

## Proceedings of the Annual Conference.

### MINISTERIAL SESSION.

The Ministerial Session of the British Columbia Annual Conference convened in Queen's Avenue Methodist Church, New Westminster, at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 9th, 1900. The first hour was spent in devotional exercises under direction of the President, Rev. R. Whittington, M.A. (after which the session was duly opened, and the roll called, forty members being present. Some familiar figures were missed, specially the venerable Rev. Cornelius Bryant, and our old friend, Rev. James Turner, who is in Southern California seeking the recovery of his health.

The following transfers into the conference were reported: B. Hedley Balderston, B.A., from New Brunswick Conference; A. E. Roberts, from Manitoba Conference; R. F. Stillman, from Bay of Quinte Conference; J. B. Westman, from London Conference; Elliott S. Rowe, from Toronto Conference; John Pye, from Newfoundland, and W. C. Schlichter, a probationer from the Manitoba Conference.

Transferred to the Toronto Conference, Rev. J. C. Speer.

The usual examination of ministerial character was carried out, no objections or charges being preferred.

A committee on Conference Relations" was appointed consisting of the Revs. C. Ladner, S. J. Thompson, J. A. Wood, A. E. Green, J. F. Betts and C. M. Tate. The Revs. James Turner and J. E. Gardiner were reported from their districts as asking for superannuation on the grounds of illhealth. Their requests were referred to the above committee, who reported favorably, and the Conference agreed.

Revs. C. Bryant and T. D. Pearson were continued in superannuated relation and Revs. J. E. Rosoman and D. D. Birks were continued on the supernumerary list.

The resignation from the ministry of W. E. Moody was accepted.

Bro. W. C. Schlichter was received in full connection with the ministry, his ordination to take place on Sunday, May 13th.

The following probationers were advanced a year in their studies and Conference standing: Geo. A. