

Union Debate Concluded.

In resuming the discussion Mr. W. Drysdale said: "I was waited upon by two elders from St. Andrew's church, of Montreal, in connection with the Church of Scotland, inviting the beginning of a conference whereby this historic congregation would be led into union with the Presbyterian Church in Canada. I may refer to a conference resulting from a letter of mine to a member of the Anglican Church. There were in the same room a Roman Catholic, an Anglican and myself, and we went out to confer with heads of colleges in the city, in the interest of co-operation to prevent over-lapping. We are agreed on the desirability of union, but that we are not yet ready. I am in favor of some change in order to remove the baracles and cobwebs of generations. To give you an idea of baracles, think of a dying Scot in a Montreal hospital, being refused burial beside his wife in consecrated ground, with the priest in sympathy, but unable, by his own words that he had to carry out the canon laws of the church."

Dr. Wardlaw Taylor, of New Westminster, told of hearing a street car conductor saying last night: "You have a church union debate. You had better cut it out. They will be inventing a new religion one of these days." I must stand by my vows. I cannot accept this basis of union.

Dr. John Pringle, Sidney, said: I heard yesterday our Venerable Principal of Westminster Hall, who has been one year in the west. But I shall not answer his arguments, but leave him with the mover of the resolution. I myself, have been 30 years a Presbyterian, and yet say frankly that I am in favor. We are crying out for men. Where are they to come from to man the fields? From the small towns and congregations in "hard scramble" for life.

Mr. Lawson said: I don't like this new creed, or the higher critics who to-day are so loud spoken. I am not going to be one of them.

Mr. James Rogers, of Montreal, said: "It has been stated without foundation in fact that federation has been tried in Canada. If in certain quarters where planned it did not succeed, it does not prove anything, save this, that under better hands it would turn out better. There is a strong desire in Montreal for co-operation. As regards the question before us, I think that we have been making a mistake in sending down, from year to year, resolutions, without giving the people the contrary views and resolutions."

Rev. John Chisholm spoke in favor of union. He gave several incidents from actual experience, making a number of good points which elicited signs of approval from the Assembly.

Mr. Edward Brown, Portage la Prairie: "I am not yet ready to give a verdict. But I think that the correct thing to be done is to submit the report now to the people, and on the whole question I shall reserve my right to vote according to my conscience."

Rev. Mr. Morden: "I am of Quaker extraction, and I am surprised that Presbyterians do not see the import of this movement. We are asked to introduce a subject to our people which will divide them, not to be healed for ten or fifteen years."

Rev. Peter Walker, Montreal: "The young men have not been sufficiently heard on the subject. The amendment practically is a red herring across the path. As regards exegesis, we know that doctors differ, but there is an exegesis of our Lord's words on unity, which are in life, written in Japan, Corea, and China."

Dr. Sedgewick: We should spend days, yes, weeks, on such a question. The address of Dr. Patrick and his resolutions do not adhere. He begins to speak as if everything is lovely, just as it ought to be. He passes over weak spots, as if there was nothing definite. Then it does not ask the Assembly to approve of it, which looks as if the committee were afraid. To read the findings makes one think of going through "Alice in Wonderland." Think of Principal Patrick under the station-

ing committee. I am afraid that he would rule it. Well might we say, "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you?" The doctrine is objectionable. We are told that it is the substance of the Christian faith, but he does not tell us what that substance is.

Principal Patrick then went carefully over the ground. One retort was: "I am quite willing to go under a stationing committee, for, if I had my choice, I would prefer it to some of our vacancy committees." The vote being taken, the amendment was defeated by 154 to 53. The motion carried by 180 to 42.

Dissent to Church Union.

The following, immediately after the Union debate, desired that their names should be recorded as having dissented from the decision of the Assembly. Their names, as handed to the clerk, are as follows: Dr. Sedgewick, Tatamagouche; Principal Mackay, Vancouver; Dr. R. Campbell, Montreal; Dr. T. W. Taylor, Westminster; the Rev. A. H. Drumm, Belleville; the Rev. Jos. McCoy, Victoria, B.C.; the Rev. J. O. Rolston, Pendergast, Man.; the Rev. Wm. Forbes, Tatamagouche, N.S.; the Rev. R. J. Douglas, Chilliwack, B.C.; the Rev. Thos. Irving, Shubenacadie, N.S.; the Rev. J. W. MacNamara, Drayton, Ont.; the Rev. J. W. Lowry, Fitzroy Harbor, Ont.; Messrs. J. R. Reid, Ottawa; J. A. Lawson, Charlottetown; A. S. MacGregor, Almonte; G. M. Macdonnell, K.C., Kingston; T. S. T. Smellie, M.D., Port William; Sir Thomas W. Taylor, Hamilton; Mr. A. T. McIntosh, Mr. T. W. Pritchard.

