude that we are able to announce a 25th Anniversary Thank-offering of \$1,309.50.

Let us trust that the success, which has attended the work of this Society in the past, will continue in an increased proportion, and that, while assisting our brethren and sisters in the Home field to receive the glad tidings of the Gospel, we may be able to do our share in opening up the great Empire of China to accept the Gospel of Christianity. Who can say what barriers will be broken down and new fields opened in the next quarter of a century? And:

"May the Lord of the Harvest on us smile,
When He comes to reap in a little while."

ELLIOT BUSTEED,
Recording Secretary,
W. M. S.

February 5th, 1907.

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Auxiliaries were organized as follows:—

Georgetown & English	St. Giles	1896
River	Rockburn	1896
1875	Westminster	1896
Lachute	St. Johns	1896
1885	Beauharnois	1897
Russeltown and Covey	Leeds	1900
Hill	MacGillivray	1900
1885	Cushing	1901
Athelstane	Montreal West	1901
1885	Richmond	1901
Valleyheld	St. Hyacinth	1901
1886	Windsor Mills	1901
Sherbrooke	Danville	1901
1886	Elgin	1903
Lachine	Hemmngford	1903
1887	Dufferin	1904
St. Gabriel	St. Thérèse	1904
1890	MacVicar	1904
St. Paul's	St. Andrews East	1905
1890	Scotstown	1905
Stanley	Kinnears Mills	1906
1890	St. Louis de Gonzague	1906
Erskine	Chateauguay	1906
1890	MacVicar Memorial	1906
Knox		
1890		
Crescent		
1890		
Grenville		
1892		
St. Cuthberts		
1893		
Beechridge		
1893		
St. Matthews		
1893		
Chalmers		
1894		
Taylor		
1895		
Melville		
1895		
The Gore		
1896		
Huntingdon		
1896		

The total receipts for the twenty-five years amount to \$71,679.36, collected as follows:—

	YEAR.	AMOUNT.
1	1883..	\$1,326 00
2	1884..	1,273 84
3	1885..	1,228 42
4	1886..	1,468 49
5	1887..	1,449 02
6	1888..	1,587 87
7	1889..	1,615 61
8	1890..	1,615 35
9	1891..	1,829 63
10	1892..	2,188 36
11	1893..	2,462 45
12	1894..	2,383 63
13	1895..	2,739 90
14	1896..	2,561 25
15	1897..	3,143 53
16	1898..	3,354 99
17	1899..	3,021 47
18	1900..	3,670 54
19	1901..	3,550 92
20	1902..	3,641 74
21	1903..	4,108 22
22	1904..	4,051 70
23	1905..	5,453 61
24	1906..	5,153 44
25	1907..	6,799 38
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		\$71,679 36

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