METHODIST CONFERENCE

Decide To Retain The Four Year Term—Some Changes in Conference Boundaries—A Great Gathering

VICTORIA, B. C., Aug. 17.—At the opening of the afternoon session the secretary presented the general conference with a cane made from English oak out of the first steamship that sailed in the Pacific. This steamship, the Beaver, was built on the Thames in 1835, and was christened by a member of the Royal family. It carried the early missionaries to British Columbia. A memorial urges that it be suitably inscribed and presented to King George V. along with a patriotic address.

A letter of welcome was read from Rev. Edward Gridge, aged 93, of the Reformed Episcopal Church, he was formerly the only minister in British Columbia and extended a hearty welcome to the first Methodist missionaries over fifty years ago.

Rev. Dr. Campbell headed a deputation representing the Presbyterian general assembly and conveyed the greetings of that great body.

The conference stood as they were introduced by Rev. Mr. Holling. A vote of thanks savoring largely of the spirit of union was moved and seconded in well-worded speeches by David Allison and Rev. Dr. Bland, it carried unanimously. Dr. Allison said it was impossible to resist this movement.

Dr. Carman reciprocated in behalf of the conference the greetings of the Presbyterians and expressed the belief that in the great providence of God and human reason and effort something good must come out of union movements.

Should Recognize Women More

Miss McIlhinny, superintendent of the Deaconess training school, Toronto, then spoke in the interest of that great work. She claimed the movements of the modern church were slow because the women were not recognized more. In the Apostolic church there is a record of 40 deaconesses in one congregation. No wonder they conquered the world so quickly.

They had a new and large school home built but can't go into it until it is paid for—that meant $50,000. Many favorable things were spoken of their work at the conclusion of her address. Dr. Carman said we must make their work a success.

Rev. C. J. L. Bates addressed farewell words to the conference on the day of his departure to Japan. He said she is now one of the great nations of the world and one of the most civilized. Bishop Honda, a fraternal delegate from there is one of the greatest Christians in the world. Five more men were needed for the work.

One Momorial Cut Off

Just before adjournment, Professor Allen, of Winnipeg, sent up a memorial to prevent plumping of ballots in the conferences where there is more than one person to be elected. The professor claims this is an evil among the laymen, especially when balloting for general conference delegates. These memorials are referred to committees in the will of conference one good brother thought it was an imputation as to the integrity of members and moved that it be laid on the tabel. Before any one was ready to defend it, the conference had voted it down. It was the only memorial thus cut off.

VICTORIA, B.C., Aug. 18.—The committee on itinerancy decided this morning, by a vote of 21 to 5, to lengthen the pastoral term to eight years on condition of a two-thirds vote of quarterly boards and the action of conference. Whether the general session will confirm this or not remains to be seen.

The committee on the general superintendency is undecided between one or three chief officers. In the case of three men, one would be designated to the foreign work.

The western are talking strongly for a church paper. Rev. A. E. Smith has been doing up J. A. M. Aikens and Rev. C. W. Brown in a lively manner for their sudden conversation on the project.

The following delegates, out of 24 required, have been elected to attend the Ecumenical conference in Toronto next year: British Columbia, Dr. Sipprell; Alberta, Hon. W. H. Cushing; Saskatchewan, Rev. J. S. Switzer; Manitoba, Dr. Woodsworth; London, Dr. T. Manning; Hamilton, Dr. Ross; Bay of Quinte, Dr. Burwash; Montreal, Dr. Ryckman; New Brunswick, Dr. Sprague; Nova Scotia, Rev. G. J. Bonds; Newfoundland, Hon. J. B. Woods; Dr. Carman, Dr. Briggs H. H. Fudger and Justice McLaren being commissioners, were made members by general vote. Nine others will be elected later.

A Call From Sir Wilfrid

The conference had the honor of a call from Sir Wilfrid Laurier this afternoon. He was accompanied to the platform by Hon. G. P. Graham and E. M. MacDonald. The Premier was greeted with rounds of applause. The Grits, of course, distinguished themselves by deep smiles of satisfaction as their chieftain appeared. Sir John Macdonald similarly visited the conference in his time.

