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No. 71

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

CANADA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

(CONTINUED FROM THIRD PAGE.)

SIXTH DAY.

The Moderator took the chair at ten o'clock. After devotional exercises, the minutes of the previous day's proceedings were read and confirmed. The Committee on Bills and Overtures submitted the order of business for the day, coupled with a recommendation that the time of speakers during the diet should be limited to ten minutes. This was agreed to.

HOME MISSION REPORT.

The clauses of the report left unadopted from the previous day were as follows:—

6. That Mr. Cochrane be requested to accept the sum of \$100 as a slight recognition of his very valuable services for the past year.

7. In regard to the overture about mission in Glenawny, your Committee recommend that the matter be remitted to the Presbytery of Montreal to deal with it in its wisdom, and the Home Committee recommend treating the case as liberally as possible.

8. In regard to that portion of the report on routes which refers to the appointment of a Mission Agent, your Committee recommend that a Mission Agent be at once appointed, and leave the suggested amendments to be considered after the appointment is made.

9. Your Committee consider that the purpose of the overture about Missionary work from the Presbytery of Simcoe is fully attained by the Act of the Assembly of 1871, recorded in the Assembly minutes for that year (page 44), together with the recommendations which follow.

10. In regard to the recommendation on page 14 of the printed report, your Committee recommend:—(1) That No. 1 be adopted, and that it be applied on and after the 1st October, 1873. (2) That No. 2 be adopted with the amendment, instead of the words "by a proportionate increase in the supplement granted," read "in the amount of supplement granted." (3) That the following be adopted in addition:—"That no supplement be granted to congregations who do not contribute to the schemes of the Church."

11. That the Committee on Standing Committees be requested to report at the next session the nomination for the Home Committee, so as to give the Committee which shall be appointed the opportunity of transacting some very urgent business before the close of the present session of the Assembly.

Rev. Dr. Thornton moved in amendment to the eighth clause, that notwithstanding the report from Presbyteries being in favour of the employment of a Mission Agent, and the extensive operations of the Home Mission Committee now demanding more attention than the Convener is able to give to them, yet in view of the special calls that will be made upon the liberality of the members and adherents of the Canada Presbyterian Church for building Knox College, and the salaries of additional professors; and especially in view of the Union now near at hand, it is not expedient in the present crisis to appoint a Mission Agent, but that Mr. Cochrane be empowered to obtain such assistance as may be indispensable.

Rev. Dr. Waters moved in amendment to the amendment, "That under the circumstances the Home Mission Committee be authorized to procure such assistance as may be indispensable, and pay them the amount of \$200 for that purpose."

This amendment was carried, and there put as amended was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Lowry the sum of \$50 was voted to Rev. Mr. Torrance, Guthrie, for his services in connection with the Home Mission.

ASSEMBLY FUND.

The report of the Committee on the Assembly Fund was presented and read. It recommended that the Assembly approve of the system of Assessment; that congregations be assessed on the basis of membership; that all congregations of the Church be required to contribute to the fund; that the minimum contribution be \$1.00 per annum for each congregation.

After some discussion the report was recommended.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Finance Committee brought up their report for the year 1872-3, from which we extract the following:—

The receipts for the various schemes of the Church for the year 1872-3 have been, on the whole, satisfactory, with scarcely an exception. The amounts received have been in advance of those for the preceding year. The printed accounts would be in the hands of the members, and the receipts and expenditures for the different schemes would come before the Assembly in connection with the reports of these schemes. The amounts received from congregational collections for the ordinary schemes of the Church are here subjoined, with the amounts received for the preceding year:—

For the year 1871-2. Assembly fund, \$2,101.88. French Evangelization, \$2,648.81. Widows' fund, \$8,184.75. Foreign Mission, \$11,202.32. Home Mission, \$14,992.09. Knox College, \$6,139.81. Kankakee, \$2,437.84.

For the year 1872-3. Assembly fund, \$2,479.91. French Evangelization, \$2,792.18. Widows' fund, \$8,490.06. Foreign Mission, \$10,547.88. Home Mission, \$19,019.68. Knox College, \$6,236.90. Kankakee, \$8,437.84.

