church has advanced along all lines. The work has been pleasant, but the physical and nervous strain has proved a little excessive, and because of this I am retiring from the field."

Rev. R. W. Ferguson is completing his second year with the church at St. John west. He says: "I am enjoying the work. The years of seed sowing and patient care have not been without effect. And although my ways are not those of my predecessor, Dr. Hartley, and the people were accustomed to none but his, they have been very considerate and thoughtful and kind. We thank God for a revival during the year, when for the first time it was my privilege to baptize five converts. In denominational work there is increased interest; contributions for home and foreign missions having been doubled. We hope the coming year may see a great advance in all lines of Christian activity. I am to remain another year.

Licentiate J. C. Wilson reports: "The year was spent in study at the U. N. B., and in caring for the church at Gibson. Although all our expectations were not realized the year has been one of prosperity. The church has not grown numerically, but it has improved spiritually, and there is prospect of greater blessings." He will remain with the church another year and will, also, go on with his studies at the University.

Licentiate Cochrane has spent the year with the Lincoln-Rusiagornis pastorate. During the first part of the year, and through the winter, on account of his college work, only the Sunday services were attended, with some of the conferences. Since the closing of college the pastoral work has been attended to. In the spring a few special meetings were held at Rusiagornis, which were helpful. Spiritually, the churches are about the same as last year. Lincoln church has nearly funds enough to remodel the interior of the church building. The year, he says, has been a good one, and he enjoyed the work much. He intends to relinquish the pastorate now, feeling that during his senior year in college he will not be able to do the work he thinks should be done.

Licentiate H. M. Manzer spent the year at the U. N. B., completing the Sophomore year. At the close of the college year he went to the Queensbury pastorate, and has been there since. He says: "The work has been in many respects encouraging. I wish some good man could take charge of this pastorate. At the close of vacation I shall return to college."

Licentiate H. W. McCutcheon reports that he has been teaching and studying this year. In July he went to Beaver Harbor under the auspices of the H. M. Board, remaining till the first of September. "I have enjoyed the work at the Harbour very much." He has not yet decided fully on next year's course, but may attend college.

Licentiate T. D. Bell has spent the year in the Tobique field, which embraces Rowena, Arthurette, Long Island, Riley Brook, Dow Flat, Foster Cove, and Plaster Rock, covering distances of forty-five miles. At the three last named places there are no church organizations. He has also given some help to the church at Ortonville. Special meetings were held at Rowena and Riley Brook, and fourteen were added to these churches by baptism and one by letter. There is a new church being built at Rowena. He feels encouraged. He will remain another year.

Licentiate J. J. Bonnell reports that the first two months of the Conference year since he labored at Kingston and Holderville. At Kingston three were baptized and four united with the church. January first he went to Deer Island, where he has remained. Special meetings at Fair Haven resulted in the baptism of twenty converts; others were helped, and the work generally strengthened. Two weeks' special meetings at Chocolate Cove resulted in quickening the church. Church work in the pastorate has improved much, and hard work and a little help for the present will make it a self-supporting field.

Licentiate G. F. Bolster has been in charge of the Norton-Midland pastorate. He reports that he has "enjoyed the work;" that it "has not been without fruits; sixteen have been baptized, eleven uniting with the Long Point church and four with Norton." He will remain another year, and expects to take up his studies at Sussex.

The other ministers seem to have forgotten the rule of Conference (Year Book, 1896, Res. 38) which requires them to report.

Licenses were granted by the Third District Meeting to Brethren H. R. Boyer and J. J. Bonnell; by the Fourth District Meeting to Bro. H. W. McCutcheon; and by the Seventh District Meeting to Bro. J. Harvey.

Your Corresponding Secretary made further efforts during the year to have the census errors corrected, but without success. He finds that the error of 472 names in Marysville, which in his last report he said had been corrected, has not been corrected. The statement that correction had been made was on the authority of the Census Commissioner. In the census reports now being distributed through the country the error remains. In the spring of this year an official of the Census Bureau made what was called an investigation in Lincoln, Kars and St. John. The Minister of Agriculture stated in Parliament, in answer to inquiries, that the "investigation" resulted in showing that the original enumeration was correct. If that statement were true it would mean that every Free Baptist in Lincoln, where there are three congregations, and in Kars where there are two congregations, and hundreds of them in St. John city, ignorantly declared to the enumerators that they belonged to another denomination, and that they have since sworn that they did so. Your Corresponding Secretary knows that this is not so. He has challenged the census officials to produce ten such cases in either of the places named, but has not yet had any response. He regrets to have been compelled to believe that the only purpose the census officials have in this matter is to conceal the truth about their original blunders. And this they seek to do by pretended investigations and the repetition of false statements, every one of which is an insult to the intelligence of our people. That our churches may know the seriousness of the census errors of which complaint is made, and which your Corresponding Secretary, acting in behalf of the Conference, has endeavored to have corrected, the statement is here repeated that the errors have deprived us, in the census, of at least 9,000 of our pople, and possibly a larger number.

That it has been possible to get reports from so many churches is encouraging.

More care in filling the report forms will enable the secretary to present a truer exhibit of the life and activities of the churches, and, probably, a more satisfactory one.

Every church should contribute to every branch of the work, local and general.

The average salary has increased slightly, but the churches need to make the increase considerable, if they would have their pastors able to meet the increased cost of living. The contributions to the fund for aged and sick ministers needs the attention of the churches.

The Conference a few years ago requested a yearly contribution from every church for this fund. A renewal of that request at this session might have good effect.

There are too many small churches. In cases where it can be done judiciously, the amalgamation of churches not far apart would be an advantage.

There are many things about which most of the churches, perhaps all of them, need careful instruction, among them the better support of pastors, larger provision for aged and disabled ministers, more practical interest in missions, the importance of the mid-week prayer-meeting, a more regular observance of the Lord's Supper. Your Secretary would suggest that probably much that is defective in these things might be remedied if the churches gave more attention to evangelism. The Conference might profitably devote some time to the consideration of the needs in this respect, and to devising a plan of general evangelistic work, to be largely carried on by the pastors, with the co-operation of devoted laymen. To spread abroad the message of salvation, and to persuade men to the faith of Jesus is the business of Christ's church. The Lord enable this branch of his church to see its full duty, and do it.

Jos. McLeod, *Cor. Sec.*

September 17th, 1904.

The adoption of the report was moved by Rev. D. Long. He said the report could not be accurate, from the fact that it was hard to get reports from all the churches. He mentioned Bro. Peters' successful efforts to secure such reports from all the churches in the Seventh District. It was pleasing to see that the churches were providing parsonages. Speaking of the services of the churches he urged more general and regular observance of the Lord's Supper. This is Christ's command, and should be obeyed if we would have the best spiritual blessing. The mid-week prayer meeting should be more largely attended, as it is the heart of the church's life. He also urged more devotion to missions. One reason why we have a lack of ministers

(Continued on page 12).

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