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W. B. M. U. TIDINGS.

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS PER YEAR.

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Amherst, N. S., Nov., 1896.

No. 34.

MOTTO FOR THE YEAR.

"Workers together with Him."

PRAYER TOPIC.

For our North West Mission, the work among the Indians and all the laborers, that this year there may be a great ingathering of work.

Suggested Programme for November. The Work of the Past Year in the North West.

Let the President ask for a few moments of silent prayer, and then let her voice the petitions.

Hymn.

Scripture, Psa. 107 : 1-21.

Reading of minutes of last meeting.

Prayer by two or three.

Hymn.

Reading Tidings.

Short discussions on the Prayer Topic for the month. How can we help to answer it?

Prayer for those sisters who are not interested in this work.

Report of the Treasurer of the Aid Society for the quarter just ended.

Closing prayer.

In future we hope to have letters from the North West as we do from India, but for this month, we would advise that in accordance with the above subject given us for this month that the report of the Committee on Home Missions be read, as there are in that report some interesting items in connection with the work of the past year.

The following notes we take from the annual report of the Conventions in the North West.

In speaking of responsibilities, the Superintendent says :—(We quote all for it applies equally to us. The whole land is ours.)

The year has been one of great commotion throughout the world, wars and rumors of wars have caused great excitement and alarm. The cries of

the suffering Armenians have arisen to heaven and encircled the globe; and from beneath "the altar" may be heard afresh the wail "How long, O Lord, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth." The time of the Gentile seems about fulfilled. The coming of the Lord draws nearer day by day. But though He should tarry our stewardship must soon end, our responsibility is great. It becomes us to make the best of our opportunities that we may render up our account with joy. We are debtors to the whole human race. No mission field is more vitally connected with all parts of the world than this, we have representatives here from nearly all lands. These bring us into closer touch and sympathy with the nations to which they belong, and bring them nearer to us. The heathen are at our door and in our midst. The masses are unsaved. Tremendous issues hang upon the faithfulness with which we discharge our duty. We must meet the demands of the situation, or be overwhelmed by heathenism, atheism, formalism and catholicism. Our immediate work is to bring those amongst us to the knowledge of Christ. There are more than 30,000 French and other Catholics in this country, groping in darkness without the light of God's word, immediate steps should be taken towards their evangelization. We are doing nothing for the Icelanders, and multitudes of other foreigners are entirely neglected. We are only touching the work amongst the vast population of Germans and Scandinavians. The English-speaking work we are doing is meagre compared with the requirements and opportunities. We dare not hold our peace in a time like this, every day will help to make or mar our future.

The importance of our country was probably never so conspicuous as now. The prolonged discussion of our School Question has attached attention to us. Last year's harvest was abundant, and the prospects indicate that this one will be bountiful.

A large number of people from other parts have settled amongst us, a good many of whom are Germans and Scandinavians. This constant incoming tide and the large families growing up on the soil here give us a basis upon which to calculate the multitudes for whom we must provide Gospel privileges.

In reading this record of the year's work it does seem that God's hand was outstretched to bless in a very signal manner. He also seems calling in loudest tones, that we will do well to heed—to us to enter in and reap the harvest for Him.

See what the churches there have accomplished.

It is a great satisfaction to us to be able to report that the general condition of the work is good. There has been great advancement made during the year both in the spiritual and financial condition of the churches. They are buckling down to their burdens with wonderful determination, debts have been greatly reduced; several have asked for smaller grants; some are nearing self-support; a larger amount has been raised by our own churches for missions; spiritual refreshing has come to them; and a good harvest of souls has been gathered; peace and harmony dwell almost entirely unbroken; the whole body moves forward with a steady ongoing that inspires large hope for the future, and devout gratitude for the present.

We have enlarged the place of our tent, we have lengthened our cords, and strengthened our stakes. In no

year of our history has such great and substantial advance been made as in the one now closing.

In the Edmonton district we have doubled our English force by the settlement of Pastor C. B. Freeman; a graduate of Acadia and Rochester colleges, and a man of marked ability and consecration. A church has been organized at the Sturgeon, making the third English-speaking church in the district.