The following was the audited balance-sheet appended:—

DR.	
General Assembly Fund	\$ 933 16
Knox College Fund	59 94
Kankakee Mission	201 05
Merchants' Bank	4,114 70
Ontario Bank	5,250 34
Special deposit	4,204 45
Cash on hand	1,112 55
	\$16,989 33

CR.	
Knox College Endowment Fund	\$5,162 10
" Bursary Fund	90 45
Foreign Mission	5,109 56
Home Mission	129 22
French Evangelization	123 84
Home and Foreign Record	9 78
Widows' Fund	637 10
Manitoba College	2,800 15
Rev. J. S. Carruthers	364 30
Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund	1,651 97
	\$16,989 53

The report was adopted.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

The Committee appointed to consider the report of the General Assembly's Committee on Sabbath Observance, reported as follows:—

- I. The Committee call the attention of the Assembly to the following encouraging facts presented in the report:—

1. The fact has been elicited that on our lines of railway the Sabbath traffic has been considerably abridged, being in the case of many confined merely to cases of temporary and extreme urgency; while in no case has any attempt been made to call in question either the civil or sacred law, or to justify the evil on any other ground than that of the exigencies of commerce, and in all cases the desire has been expressed by the managers of railway companies to confine it within the narrowest limits possible.

2. Legislative action has been begun with a view to control the Sabbath traffic on lines of travel under the management of the Government, and in several instances the judicial authorities have spontaneously interfered to enforce the existing law.

3. The parties more immediately interested as railway employes have, with remarkable unanimity, entered upon an agitation both in the United States and Canada to enforce their claims to the enjoyment of the day of rest.

4. The cordial co-operation of most of the religious bodies in Ontario has been secured in the movement.

5. In several important localities, associations are already formed for the purpose of enforcing the civil law, and elevating the tone of public opinion in this important matter.

If the Committee at the same time call the attention of the Assembly to the great extent to which the evil of Sabbath desecration still prevails, especially in connection with some of our railway lines, and they would give special prominence to the fact that the main difficulty in the way of the suppression of this form of the evil arises from the connection of several of our Canadian railways with the great thorough routes of American travel, and the large extent of Sabbath traffic on these lines.

- III. The Committee would submit to the Assembly the following recommendations:—

1. That the Assembly continue the appointment of a Committee on Sabbath Observance, with instructions to continue their efforts in the direction in which such gratifying results have been already secured.

2. That the Committee be instructed to continue negotiations with other religious bodies in the Dominion, and with prominent parties in important centres of influence, with a view to secure the formation of a general organization with local branches throughout the Dominion, for the purpose of enforcing the existing law and elevating the tone of public opinion on this matter, by the diffusion of information through the circulation of suitable literature and the agency of the public press.

3. That in view of the international aspects of this question the Committee be instructed to open negotiations with churches in the United States with which this Church is in correspondence, and with other associations there having similar objects in contemplation, for the purpose of securing concert of action in both countries in suppressing this form of Sabbath desecration.

4. That the Assembly recommend their Standing Committee to extend the range of their efforts, so as to include all other prevailing forms of Sabbath desecration.
5. That a Pastoral letter be addressed to the members of this Church calling for their active co-operation in this matter, that a Sabbath be appointed for the purpose, and ministers enjoined to bring the claim of the Sabbath before their congregations, and make it the subject of special prayer.

6. That the Committee be empowered to draw from the Assembly Fund to defray the necessary expenses of these negotiations, it being, however, distinctly understood that no action be taken by the Committee, and no funds of this Church appropriated for public prosecutions to enforce the civil law; this being left exclusively to the Associations whose formation is contemplated.

(Signed) A. B. SIMPSON, Convener.

The report was adopted.

The Assembly adjourned at 1 p.m.

AFTERNOON SEDEURNT.

The Moderator resumed the chair at three o'clock. After routine business, Rev. Dr. Waters announced that the

Rev. Mr. McLaren had accepted the Professorship of Systematic Theology at Knox College.

Rev. Mr. McLaren thanked the Assembly in a few appropriate remarks for the honor conferred upon him.

FOREIGN MISSION REPORT.