Poorly Paid Missionaries.

The Rev. J. S. Scott, Calgary, presented the following overture from the synod of Alberta:

"1. That the Assembly take into consideration the whole matter of the guaranteeing in full all salaries of home missionaries and, issues for confirmation by the synods, the results of its deliberations, with reasons set forth for the conclusions reached, and 2, in the meantime takes particular pains to clearly and fully inform all missionaries at the time of their appointment as to the terms upon which they are engaged."

He remarked that the home missions board fulfilled its part of its obligations, but the various charges in the West to which missionaries were allotted did not, and in consequence a number of men did not get the full amount promised them as salary.

Mr. A. McLaren, Medicine Hat, pointed out the hardships that had to be endured by missionaries in lurid colors, and went so far as to state that the Church virtually sent a number of them out into space, where they did little better than starve unless some good Samaritan came to their assistance.

The Rev. H. Chisholm stated that a lot of missionaries who could not get their salaries were compelled to take on side issues, such as real estate, and life insurance, in order to make a competence.

The Rev. Dr. McLaren, secretary of home missions, western section, asked why the grave injustices spoken about had not been reported to headquarters by the presbyteries. He claimed that the home mission committee was not to blame, as it had always done its best to remedy the unfortunate conditions of missionaries whose charges did not meet their obligations towards them. The blame, he thought, was with the presbyteries. The Rev. Dr. Lyle, the moderator, also blamed the presbyteries.

The Rev. Jno. Chisholm said the bad treatment missionaries had received had been responsible for good Canadians leaving the Church, and a number of incompetent men from the Old Country being admitted to the missionary fields.

The Rev. Dr. Dewey, of Montreal, said such conditions were shocking, and he was sure the Home Missions Committee was unaware of them. He thought it was a shame that the

Presbyterian Church should leave its missionaries in this fashion, and hoped that the unsavory revelations which had come out in connection with the speeches on the overture would be successful in having a stop put to such conditions.

The Rev. Andrew Eddington, Chatham, called the home missions process of treating missionaries notorious, the most humiliating thing any church could impose upon its men. He hoped it would be stopped, as to allow it to proceed would be contemptible in the extreme. He assured the Assembly that the missionaries' grievances had been told time and time again.

The Rev. Dr. McQueen said the discussion had gone too far, and remarked that many of the allegations made were either extravagant or untrue. He admitted that the missionaries had suffered, but it was by no means as universal as they had been led to believe.

The Rev. Dr. Mackay, of Vancouver, told of a young missionary, who, in addition to his ministerial work, had to drive a stage in order to make a living.

The Rev. J. W. MacNamara stated that the unfortunate conditions that had been dwelt on were not confined to the West, but were prevalent in other parts of the Dominion as well.

The Rev. R. Smith claimed that the missionaries who were fortunate or unfortunate enough to have wives and families had to be supported by them in many instances.

The Rev. Mr. Short, winding up the discussion, said the missions board alone was to blame. The Presbyteries could not be censured for not being willing to support men whom they had no voice in selecting. He accused the church of getting men under false pretences. In the end the motion to make it compulsory on the Home Mission Board to remedy the conditions at once was withdrawn and the overture passed.

Committee on Evangelism.

Dr. Charles W. Gordon, Winnipeg, submitted the report of the committee on Evangelism. This committee deplores the decreases, which amounted to 1,375, in those received by confession of faith in the Synods of Montreal, Toronto and Hamilton, but adds that evangelistic campaigns held in a number of places in Ontario were most successful. As a result of the campaign in the South Kootenay district the committee is able to state that it will never be the same again. The receipts were \$6,813.38, and the expenses \$7,113. This debit balance is offset by promised subscriptions.

Halifax, N.S., was selected as the next place of meeting of the Assembly, which will convene in St. Matthew's Church, at 8 o'clock on the first Wednesday of June, 1910.

At one of the sessions a pleasing incident took place. Dr. H. P. McKay took the platform and reminded the Assembly that Dr. Wardrop, ex-Moderator of the Assembly, had, on his nineteenth birthday, preached in Guelph with great acceptance. He is present at the Assembly, and it would be a most fitting tribute to him if he were to sit on the platform where we may all see his face and be imbued with his spirit. This was granted, and the venerable father came forward, the members of the Assembly rising to their feet out of respect for him.

Dr. Somerville announced that the "Robertson Memorial" had not been so successful as to warrant the establishment of the proposed lectureship in his honor. The total receipts were \$4,312. Mr. W. Drysdale, of Montreal, said that Dr. Robertson erected his own memorial, which was the Western Church itself, and it is a shame that the fund is so small. Mr. W. Paul, of Montreal, said that the name of Dr. James Robertson had created the greatest possible enthusiasm at the mention of his name at the last meeting of the Laymen's Missionary Convention in Toronto. A committee was appointed to take up the case.