The German work in this part of our field has more than doubled, and still further enlargement is being made. This is a most interesting portion of our German work. You will remember that only about three years ago, a colony of Russian-Germans settled in this district. In that colony there was a Baptist church of about 20 members, this colony has become a German-Baptist stronghold. Just before our last convention the church completed a house of worship. During the year a second church was organized—the Otokwan church—with a present membership of 154; a second house of worship also has been completed. A third chapel is in course of erection, and a third church will be organized soon.

At our last convention hopes were entertained of establishing, in the near future, a second English-speaking Baptist church in Winnipeg, our highest hopes have been realized, the church has been organized, and has already a membership of 110, and a £. S. of 150. By their hearty invitation we have the unutterable gladness to-day of meeting with them. Our joy is still increased by welcoming their esteemed pastor, Bro. A. J. Vining, to our country and the work.

Thus fortifying our position strongly at these commanding points of our field we believe to be an important

advance. But we have much more yet to tell of the year's advancement.

The Scandinavian work has been permanently established and the missionary force doubled, and new work opened up. The Scandinavian church in the city is commencing to build a chapel. Pastor Stolberg, who has been settled amongst us since last convention, is a tower of strength to our mission work.

Much more might have been done had the means been at hand.

The first German Baptist Church was organized in the British North West in 1886 at Edenwald, Assa.

The Gretna and Wolsley churches were organized in 1894.

Besides those, churches have been organized at Northfield and Greenfield (English) and Morden (German). The total number organized was six; two Germans and four English. There is material ready for three churches of Indians.

Had there been sufficient funds a permanent evangelist might have been employed during the year. What a grand work for our W. B. M. U. ! The salary of a permanent evangelist. During the past year 341 have been received into the churches by baptism.

One of the most gratifying reports of the year was that of Superintendent Mellick of his trip among the Indians. Eternity alone will reveal the extent of this branch of our work. Bro. Prince is still the faithful minister to his own people. Our hearts well up with gratitude when we tell of the wonderful outpouring of blessing upon the Indian work during the year, over 100 converts having been baptized; a house of worship was built for them at Fairford. The Lord has magnified His name and mightily used His servant Prince.

Speaking of the work among the

Indians the Corresponding Secretary says :

Bro. Prince has had fulfilled in his experience that inspiring promise "He that ;oeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing bringing his sheaves with him." Immediately after our last convention Mr. and Mrs. Mellick and Mr. Prince made a trip north to Fairford, St. Martin's, Little Saskatchewan and other reserves. For four years Mr. Prince had been making trips to these reserves and sowing the seed of the kingdom ; now the time had come to gather in some of the harvest. The Lord most graciously blessed the Word. It was treaty time and the Indians were gathered from afar. Seventy six were baptized and many others wished to come forward but were asked to wait and get a fuller knowledge of the Word.

In closing his report the Sec'y says. "The work in this new country is very great. Let us be ready to avail ourselves of the opportunities as they are presented, remembering that, "The King's business requires haste.

The Lord has been pleased to intrust a portion of His work in our hands. Let us be faithful to that trust, working as in the search light of eternity "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor, that we through his poverty might be rich." Will Christ be richer in souls won from the kingdom of darkness this coming year because we have in some small measure obeyed the injunction to work while it is day.

The converts are in four groups along the waters between Lake Man-

itoba and Lake Winnipeg. It is expected three churches will be organized out of the material there this summer. A chapel was built at Fairford and services are kept up by the Indians themselves. It is a matter of gratitude to God that he has kept these converts from falling and is making them witnesses to His truth amongst their fellow Indians. Bibles and hymn books in Cree, Syllabic and English have been distributed amongst our people. Services have been kept up in the Little Saskatchewan meeting house by the brethren there. Immediately after the trip north, Mr. Mellick and Mr. Prince visited the Reserves south of Portage la Prairie. They found it difficult to interest the Indians there, they are so strongly attached to their heathen customs. They also visited Westbourne where they found large gatherings of Indians. Some professed conversion, and two from the far northern Reserves were baptized. Mr. Prince made another trip to the Portage Reserves later in the season, and made his annual winter trip north in January. The Indians in the north had been urging for this trip. He was accompanied by Bro. John Sanderson, a half-breed brother who is deeply interested in the cause. They found the work in good condition. Several meetings were held at the various points and many professed conversion and some were baptized. Returning by way of Portage, Bro. Prince visited Sandy Bay Reserve on Lake Manitoba. Bro. Prince having to undergo such hardship on this trip, contracted a severe illness but has since quite recovered.