

Thirty-sixth General Assembly

St. Matthew's Church, Halifax, N.S.,
Rev. John Forrest, D.D., D.C.L., Moderator.

MANITOBA AND SASKATCHEWAN.

Rev. Dr. Carmichael, of Winnipeg, submitted a report of his work in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, giving a graphic picture of the manner in which the duties of a missionary are discharged and the difficulties with which the representatives of the church are confronted in the newer districts. He also dealt with the interesting subject of the Presbyterian work among the Gallicans.

The progress of missions is not uniform, but varies, with the kind of settlement, the equipment or lack of it, the continuity of supply, and the efficiency of the missionaries. Two of the difficulties, that stand in the way of progress are first, our inability to put the strong missionaries into the fields needing strong men and secondly, the lack of proper equipment for them to do their best work.

Another hindrance is the lack of suitable and central places of worship. In the new mission fields, the services are held in private houses. Those that are suitable for this purpose, and that can be secured, are often at one side of the district being served. In older districts schoolhouses are secured, which answer admirably until the second school is built. The people in the vicinity of the second school think they should be formed into a station, and cease going to the first place of worship.

Eleven churches and nine mansees and shacks were built during the year. The interests of the work called for a much larger number. The exhausted treasury of the church and manse building board, and the failure of the crops in so many districts in the two previous years, prevented church building on any extended scale.

Fifty-seven new missions were opened during the year. Sixteen were added to the augmentation fund. Three became self-supporting without augmentation aid. Were all these fields in one group, they would form a presbytery with 19 pastoral charges, and the largest number of mission fields in the church.

THURSDAY.—Second Day.

After an hour spent in devotional exercises this morning, the Assembly listened to a communication from Rev. Dr. Du Val, of Winnipeg, who is laid aside as the result of an accident, giving his impressions of a celebration which he, as the representative of the Assembly, attended in Geneva, in honor of the four hundredth anniversary of the birth of John Calvin.

Statistics of the Church.

The report of the Committee on statistics, presented by Rev. Dr. John Somerville, said that the Presbyterian Church in Canada might well offer the converse of John's prayer for Galus, and pray that in all spiritual things she might prosper and be in health even as in material things she has been prospered. Certain accommodations were made for more effective reporting of statistics, and a large mass of information presented. There are now 157,161 families connected with the Church, and 279,556 members, a net increase of 9,868 during the year. By profession of faith, 15,720 persons were added during the year and the committee think that a gain of one communicant for ten families is something calling for searching inquiry. The amount of five dollars per communicant was set before the Church as the standard to be aimed at for giving for the schemes of the Church. It has been reached by only one presbytery. Westminster gives \$5.56, Halifax comes next, yet its contribution is only \$3.23, closely followed by Montreal with \$3.16, and Toronto, fourth, with \$2.89. Westminster is first in giving per family, with \$3.38 and

Toronto second, with \$6.58. Montreal next with \$6.37. During the year for all purposes, including \$1,410,161 for ministerial salaries, and \$811,526 for missions, an increase of \$130,000—the Presbyterians of Canada raised \$4,078,504 for Church purposes.

The Board of Trustees of the Presbyterian Church in Canada (western section), of which Mr. Robert Kilgour is Chairman, reported the contribution to the schemes of the Church to have been, on the whole, decidedly in advance of those of last year, amounting to \$607,988.12, as against \$542,337.22 last year.

The Convener, Mr. John Lowden, and Rev. Dr. R. Douglas Fraser, reporting for the Committee on Sabbath School Publications, noted several developments in that department. The total circulation of the eleven periodicals was 261,855, a net increase for the year of 8,503.

FRIDAY.—Third Day.

Reports on Colleges and discussions thereon took up the time at morning and afternoon to-day. In the discussion of the Montreal College report, Rev. A. L. Burch said: "Montreal College is the only institution we have that is making any attempts to solve the problem of Quebec. It stands at the centre of that great French province and the people feel a life of freedom of thought, which they covet."

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Dr. Buchanan, of India; Dr. Leslie, of Honan, China, and Dr. Harold, also of Honan, were among the speakers at a great public meeting held in the evening, when the report on Foreign Missions was presented.

