

MONEY ESSENTIAL TO GROWTH

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Recently the daily press reported that at the annual meeting of the Women's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church in Canada, the Board passed appropriations of \$436,860.84 for the mission stations of China, Japan and home fields. Do we visualize what this means? The figures represent a sum getting well on to the half million mark, also money disbursed, not by men who are supposed to handle and deal with money in large sums, but by the women throughout Canada who are part of the above named organization.

We know things to a great extent by contrast. Because this is so, it is not a bad idea to look at the above with the view of comparing any budget in which we may be concerned to examine how we stand in the light of comparison. To be perfectly fair it should perhaps be stated that the women who adjudicated and handled the big aggregate were in the fortieth year of their foundation. Experience and undoubtedly system along business lines had all contributed to the financial showing. As an illustration of what women can do by united effort, this is surely an outstanding illustration.

Another example of the way monies are handled by women is that of the method adopted by the Daughters of the Empire in financing their organization. There are in the Dominion somewhere between thirty-five and fifty thousand members, the doubt as to exactness of numbers being the fact that as all are not paid-up members the roll is not easily obtainable. These thousands as members of primary chapters pay a fee annually of one dollar. How this dollar is distributed is the point of our illustration. Twenty-five cents of every dollar go to the National Executive, a sum arranged somewhat on a sliding scale according to local arrangement goes to the Provincial and the remainder is kept for the needs of the Primary chapters. Next year a new order is coming into force. It is that fifty per cent of the fee or fifty cents of every individual dollar paid as fee, go to the support of the National. The change evidently is due to the ever-growing realization that a national organization to do good work must receive general and generous support from every unit that enters into its make-up. Otherwise the entire body must suffer.

Here then are two concrete cases of the manner in which funds are treated by national bodies. The apropos of the subject is that we may view ourselves in the class of national organizations and see how we measure up in the matter of support. As Catholics we have a reputation for giving. A statement that lately appeared in the press was from a Protestant minister who used statistics to show that Catholics give more to charity than do non-Catholics. Our answer to this might be "perhaps we have done so in the past but now others are setting the pace." In other words there is movement all about us in religious, philanthropic and patriotic circles, which tends to the broadening on a large national scale of the idea of giving, while we for the most part cannot see beyond the bounds of parochial needs. Ten cents per member from the Catholic Women's League is all that is asked by the National. Fifty cents a year is all that is asked for the publication which is the organ of the association. Both rates are so low that they are almost absurd by comparison with others. However if members of the Catholic Women's League throughout Canada do their duty to their organization in regard to tax and magazine there will be no grumble because these are the rates which initial organization seemed to warrant. †