Church and State

Sir Wilfrid made a brief, gracious and well expressed address. He said that in religion or politics we had to agree or disagree. The object of political government was to build up the country, of the Christia nchurch to build up the human race. There were great truths held in common by us all. These were the truths most effective in uplifting the nation. Canada was the star upon which all eyes were fixed.

He was impressed more than ever after travelling through the four western provinces and meeting thousands of immigrants, that we need more united effort, more co-operation between church and state for the great end. He rejoiced in a free and ever-broadening christianity and closed by saying to Dr Carman: "Your views and mine after all are not far apart."

Messrs. Graham, son of a minister and Macdonald, son of an elder, spoke briefly, especially encouraging t he union idea.

Dr Carman replied for the conference, saying in part: "We are greatly honored and greatly instructed by your visit. We are one with you in the unity of national sentiment. Our desire is to build a nation whose strength will be felt throughout the world. The Lord bless you."

VICTORIA, B. C., Aug. 19.—Committee meetings occupied the morning of the general conference. The rate of progress at present is slow, however, the talkers will soon be through and business will go forward at a more rapid pace. A new preparatory college at Calgary has been decided upon by the educational committee. Lethbridge made a strong claim for the school and, from another direction we hear the recommendation that women are to be admitted into church courts.

This afternoon's conference heard the report of union church relief fund by the treasurer, John N. Lake. Rev. T. E. Barley was not satisfied with the treatment that had been meted out to the old Agnes Street Church. The report was laid over while a committee appointed by the chair is looking into the matter. This fund was established in 1884 and this is the winding up report.

Stand for Four Year Terms

No session since Monday has been so breezy as when the itinerary committee reported. They recommend practically an eight-year term for any pastorate, provided there is a two-thirds vote of the quarterly board from year to year. A dozen men were on their feet for amendments and speeches. The eight-year term limit, a compromise of five years and then of six years were mowed down like grass befoer a scythe. The conference went so decidedly for the present four-year term that it was not necessary to count the votes. Rev. Dr. Ross, Dr. Heartz, Dr. Sparling (Winnipeg), Dr. Cleaver, Joseph Gibson and Justice McLaren spoke on the question of the present arrangement. Mr. Fortner, Dr. Speer, Rev. John Locke and Dr. Burns pleaded for lengthening the term.

The former held that the arrangement at present was made for the peace of the church and that there was no general demand for a change, the latter held that better work could be done on a longer term, that large churches demanded it, and that much of the opposition to the change came from men who themselves were occupying offices of unlimited tenure. So the clock of connexionalism will continue to regulate the Methodist ministers in Canada.

Considerable indigantion is expressed by the Western men over the action of the C.P.R. in refusing stopover privileges west of Port Arthur Those east of that point, on a similar kind of a ticket, can stop over at any point west of Port Arthur so long as they reach their starting point by September 30. The general secretary is making a protest against this but so far has not been able to secure any concessions.

The thanks of many delegates and visitors are due Dr. Stephenson of Toronto, for organizing meetings every forenoon for the returned missionaries, giving formal addresses on their fields of work.

Japan or Russia in Korea

Bishop Honda, of Japan, said to be the greatest Christian in the world spoke yesterday and today. He has got influence in his country where he is held in high honor. He regards the outlook for Christianity in Japan as very hopeful. His church is ever conducting missions in Corea. While he sympathized with Corea in their subjection to Japan, having himself belonged to a section of Japan similarly conquered, yet he is convinced that it is for their good and that it is better than Russia. Bishop Honda will speak to the conference next Wednesday conveying fraternal greetings from the Methodist church in Japan.

Rev. J. Coffin, an aged delegate from Nova Scotia, who was detained by an accident in Winnipeg, reached here yesterday.

