

THE CONFERENCE.

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CHURCHES AND MEMBERS.—The number of churches reported this year is 112, with a membership of 9,113.

The additions during the year were 331. The net gain is 113.

The unreported churches, numbering forty-six, have, probably, a membership of 2,000 to 3,000. It is highly important that they be looked up, and a correct record be made.

NEW CHURCHES.—A new church was organized at Olinville, Q. Co., and the branch church at Clarendon has become an independent church.

REVIVALS.—Twenty-eight churches reported revivals, and 256 were baptized.

Thirty-four churches report gain in spiritual life; ten report loss; the others make no report as to this.

WITHOUT PASTORS.—Of the reported churches, twenty had no regular pastoral care during the year. Some of them had some mission work done amongst them, and some had occasional visits from neighboring pastors.

CHURCH BUILDINGS.—Two new churches have been dedicated during the year—at Graves Settlement, K. Co., and Mount Pleasant, C. Co. Improvements have been made on the church buildings at Mill Settlement, S. Co., and Peniac, York Co., and probably on some others not reported. New churches are in course of erection at Ortonville, V. Co., Beaconsfield, V. Co., North Lake, York Co., Gaspereau, Q. Co., Geary, S. Co., and Cornhill, K. Co. A parsonage is being built at Fredericton Junction, and a fund for one at Victoria Corner is being raised. Several churches have paid off debts, or reduced them.

The table on the preceding column shows the contributions for all purposes as reported by one hundred and twelve churches:

The foregoing table is a compilation of the figures furnished in the reports of the one hundred and twelve churches which reported to the District Meetings. Since the table was made up your Secretary has procured from the Treasurer of the W. M. Society a statement showing that the amount received by her from the District Societies, including the contributions of Mission Bands, is \$1,805.28, being \$792.47 more than was stated in the church reports as paid to this branch of the work. This fact is mentioned to illustrate the incompleteness of the financial statements in the reports of the churches, and to emphasize the importance of more carefulness in the preparation of reports. The Corresponding Secretary's financial statement can never be a full and accurate showing of what the churches are doing to support the cause until each church makes a full report of what it does in every department. No financial report ever made to Conference has shown the full amount paid by the churches to the several branches of our work. The fault, however, is their own.

COMPARISONS.—Following is a comparison of some facts in the reports of last year and this year:

	1902	1903
Churches reported,	111	112
Members of Reported Churches,	9,178	9,113
Revivals,	36	29
Baptisms,	273	256
Net increase,	170	113
Money raised,	\$29,965.67	\$29,725.24
Average salary,	406.00	405.00
Average per resident member,—		
(a) For local work,	4.13	4.22
(a) For local work,59	.48

Sixty churches, with 4,160 resident members, contributed to Home Missions; fifty-six churches, with 3,677 resident members, contributed to Foreign Missions; the Conference Fund was paid by ninety-four churches, with 5,522 resident members; the Students' Fund by seventeen churches, with 1,409 resident members; and the Aged and Sick Ministers' Fund by seventeen churches, with 1,466 resident members.

Of the reported churches, fifty-two, with 2,153 resident members, gave nothing for Home Missions; fifty-six, with 2,636 resident members, gave nothing to Foreign Missions; eighteen, with 791 resident members, paid nothing to the Conference Fund; ninety-five, with 4,904 resident members, gave nothing to the Students' Fund; and ninety-five, with 4,847 resident members, gave nothing to the Fund for Aged and Sick Ministers.

MINISTERS.—At the beginning of the Conference year there were on the Conference roll forty-six ordained ministers. Two of them "rest from their labors," but their works abide. Rev. C. F. Rideout, who had for several years been out of the active work, died at the home of his son, in Washburne, Me., December 27th, 1902. Rev. G. A. Hartley, D.D., died February 15th, 1903, in St. John, West, where for forty-five years he had been an earnest and beloved pastor. They have their reward. The Conference will make suitable record of their lives and labors.

Of the ordained ministers, twenty-seven have been engaged in regular pastoral work; six have labored almost constantly, but without definite engagements; one has been editor of the denominational paper; four have been unable to preach, owing to age and ill-health, and five have been absent from the province.

Of the licentiates, six have been pastors, three have preached during vacation, and two are at Cobb Divinity School.

The rule (see Year Book, 1896, Res. 38) which requires each minister to send a written report of his year's work to the Corresponding Secretary, has been overlooked by the majority of the ministers.

Rev. John Perry reports that he is not in good health, and realizes that his powers are failing. And yet he preaches nearly every Sunday. He has supplied for Brethren Fenwick and Foster, and has had appointments of his own at Victoria Corner, Connell and Florenceville. He enjoys preaching, and the people who hear him assure him that they enjoy listening, and are helped. He would like to attend Conference, but will not be able to do so.

Rev. J. T. Parsons is in failing health, and will not again be able to attend Conference. He writes a few lines to assure his brethren that he has not forgotten the time of the annual meeting, and wishes he could be with them. He says he "suffers no pain, and has constant peace."

Rev. J. N. Barnes says: "My work has been much the same as last year, except that I have done more evangelistic work. I have visited and held service in eighty-four churches. Have not done so much organizing as last year. Have distributed about 4,000 pages of missionary literature, gave away sixty-five New Testaments and many tracts, and have been blessed to see at least forty-five persons make a start for the kingdom, about

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Districts.	First.....	Second.....	Third.....	Fourth.....	Fifth.....	Sixth.....	Seventh.....
Salaries.	\$ 328 00	2,536 79	2,940 84	1,481 59	949 64	2,897 00	3,452 33
Current Church Expenses.	\$ 40 00	545 30	712 30	176 25	269 36	446 43	1,260 48
Buildings, &c.	\$ 40 00	1,720 32	858 65	2,191 10	61 00	1,504 42	1,128 20
Home Missions.	\$ 2 00	69 13	87 39	6 00	31 91	72 27	53 63
Foreign Missions.	\$ 0 25	45 06	91 31	6 02	25 75	92 49	53 98
Conference Fund.	\$16 35	72 45	74 15	59 35	80 45	107 35	164 25
Sunday Schools.	\$ 29 75	127 40	146 65	200 78	24 78	135 92	475 75
M. Students Fund.	\$0 75	1 50	25 00	25 00	33 26	54 50
Aged and Sick Mins. Fund.	\$0 50	95	5 25	1 25	17 10	22 81	66 77
W. Miss. Society.	\$ 15 89	358 58	94 65	79 91	47 50	156 07	260 21
Other Funds.	\$.....	248 00	54 00	84 00	50	127 04	73 43
Totals.	\$ 473 49	5,725 48	5,090 19	4,286 50	1,597 99	5,598 06	7,043 53

FINANCIAL.—Thirty-eight churches report having increased in financial strength, and eight churches have become weaker financially.

Forty-one churches report having increased their support of local interests, and nineteen churches have increased their support of missions and other general work.

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