

## New Brunswick Western Association.

This Association convened June 22nd, with the Blissfield Baptist church, the clerk, Rev. C. N. Barton, leading the opening devotional meeting at 2.30 p. m. The general business session then opened with election of the following officers: Moderator, Rev. W. E. McIntyre; Clerk, Rev. C. N. Barton; Assistant Clerk, Pastor F. B. Seelye; Treasurer, Bro. G. W. Mersereau. Committee on nomination: Dea. H. C. Creed, Dea. M. S. Hall, Jas. Bridges, Rev. Geo. Howard. Committee of Arrangements: Rev. M. P. King, Bro. Wm. Swimm, Rev. H. B. Sloat. Visitors to the Association were on motion invited to seats. Committee of Arrangements made report of order of services. Communications from Wickham church and from Richard Phillips, were on motion referred to Committee on Correspondence. Bro. Wm. Brown and Prof. Jones were appointed to read letters. The meeting closed with prayer.

## FRIDAY EVENING

Rev. J. H. Hughes preached to an interested and large congregation. He was followed by Rev. Geo. Howard, who led an evangelistic service in which many took part. Rev. C. N. Barton closed the meeting with prayer.

## SATURDAY MORNING

The devotional exercises were of a helpful character conducted by the Moderator, Rev. W. E. McIntyre. The business session opened with prayer by Rev. J. H. Hughes. Letters were read by the committee, and Dea. Creed was asked to join the clerk in preparing a digest. (This digest appears later in this report and gives a comprehensive summary of very important, and in many ways unfortunate facts.) Many of those appointed to committees last year were not present nor had their reports come to hand. Several of the brethren were pressed into service, and these after hasty consultation presented reports which were of necessity brief and general. They might by courtesy be called reports, but they could not be expected to be definite or comprehensive.

Report on Education had been prepared by Rev. J. D. Freeman, and was in his absence read by Prof. Jones. This shows a total attendance at the Institutions at Wolfville of over 300, and is in many ways encouraging. The Seminary will be much larger next year. The Academy is worthy of support such as it has not received for the two past years. Scholarship has been of a high order of excellence. The religious influence has maintained its usual and important place. The schools appeal today as never before for hearty and practical support. Speakers to this report were, Dea. H. C. Creed, Bro. J. Mersereau, (Acadia '99); Dea. M. S. Hall, Rev. W. E. McIntyre, and H. B. Sloat. On motion further consideration was deferred to evening session.

Report on Temperance was prepared and read by Rev. Geo. Howard. It was reasonable in tone yet strong in condemnation of the use, and sale, and manufacture of alcoholic liquors. It advocated and urged the plan of the Dominion Alliance to secure 100,000 pledged voters, who will at the next election support only such candidates as are pledged to endeavor to secure the total prohibition of the liquor traffic. To the mind of the writer the time is favorable for to strike a blow which will be fatal to this great evil. Discussion was carried on by several of the brethren and the report was on motion adopted. The meeting closed with prayer.

## SATURDAY, 2 P. M.

The Moderator in the chair, prayer was offered by Rev. J. W. Manning. Minutes of previous session were read and approved. The Moderator extended greeting to visitors, and response was made by these friends, Dr. Manning referring to the pleasure of meeting again with the Baptists of Doaktown and again renewing acquaintance with the brethren of this Association.

Report on "Grande Ligne Mission" was read by Rev. J. Hughes, who regretted that this year's statistics were not at hand. This excellent institution was again endorsed heartily, and contributions to its support were urged from our churches.

Dea. H. C. Creed called attention to work of committee of three, appointed at last session of Maritime Convention to formulate a bill respecting the incorporation of Baptist churches in the Province, for legislative enactment after being approved by the Associations and the Convention. On motion Mr. Creed read the draft of proposed act with the amendments which he would suggest. Rev. Jno. Hughes favored appointment of a committee of three from this Association to confer with similar committees from other N. B. Associations to deal with this matter, not acknowledging any authority higher than this Association. Bro. Swimm, seconded by Rev. M. P. King, moved that discussion proceed on this report. By amendment of Dea. Creed, seconded by Pastor Seelye, this matter would be referred to a committee of five to confer with similar committees from each of the other Associations, to report to these bodies next year. By amendment to the amendment the matter would be left in hands of above committees, to be by them considered and represented to the Legislature the coming winter. After discussion by brethren Swimm, Hall, and others this last motion prevailed. This committee as nominated consists of Dea. Creed, Rev. Geo. Howard, Mr. Havelock Coy, Rev. W. E. McIntyre, Bro. Wm. Swimm.

Report on Northwest Missions, presented by Rev. M. P. King, urged the importance of the work now being done and to be done by this mission. On motion this report was adopted.