Victoria, Aug. 21.—The centre of gravity at the Methodist general conference Saturday was evidently near the educational committee room. Here the case of the much talked about theological teaching in colleges was under discussion. The room was crowded with visitors. Rev. Mr. Heigh, of England, was present and on Sunday went to Vancouver to preach. A resolution was submitted by J. A. M. Aikins, K.C., asking for the appointment of a tribunal to consider and adjudicate all charges preferred against theological professors for teaching or preaching unsound doctrine in the church colleges.

Rev. Dr. Bland protested against this, as it would submit a professor who was a minister to a double scrutiny, that of his annual conference and of the tribunal. He moved an amendment, adding that this resolution should not contravene the function of the annual conference.

Reaches Dr. Jackson.

The amendment seemed to be satisfactory to the committee. It avoids examining a man as a professor and as a minister. On the other hand it reaches the case of a man who is not a member of the Methodist church for example, Dr. Jackson, who belongs to the British Wesleyan Church, and it would also meet the case of laymen over whose opinions the annual conference had no special supervision.

Chancellor Burwash, of Victoria University, Toronto, referred to the times of theological unrest in which we live and affairs especially in the United States; in Scotland and England the crisis has been passed. He said: "Our method of dealing with the present question should be sane, intelligent and careful; public controversy cannot decide questions on theology, neither can a vote of the general conference. Mob law, which shouts 'crucify him,' won't do it. Calling a man an infidel or a heretic is of no avail. The best maxim is the old one 'in essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, and in all things charity.' We must not take a course that is contrary to Methodism. These matters are subjects for expert testimony any way."

"How many members of this committee," he asked, "have made a special study of Wesley's sermons, notes on the testament and the history of the twenty-five articles of religon and are prepared to give expert testimony on their meaning." He deprecated haste and the scare head lines in the papers, etc. "We must," he said, "get above all that."

Some Dscussion.

Principal Sparling, of Wesley College, Winnipeg, also spoke, saying that two things should be kept before them, they must have control of theological teachers, and secondly, they must be given same liberty of thought as the man in the pulpit.

Principal Shaw, of the Wesleyan College, Montreal, spoke on the gravity of the present situation. He regarded it as most critical in the history of the church. The chairman, Justice McLaren, Toronto, wanted to restrict speakers to ten minutes, but the committee wanted discussions, and would not have it so.

At Saturday evening's session of the committee, Mr. Aikins presented a motion to take the place of the one previously offered if the committee would consent, which it did. It was more elaborate that the motion offere dearlier. The first clause simply stated that the board and governors, or any who were in authority, should see that the rules relating to teaching in harmony with Methodist doctrine are strictly enforced.

Necessity of Peace.

Dr. Bland offered an amendment adding a clause protecting a minister from dual scrutiny. The debate was then carried forward vigorously for nearly two hours. Dr. Burwash again spoke counselling steadiness and expressing his willingness to make a compromise for the sake of peace.

One of the strongest deliverances was by Rev. A. J. Irwin, Mount Forest, Ontario, on the legal aspect of the tribunal which it was proposed to establish. Dr. Allison, of Mount Allison University, N. B., made a strong speech. Even those who defended the motion admitted that the proposal of a tribunal was anomalous, yet thought it necessary to compromise at this stage of the church's history.

Dr. Bland closed the debate with a vigorous speech characterized by fairness and clear insight into conditions. The amendment was lost and the motion carried by a good majority. The resolution passed, however, does not make any change in things as they are at present. The most difficult parts of the resolutions are to be dealt with at a later session.

Victoria, B. C., Aug. 22.—The first session of the general conference since Friday was held this afternoon. Considerable business was put through. The delegates appeared in specially good humor after their Sunday rest. The first item was the appointment of a special committee of 35 members to make a recommendation re the liberation by the minister of justice of Skill and King, after being imprisoned for the sale of indecent literature. They will also make recommendations re such sales in Canada.

The general secretary announced to the conference that he had received word from Robert Kerr, Esq., of Montreal, to the effect that western delegates would be granted the same stopover privileges as the eastern on the route home. (Applause by western men.)

The committee on transfers recommended that in the cases of transfer of ministers notice should be given the quarterly boards concerned. A case was cited where the minister was transferred, and the quarterly board of his church was not notified about it previously.