The Committee appointed to consider the Foreign Mission report, presented as follows:—That the report with its recommendations be adopted, and that the Assembly record its thankfulness to God for the tokens of His favor given in connection with the operations of the Foreign Mission during the past year, as specially manifested by the success which has attended the labours of Rev. Mr. McKay, at Formosa; and further that the Assembly express its satisfaction with the change contemplated by the Committee in regard to the mode of conducting the Prince Albert Foreign Mission. In regard to the overture asking the Assembly to adopt a proposed scheme for raising funds on behalf of the Foreign Missions, the Committee recommend that the overture be published in the appendix to the minutes of the Assembly, and in the record, and that it be remitted to Presbyteries and Sessions for consideration.

On motion of Rev. Mr. Cochrane, the report was adopted.

KIXONS PETITION.

Rev. Mr. Cochrane presented the report of the Committee on the petition from Kixons, who recommended that it be referred to the Home Mission Committee. Report adopted.

AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS' FUND.

Dr. Thornton presented the report of the Committee on the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, which was as follows:—1. That no one shall share in this fund who enters the Church after reaching the age of fifty. 2. That in order to have a claim on the fund each minister shall have \$600 or under, shall henceforth contribute yearly thereto fifty cents for each hundred dollars of his professional income, and each who has upwards of \$600, one dollar for every hundred. 3. That anyone who, at the period of his settlement in charge, shall neglect to connect themselves with this fund, shall be dealt with as in arrears thereto. That for all arrears one-tenth extra must be paid, and that each minister who for four years neglects to join, or having done so, shall for that period omit to pay, shall lose all interest in the fund, unless solid cause is assigned, and certified to by the Presbytery within whose bounds the person resides. Further, that notice be given to each before he is cut off; but that should the Committee neglect to do so, that neglect does not prolong the defaulter's right. 4. That no Presbytery shall accept of a resignation, if, as the result thereof, an application is to be made to this Committee, until due diligence has been used to get from the congregation an allowance for the retiring minister, and the Presbytery shall, when making the application, satisfy the committee on this subject ere any grant is made. 5. That each minister who is admitted shall, if he has served ten years or under, receive the sum of \$100 a year. If he has served over ten years he shall receive at the rate of ten dollars for each year of service till the amount of \$800 is reached. 6. That ministers who have served forty years, and all who serve until they shall come to the age of seventy, shall (if they retire in a proper and orderly manner) receive the sum of \$400 a year. 7. That each accountant shall, at the beginning of April in each year, furnish the Committee with a statement, certified by the clergy of his Presbytery, of the amount received by him on account of labor during the previous year, and that no payment be given at that term till such statement is received, and the Committee may, if they see cause, diminish or withdraw the grant. 8. That if the income of the Committee be not sufficient for the full payment of grants according to the scale here proposed, the Committee shall reduce them accordingly. 9. Exceptional cases shall be reserved for the consideration of the Assembly.

The report was adopted.

SABBATH SCHOOLS COMMITTEE.

The report of the Committee appointed to consider the report of the Sabbath School Committee was submitted and read. It recommended that for the present the memorial of the Presbyterian Church, Brantford, relative to the establishment of a Sabbath School department, be not granted. A great uniformity in the hymn books employed was considered advisable, and the use of the psalms in all the Sabbath Schools advised. The Committee further recommend that the Session take more direct oversight of the Sabbath Schools, and that, so far as possible, teachers therein be members of the Church. The Committee fully endorsed the recommendations of the report advising the use of a uniform series of lessons in the schools, and believed the International series to be worthy of first consideration. Ministers were recommended to give occasional sermons to the young.

The portions of the report given above were adopted.

TEMPERANCE AND PROHIBITION.

The various overtures and papers on Temperance were referred to a Committee, to report thereon to next Assembly, the Committee in the meantime to prepare a petition to the Houses of Parliament, to be signed by the Moderator, praying for the blessing of a prohibitory law.

The Assembly adjourned at 6 p.m.

ENENING SEDEURNT.

The Moderator resumed the chair at half-past seven o'clock. After devotional exercises and routine business, Col. Haultain, delegated from the Synod

of the French Canadian Evangelical Churches, addressed the Assembly. During the course of his remarks he adverted to the strong desire of these small Churches to maintain an individual ecclesiastical union, as best fitted to meet the wants and sentiments of their French Protestant brethren, whose language and nationality must for a long time to come operate against any amalgamation with the English speaking Churches. In conclusion, he urged the necessity of thoroughly instructing Protestant congregations in regard to the departure of the Church of Rome from the truths of the Gospel, and of putting prevents on their guard against committing the care of their children into the hands of those so hostile to their faith.