The attention of the Association was called by the Moderator to section of H. M. report referring to Forward Movement in interests of H. and F. M. work. Dr. Manning was asked to bring this matter definitely before the meeting. He did so, stating that \$20,000 would be asked from churches in N. B. to be divided equally between Home and Foreign missions. This seemed but a

small amount in comparison with the large Century Funds of other denominations, and in view of the great and untold blessings which the last hundred years have brought to our body. On motion the Moderator was authorized to appoint committees to apportion among the churches the amount to be raised by them. For Carleton, Victoria and Madawaska quarterly, the committee is brethren Hayward, Martin, and Barton; for York and Sunbury, brethren Freeman, Howard, Brown; for Queens, Dr. M. C. McDonald, Revs. W. J. Gordon, W. E. McIntyre.

The Moderator seconded the expression of Dr. Manning in suggesting that the Association send delegates to conference of Free Baptists to convey fraternal greetings to that body. It seemed the general wish of the delegates and others, that the time would soon come when union of these two bodies would be consummated. On motion the Moderator, Rev. M. P. King, Rev. Geo. Howard, Rev. A. B. McDonald were appointed such committee.

Dea. H. C. Creed called attention to the general understanding reached at the last Maritime Convention, that the three N. B. Associations appoint each a committee of six to be a Home Mission Board in N. B. Rev. C. N. Barton moved that this body appoint such committee and the motion was seconded by Mr. Creed. It was stated in the discussion which followed that there was no resolution or recommendation from the Maritime Convention or N. B. Convention, recommending such action as this resolution would demand. The moderator explained decision reached by N. B. Convention at Cambridge last year, and stated that decision to hand over Home Missions to committee of six from each Association, depended wholly upon the action which the Association might take. Rev. Geo. Howard and Rev. J. H. Hughes opposed the motion on the ground that several of the members of such a committee as is proposed, could not find it convenient to attend the meetings of such board. Dr. Manning urged the adoption of this resolution in the interests of harmony and peace, especially in view of missionary Forward Movement, so important now to our denominational interests. The time of meeting expired before a vote was asked. Prayer was offered by Rev. Geo. Howard.

## SATURDAY EVENING

meeting opened with prayer by Rev. John Hughes. Continuing the discussion interrupted by the close of the afternoon service Dea. M. S. Hall moved, and Rev. Geo. Howard seconded the following amendment:

Whereas, It has been shown in the last six years that more work has been done and greater results obtained than ever before by the Home Mission Board of the New Brunswick Convention, and

Whereas, it is necessary that the great work may be continued of giving the gospel to the destitute places in our land to a fuller extent than we have done:

Therefore resolved, That this Association would suggest that the members of the Board of Home Missions shall continue to be appointed by the New Brunswick Convention, believing that more satisfactory results will be obtained.

This motion passed without further discussion. In this connection it should be understood that for this amendment not more than five, including mover and seconder, voted. Any who would have offered opposition were absent from the room expecting that the remaining business would be transacted after the platform meeting.

After an anthem by an excellent choir the platform meeting opened with a second reading of the report on education. Then Prof. C. C. Jones proceeded to give an instructive address on the work of our Institutions at Wolfville. He said "Baptists should support Acadia because it is Baptist, because it offers courses which are well adapted to the needs of students, because of the helpful atmosphere in which the young men and women are placed. The statistics of attendance show an enrollment this year of more than 300. This is good but it should show a young man and young woman from each of the 400 churches in our Maritime constituency. Professor Jones pleased his hearers and gave them valuable information.

Inspector G. W. Mersereau, the next speaker, was addressing many of his own town folk and neighbors. These with all others were deeply interested in his instructive and witty address. Mr. Mersereau had been at Wolfville recently for the first time. He had been impressed and inspired by what he had seen and heard. Time was when he thought the courses at Wolfville inadequate to meet modern educational needs. He thinks differently now and in the strongest terms endorses Acadia and its work.

This excellent address closed the educational part of the meeting. Missions followed, the Moderator reading the report on Home Missions. In this Association a number of churches have been aided. More would be helped if the members of our churches would give as they have been prospered. In all New Brunswick 42 churches on 21 fields are now receiving help. The report endorses the Missionary Forward Movement and looks to it for the solution of the problems now confronting the Home Mission Boards.

Secretary Manning was the first speaker, though in the absence of the chairman of the Foreign Mission committee there was no report presented on Foreign Missions. The subject and spirit of the address kept attention upon the plans and suggestions now formulated for the Home and Foreign Mission Forward Movement. In three years New Brunswick Baptists must raise for this great enterprise at least \$20,000, to be divided equally between these two objects. The speaker's seriousness and conviction and earnestness made a deep impression on the large audience, especially so when brief reference was made to the wonderful Mission Conference held in New York in April, a meeting unequalled by any other similar gathering in the world's history.

The Moderator "called upon himself" for an address on Home Missions, and in responding spoke enthusiastically of the possibility of raising our \$20,000 fund. This is but \$1 per member, and in view of all that is now being given the world over and all that is being planned for larger work on mission fields at home and abroad, and still more in view of all that we hold which is not our own, this amount may be raised, must be raised. It is well within the bounds of reason and will establish our Boards. Mr. McIntyre spoke feelingly of his deep interest in this special effort because of his wide experience among our

weaker churches. Again and again he had been saddened by letters of appeal to which no favorable reply could be given. On the upper St. John there are many weaker interests which demand support, must have support, and by the blessing of God from this new fund great good will come.