In the summary of the work during the year, the foreign mission committee stated that it had started on its work facing a debt of \$19,251.75, with a revenue considerably less than the annual expenditure. A special appeal to the Church had resulted in the practical removal of the debt, but as the revenue had increased by only about \$1,000 over the previous year, the accounts showed a debit balance of \$10,963.67 on February 28th, so that for the time being retrenchment had become necessary. Last year the ordinary revenue was \$53,327.67, but another \$15,000 was needed to properly maintain the work already undertaken and to provide for expenses.

Work in Corea has progressed considerably, but there was need for immediate and energetic action. The new census gave the population of Corea as 16,000,000; but while it was hard to get at the true figures, there was no doubt that the Church had become responsible for at least half a million converts.

In North Formosa there were four departments of mission work, the Evangelistic, the Educational, the Medical and Woman's Work, all of which were showing marked progress. Native evangelists took a prominent part in mission work, and at the end of 1909, four native pastors, forty-two graduated evangelists and eight students were in charge of churches. A number of these native workers showed increased zeal in their work, and one encouraging sign amongst them was an increasing desire to preach the Gospel to the heathen.

A theological college was opened last year, at which nineteen native students were in attendance. The period of instruction was divided into two courses of three years each, the preparatory and the theological. During the session the theological students preached frequently in the streets. The committee emphasized the need of the missionary teachers being well versed in the Chinese language. Five students graduated from the college last year.

Disaffection in China.

Reports from China showed that a measure of disaffection existed on the part of the Chinese towards the foreign missionaries. Famine and the increased cost of living had created a certain amount of discontent and the natives had vented their resentment on the foreigners. Insubordination amongst the Normal school boys at Wicheh had resulted in the temporary closing of that institution. While this had a salutary effect, yet hard feelings were generated which would take time to allay. Rev. Dr. MacGillivray, of Shanghai, had translated many works into the Chinese language, which would prove a powerful factor in promoting Christian ideas amongst the natives, and work in Macao had shown a steady development in all branches of the mission field.

Though mission endeavor suffered amongst the Chinese owing to the wave of excitement that passed over the country in connection with the murder of a white woman in New York by a Chinaman, many converts to Christianity had been made during the year. Toronto, with a Chinese population of 1,400, possessed nine Chinese classes in different Presbyterian churches, seven men being baptized during the year. The work had also progressed in Winnipeg, Montreal and Vancouver, and the Chinese of Canada had contributed \$3,734 to the Macao mission, which is in their home land and therefore of special interest to them.

Work Among Indians.

Work by the Indian missions in the synods of Manitoba and Saskatchewan had gone on successfully. In its report the committee touched on the frequent infringement of the law forbidding the sale of intoxicating liquor to Indians, which it stated was practically a dead letter. Another obstacle was the Indian marriage law, which left either party free to break the contract and enter into another marriage. The synods had 16 missions within their boundaries and upwards of 300 individuals were professed Christians. The attendance of children at the schools was also good, 850 Indian pupils being enrolled during the year. With regard to the work amongst the Indians of British Columbia, though no expansion had been reported, yet the work had progressed satisfactorily.

Toronto Jewish Mission.

The past year in the work of the Jewish Mission in Toronto had been one of unusual activity, though considerable opposition was evinced by the Jews towards the mission, permanent and satisfactory work had been done. With the permission of the General Assembly Mr. S. B. Rohold, the superintendent, had been ordained by the Presbytery of Toronto for work among the Jews. In addition to his work in the mission, he had visited 923 homes, and given 374 addresses to Jews. Some advance had been made towards getting a new home for the mission, a lot at the corner of Elm and Elizabeth streets having been purchased, and building operations will likely commence in the new year.

The Foreign Mission Committee passed a resolution recording its deep sense of the loss sustained in the removal of one of its members, the late Principal Wm. MacLaren, who was appointed a member of the First Foreign Mission Committee of the Presbyterian church in Canada.

The general report on mission work in Trinidad drew attention to the inadequacy of the present staff and the financial resources. The contributions from the members of the native church, however, had shown a marked increase.

SATURDAY.—Fourth Day.

Mayor Chisholm brought greetings from the city to the Assembly. He was received by the moderator, and when introduced, the Assembly stood as they welcomed him with rounds of applause. The mayor's address was a model in diction, in thought, and in