Permission was given authorizing the book publishing committee to appoint an assistant book steward at the central book room when it should be considered necessary.

The temperance and social committee succeeded in passing several recommendations. One is the regular appointment by the annual conference of temperance secretaries in each district. Another is that the general secretary has power to call together the standing committee of temperance of any conference. They also asked permission to employ, when needed, special field secretaries, temperance evangelists, etc. Dr. Heartz asked if they were to have a free hand at this or whether they were to work in conjunction with the district and circuit authorities. Mr. Bowell said he thought they had enough general officials now. Joseph Gibson stood up for more workers even if they did cost money. For every $129 given last year in Ontario they had closed a bar. Dr, Speer said they knew this department and could trust them, so the clause passed.

A memorial had been presented for a special field secretary in the west. The committee did not recommend this and the general conference accepted the decision.

A committee was recommended by this department, consisting of the general superintendent and secretary, to draft a memorial to the Imperial authorities relating to the opium trade in China. They are to urge that China be not hindered in her effect to rid herself of this nefarious trade and that the talk about the loss of revenue be not considered.

Four years ago at the general conference in Montreal a number of men were appointed as a commission of the church rules. They were to report proposed changes at the next general conference. Dr. Rankin read their reports.

The first clause related to the deletion of clause 35, which is popularly known as the "foot note." They proposed to substitute a statement to the effect that Wesley had framed these rules without any thought of legalism and had no idea that an outward observance would be considered satisfactory evidence of a Christian life. He had not enumerated a long list of specific evils.

A number of men asked for more time to consider this clause and the proposed new one be printed and passed around. The question was therefore laid over. It looks, however, as if the foot note, which has been a bone of contention for the last twenty-four years would get its quietus. Some delegates want the substitute clause deleted as well.

Several paragraphs hoary with age re "whom and when to marry," "what kind of clothes to wear, etc," were given a respectable funeral.

The paragraph relating to young ministers consulting their superiors in office about marriage met with strong opposition, but the conservatives felt it would be going too far if any more of this good advice were removed.

Dr. Bland said that these rules relating to a young minister's conduct towards woman were framed under the medieval conception that women were "dangerous things." Dr. Allison gives it as his private opinion that a young man running around consulting people about getting married showed very little sense. The paragraph was not removed.

The committee on conference boundaries reported through Rev. A. R. Aldridge. The general conference confirmed the action of the committee in making boundaries of the western conferences coterminous with the provincial boundaries except in case of Manitoba, where on the east it makes several changes in circuits and districts necessary. Brandon and Souris districts will thus be put under Manitoba conferences. They are now in Saskatchewan.

When the proposal to remove the foot note came up and was explained Dr. Griffin, 83 years of age, remarked: "Then we can dance if we like."

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MURDER NEAR OTTAWA

Doctor Shot While Visiting a Patient—Usual Claim of Didn't Know the Gun Was Loaded

OTTAWA, Aug. 18.—The people of the villags of Vars, eighteen miles south of Ottawa, are mystified over fatal shooting which occurred here today, the victim being Dr. W. A. Empey, for the past six years a physician practising at Vars. Alfred Blondon, a French Canadian laborer, who did the shooting, declares it to be accidental but the doctor before he died said that Blondin had shot him deliberately and without provocation. The shooting occurred at 12.45 and at 4.20 Dr. Empey died at the home of L. Fetterly, another neighbor.

Two hours later, Blondin, who had run into his house after the shooting and of whom the people of the village were afraid to molest, was placed under arrest by Constable Alexander Macdonald and Sheriff Hill. He was locked up and will be taken to the county jail at L'Original tomorrow.

His Dying Accusation

Just before he died Dr. Empey made the following statement: "Blondin sent for me as a medical man. When I got there Blondin's son-in-law told me to go up-stairs. As I approached the top of the stairs, Blondin drew a gun and fired. He shot me without any provocativn, cause or appearance of accident."

'Did Blondin know the gun was loaded?" the dying man was asked. "I don't know," was the reply.