On motion Reports on Education and Home Missions were adopted. It was moved by Inspector Mersereau, seconded by the Clerk that the very excellent report and outline of plan for raising the 20th Century Fund be endorsed by that Association and commended to our churches. Prayer was offered by Bro. Hughes, and after dismissal a brief business session was held.

Dea. H. C. Creed for committee on digest of letters presented report as follows: Of the 75 churches on the roll of this Association 35, or less than one half, have sent letters which have been received here. Twelve of the churches report an increase of from one to fifty members, while twelve others report a diminution of from one to six and eleven churches report the same membership as last year. The net gain in membership, so far as reported is 55. The total number of baptisms is 101, these in 14 churches. Deaths have numbered 43 in churches reporting, 994 members are non-resident, more than one quarter of the reporting membership. Many church clerks make needless errors, of the 35 churches 6 report no money raised for denominational purposes, 19 have raised nothing for denominational and other objects, and five report no money at all, though reporting 418 members. Only 16 (reporting) churches have contributed to denominational object.

Sabbath School statistics were presented by Inspector Mersereau for committee. These were carefully compiled but from sources which are not as definite as would give information worthy to be preserved.

Communication from Bro. Richard Phillips was discussed without action being taken.

Committee on nominations reported appointments for the gathering of next year: Denominational Literature, Bro. G. W. Mersereau; Sabbath School's, Revs. C. N. Barton, M. P. King; Systematic Benevolence, Rev. H. B. Sloat, Pastor F. B. Seelye; Grand Ligne Missions, Rev. W. E. McIntyre, R. W. Demmings, Lic.; Association Sermon, Rev. H. B. Sloat or Rev. J. Cahill; N. W. Missions, Bros. H. C. Creed, Wm. Brown; Home Missions, Rev. J. D. Freeman, M. S. Hall; Education, Bros. H. C. Creed, G. W. Mersereau; Foreign Missions, Rev. Calvin Currie, Rev. Chas. Henderson; Temperance, Rev. C. W. Sables, Pastor Seelye; writer of Circular Letter, Rev. M. P. King; Travelling arrangements, M. S. Hall.

On motion collections were ordered to be divided between Home and Foreign Missions. Meeting adjourned with prayer by Rev. H. B. Sloat.

## SABBATH DAY.

Prayer meeting at 10 o'clock, led by Rev. C. N. Barton, began the services of the day. Consecration was the theme, and it appealed to the people to yield to the helpful influences of the day and give better service to our Master and Lord.

Favoring weather encouraged many to attend the 11 o'clock service to hear the Associational service. The Presbyterians courteously gave up their services that they might unite with their Baptist brethren. Their pastor, Rev. Mr. Robb, and Rev. H. B. Sloat assisted in the morning service.

Rev. Geo. Howard, of Macnaquac, preached the Associational sermon from the text found in Luke 24:8, "And they remembered his words," his subject being, the benefits resulting from remembering God's words. The message was one of plain Bible truth, given in the original way for which our brother has become distinguished. Doubts, unbeliefs, inconsistencies were condemned as unnecessary, harmful, wicked in the light of God's words. If these are remembered life is holy, giving is generous because consecrated, death is no longer a terror, salvation is possible, sin is grievous. It was a popular sermon, though plain and searching. It must have given impulses and desires which will be helpful to the large congregation favored to hear it. At its close prayer was offered by Rev. John Hughes.

## SABBATH AFTERNOON.

This meeting was held under the auspices and direction of the W. B. M. U., and a more complete report of it will appear in the Missions department of this paper. Mrs. Crandall, of Chipman, presided with quiet dignity, Mrs. Frank Swimm, on behalf of the Doaktown W. B. M. U., extended a welcome in a few well chosen words, Miss Clark, of Moncton, replied to this, and continuing delivered a fascinating address on Missions. Secretary Manning was heard with closest attention as he told briefly of the great conference on Missions. This was an unusually helpful service and largely attended.

## SABBATH EVENING.

All seating available space was filled at this meeting. Rev. H. B. Sloat, of Marysville, preached a short but thoughtful sermon taking for his subject, "The Christian's hope." Other speaker's were Revs. W. E. McIntyre, J. H. Hughes, Dr. Manning and Geo. Howard. This closing service was one of special interest, not the least affecting feature of which was an appeal of the pastor, Rev. M. P. King, to his people urging them to profit by the meetings held in their midst and to join more heartily in the Master's service. It is hoped that such a result will follow the gathering at Doaktown, on the Miramichi, a beautiful locality, the home of an intelligent, kind and prosperous people. To these votes of thanks were extended for their abundant hospitality. The choir was also, and deservedly, remembered for its excellent music. Thus was closed another annual gathering of an old and important constituency. In many ways good work was done, in others the unimportant and unessential was magnified and given time which could have been used to better advantage.

## NOTES.

For another year a programme should be arranged early and carried out with precision.

Delegates numbered less than thirty, from seventy-four churches. Such a representation cannot be qualified to do its work as it should be done for the best prosperity of our churches.