The Moderator conveyed the thanks of the Assembly to Col. Haultain for his instructive address, coupled with an expression of good-will towards the Churches he represented.

RECEPTION OF DELEGATES.

Rev. Mr. Wallace, of the United Presbyterian Church of North America, having been formally introduced, conveyed to the Assembly the cordial greetings of his Church.

The Moderator replied in felicitous terms.

SEVENTH DAY.

The Moderator took the chair at ten o'clock. After devotional exercises, the minutes of yesterday's proceedings were read and confirmed.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures presented their report recommending the order of business for the day, which was adopted.

THE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE.

Rev. C. C. Stewart presented and read the report of the Committee on College matters to the following effect:—

In respect to Knox College the Committee recommend that the Assembly tender thanks to Rev. Dr. Topp and Rev. John Campbell for their valuable services rendered to the College and the Church in their kindly consenting to take part in the work of the session when the College staff was unexpectedly weakened by the resignation of Prof. Inglis. That the services of a competent teacher of elocution be secured for next session. That the Board be instructed to convey the thanks of the Assembly to the gentlemen who established bursaries or prizes in connection with the College during the past year. That the \$1,000 of the Alexander bequest used this year for current expenses be refunded to endowment. That the services of Dr. Proudfoot be secured in the department of Homiletics and Pastoral Theology for next session. That the Assembly express its approval of the scheme for building new premises for Knox College, and its gratification at the measure of success with which the scheme has thus far been prosecuted, and that it empower the Board of Management to procure a new site, and to make such arrangements and enter into such contracts as may be necessary in connection with the new college building, and further, to sell the present site and building when a suitable opportunity offers.

In reference to Montreal College, it was recommended that the Rev. J. M. Gibson, M.A., be appointed Lecturer on Exegetics for the next session. That the collections for the training of French students and for French evangelization be taken up, as last year, in all the congregations of the Church. That the Board of Management of Montreal College be empowered to make the salary of Principal McVicar \$2,000 for the present year; and as it is expedient that the permanent salaries of the Principal and Professors in the one College should correspond with the salaries of Principal and Professors in the other, and that said salaries should be increased, it be remitted to a committee to take the whole question in respect to such salaries into consideration, and report to next Assembly. That Prof. Consort's salary be increased to \$1,000. That in case lecturers be required for next session, the Board be empowered to appoint such. That with respect to the relation of Kingston Presbytery to the two Colleges, the Committee recommend that the congregations of said Presbytery be left at liberty to forward their contributions for college purposes to Knox College Fund or Montreal College Fund at their option; and further, with respect to the overture from the said Presbytery asking that the two colleges on a footing of equality, they recommend that it be dismissed. That the Committee also recommend that the Act of 1871 on the constitution and functions of Boards of Examiners for the examinations of candidates for the sacred ministry, with the exception of the third clause, be re-enacted *ad interim*, and that the overtures of the Presbyteries of Ottawa and Huron relating to this Act be dismissed. That the Sabbath immediately preceding the opening of the colleges be observed a day of prayer on behalf of these institutions.

On the discussion of the clause of the report relating to the connection between the Presbytery of Kingston and the two colleges,

Rev. Dr. Waters moved, seconded by Dr. Proudfoot, that all the contributions to the College Fund in the Presbytery of Kingston, east of and including Kingston, be sent to the College Fund of Montreal College, and that all the contributions of congregations west of Kingston be sent to the College Fund of Knox College.

Prof. Gregg moved in amendment that the Presbytery of Kingston be instructed to send all contributions, as in former years, to Knox College.

It was finally determined that the contributions of the Presbytery of Kingston should be sent to Montreal College, and the report, amended in this way, was then adopted.

KNOX COLLEGE BUILDINGS.

Mr. I. W. Taylor, seconded by Dr. Proudfoot, moved, that whereas it is expedient in the interests of Knox College, that the corporation of Knox College should be empowered and authorized to sell and dispose of the buildings, lands, and premises now held for the use of said college, in the city of Toronto, the General Assembly of the Canada Presbyterian Church doth hereby, in pursuance of the provisions and powers contained in the Act passed in the 22nd year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, and chaptered sixty nine, consent to a sale of the buildings, lands and premises now held by the said corporation for the use of the said college in the city of Toronto, and doth also empower and authorize the corporation to sell and dispose of the said buildings, lands, and premises at such time and on such terms as may be deemed most advantageous, and doth also authorize the Board of Management to enter into such contracts as may be necessary for the purpose of carrying on said sale. Carried.

DR. WILLIS' ALLOWANCE.

Rev. Mr. King, seconded by Dr. Proudfoot, moved that the retiring allowance of the Rev. Dr. Willis be paid for the future in the following manner, viz: \$400 from the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, and the balance of \$600 from the funds of Knox and Montreal Colleges in the proportion of the ordinary revenues of the respective Colleges, the revenue of the preceding year being always taken as the basis of appointment. Carried.

"HOME AND FOREIGN RECORD."

The Committee on the Home and Foreign Record brought in their report. It stated that the present circulation of the Home and Foreign Record exceeded 8,000. The subscriptions during the year amounted to \$2,215.70. The Committee recommended that in order to increase and facilitate the circulation of the Record, the Committee would suggest that sessions and congregations be recommended to take it in quantities, instead of subscribers getting it singly, as is the case in many congregations at present. The use of the coloured cover was recommended to be discontinued. Also that the conveners of the various Mission Committees of the Church be instructed to furnish the editor with such items of intelligence as will tend to deepen the interest of the people in the Church's work. Also that the editor be instructed to abridge the reports of the proceedings of Presbyteries in order that a larger sphere may be derogated to missionary intelligence. Also to supply the place of the assistant editor who had left for Montreal.

The report was adopted.

PRESBYTERY OF MANITOBA.

This Presbytery met at Kildonan on the 21st of May. Present—six ministers and three elders. The following are the chief items of business: Circular letters were read; from the Presbytery of Toronto, stating that they intend applying to the General Assembly for leave to receive, as a minister of our Church, Mr. George Clarke, of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States; and from the Presbytery of Ontario, stating that they intend applying to the General Assembly for leave to receive as a probationer of our Church the Rev. Wm. Holmest, a member of the Bible Christian Church. Mr. Matheson reported that, owing to the small number of communicants in some of the Stations of the Portage field, no election of elders had taken place. Mr. Matheson was instructed to convene the communicants from the different stations at one place, and let them elect their elders for the whole field. The Rev. John Laing of Ottawa was, on motion by Mr. Fraser, seconded by Prof. Bryce nominated as Mission Secretary for the Church. An application was read from Mr. Peter H. Moodie, at present assistant in Manitoba College, asking the Presbytery that he be recognized as a Theological Student of the same standing as that held by him in the U. P. College, Scotland. There was also read a certificate signed by D. A. Morris, the Librarian and Custodian of Records of the United Presbyterian Church, declaring, "That Peter H. Moodie was a certified student of the 4th year, attending the Divinity Hall of the United Presbyterian Church, in the year 1861, and that the same is duly recorded in the Divinity Hall Registrar, M. Moodie, being present, was heard in fuller explanation of his position and standing in the Church in Scotland. Prof. Bryce certified that Mr. Moodie is a member of our Church in Winnipeg. After conference, it was moved by Prof. Bryce, seconded by Mr. Black, and agreed to, that leave be asked of the General Assembly to receive Mr. P. H. Moodie, a 4th year student of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland as a student of the third year in Theology, to complete his studies under the care of the Presbytery. The report on the standing of retired Ministers was read and considered, when it was moved by Mr. Fraser, seconded by Prof. Bryce, and agreed to, that this report be not approved, as this Presbytery cannot receive the grounds assumed as the true principles of Presbyterianism in this matter. A petition was read, signed by certain persons, members and adherents of our Church in Winnipeg, on Higher Education, addressed to the Home Mission Committee, praying that leave be granted to the Senate of Manitoba College to open classes in the Town of Winnipeg, and pledging themselves to furnish suitable accommodation for said classes. After earnest consideration of the matter it was moved by Prof. Bryce, and seconded by Mr. Fraser, that the petition be received and transmitted to the Home Mission Committee for their favorable consideration. The vote being taken, the motion

(CONCLUDED ON FIFTH PAGE.)