Says It Was Accidental

Blondin subsequent to his arrest said: "The shooting was an accident. I was cleaning the gun and it went off. I am sorry the doctor is dead."

Mrs. Blondin, who was not at home when the shooting occurred, said: "Alfred had been a little ill with a lame back and a cold. I had been away from home all day, and when I saw my husband he said the shooting was an accident. I cannot understand the reason because he and the doctor were friends."

Blondin, Dr. Empey, Larry Croslours, Blondin's son-in-law, his wife, and an eleven-year-old daughter of Blondin's, who went for the doctor, were present when the fatal shot was fired from a breech-loading shot-gun in Blondin's hands. The discharge from the gun struck Empey in the stomach. He was able to walk out of the house and one hundred yards down the road to the home of a neighbor.

Ninety Million Bushels.

W. McBain, one of the best known land men of Saskatchewan, made the following statement to the Free Press:

"I believe that the wheat crop this fall will surprise even the most hopeful of us. During the last three weeks I have travelled in an automobile throughout the northern part of Saskatchewan, and I have seen great crops everywhere. They are all estimating these days, and you may set down my opinion if you like that there will be ninety million bushels of wheat harvested in the west this fall. I judge that from my knowledge of conditions and by comparison with the known yield last year.

"The bugaboo of a short crop has been pretty well perforated, and money has been noticeably freer in the last two weeks. There is a good healthy tone of confidence in Saskatchewan, and we look for rattling good business this fall."

Cold Weather Forecasted.

Washington, Aug. 21.—Cold weather is on its way according to the general forecast for the coming week, issued by Professor William L. Moore, chief of the United States weather bureau. The cold wave will begin its sweep across the continent the middle of the week, starting from the northwestern states and reaching the Atlantic coast by Friday oy Saturday.

Road Building

Though each State in the union is independent of all the others in the administration of laws, the penalties for crimes and the treatment of prisoners, the probability is that as regards convict labor there will be absolute conformity within the next ter years. The solution of the vexed problem of prison labor has been found in road building. A hundred years ago this plan was generally adopted but for various reasons was discarded. From one occupation after another prisoners were driven by the glamor of free and organized labor; and if there were a powerful unskilled labor union it would very likely succeed in preventing the convicts of the State from building or repairing the roads of the State. Since there seems to be no prospect of the organization of any such union we may accept road building as a presumably permanent solution of the vexed question.

Henceforth the jailbirds of Virginia will build the roads instead of making shoes. Any county that wants roads built has only to call upon the State which will contribute half the cost in the shape of convict labor. Georgia has adopted a similar law. Illinois, Washington, Louisiana and North Carolina are other States that have recently decided to shut down the various prison factories and turn the convicts into road makers. The most serious objection to the plan has been that it offers no employment to female prisoners and to delicate men; but to give these felons something useful to do they will be required to make the clothing for the rest of the convicts. A considerable number of women can be utilized as cooks for the road-making gangs, and so all will be kept busy.

Throughout the United States there are about 50,000 convicts employed all the year round in the manufacture of various articles such as boots, brushes, binder twine, furniture, hosiery, and stove hollow-ware. The selling price of their total output is about $33,000,000, which is a large enough item to challenge the hostile attention of many labor unions. They argue that free labor is competed with, and it is a fact that in the making of certain articles the prisons of the United States have almost a monopoly. Pots pans, kettles, scrubbing brushes and shoe brushes are almost exclusively the product of the penitentiaries. As the cost of production to the State is not one-quarter of the cost to outside factories, the latter have been practically forced out of business.

Nor has the general public greatly benefited by the lowered cost of production, for the practice is for a contractor to buy up at a low price the output of the prison, to undersell and put out of business his competitors and then to raise the price of his article to the public, lowering it on threat of competition, but generally maintaining it on a free labor basis. Indeed some men who previously employed free labor have shut down their plants and have become wholesale purchasers from the penitentiaries. Although economists figure out that five convicts are equal to only three free laborers in most lines of manufacture, it is a curious fact that in some employments in the Southern States the convict is the better workman. Since the great percentage of Southern workmen, bond and free, are negroes, the explanation is that a driven negro works harder than one who is not driven.

On the face of it there seems no good reason why certain of the inmates of asylums should not be employed on public works as are the convicts. Simply to make a man work in payment of his keep is no hardship; and most asylums in Ontario furnish in their beautiful grounds evidence of the taste and industry of the demented laborers that have toiled over them. Why should not this store of manual labor be turned to the advantage of the public? Now it is drawn on chiefly to please the eye of the officials and the few visitors. The roads of Ontario would be none too good if every mental and moral defective in the province were at work on them for ten months in the year.—Mail and Empire.

INHUMAN CLERGYMAN

Allows an Injured Man to Lie on Track and Receive Fatal Injuries—No Funeral Service

EMO, Ont., Aug. 17.—Further partiviulars here of a man who was stealing a ride on a C. N. R. freight train a few days ago, go to indicate that, although his pitiable plight was witnessed by a resident of the village, he was left without help while another train passed over his mutilated form

The accident occurred about 8.30 p.m. within the village limits. There were two men in the box car who had got on at Fort Frances to steal a ride. While the train was slowing up here they undertook to get off, but one of them was swung underneath the car, lost his balance, and the train passed over his body, almost severing both legs and one arm.

It is stated that a local clergyman was passing at the time and saw the man, but did not go to his assistance, contenting himself with informing a passing boy about it. The boy informed a doctor, it appears, but the dying man remained untouched until another train, also from the east, passed over him. This train dragged the body several feet, ruffling the clothes over the head. By this time some men saw the condition of the man and carried him on a door to Dr. Bethune's office, where everything possible was done to save his life, but he died in two hours. He was conscious, however to the end; asked for a drink of water, and thanked the giver.

Inside the coat pocket was a paper bearing the name of J. E. Carrol, but his companion stated that Carrol was not the man's name.

The deceased had come from the United States only a few days previously, and some difficulty was met with in burying him. A local undertaker waited for the proper authorities to act, as in a previous case he had buried a man who had died at a hotel and the municipality had refused to meet the expense.

Farmer Reads Burial Service

A search was made for a gravedigger, and a constable went to work, dug a grave in the potter's field connected with the cemetery, put together a rude coffin, and induced half a dozen men to accompany the remains on a dray to the cemetery, but no minister could be secured to take charge of the services. B. Wilcox, a farmer, read the English church buria lservice, and the body was lowered into a nameless grave.

Grafters Arrested.

Chicago, Ills., Aug. 20.—Three former executive officers of the Illinois Central Railway were arrested today on warrants in connection with the alleged frauds by means of which the railroad was defrauded, it is said, of $1,500,000. The men arrested were: Frank B. Harriman, formerly manager of the road; Chas. L. Ewing, former manager of lines north of the Ohio river; John A. Taylor, formerly general storekeeper of the road. The warrants, sworn to by J. T. Harahan of the Illinois Central, charge the three men with conspiracy to defraud the railroad by false pretences and with operating a confidence game. Harriman and Ewing were taken to the Harrison Street Police Station. Their bonds of $10,000 were signed by a professional bondsman. Detectives under the direction of President Harshan, are said to have unearthed frauds other than those connected with paded car repair bills. These are said to involve the pilfering of $1,000,000 or more from new construction funds. The investigattors say they have procured several confessions which will be used in their attempt to fasten guilt on the culprits.

Wardens Arrested.

Toronto, Aug. 22. — In connection with the escape and arrest of Moir, the murderer from Hamilton Asylum, two keepers of the asylum, Fred McCullough and Monteith Trapnell, have been arrested, charged with abetting the escape of Moir and Taggart.

Crippen Returns.

uebec, Aug. 20.—Dr. Crippen and Miss LeNeve left jail to commence their return trip to England at 8.10 this morning. Inspector Dew, Sergeant-Detectilve Mitchell and the two witnesses drove with them along the St. Louis road in the direction of Stillery. Here they will take a special boat in waiting for them to catch the steamer.

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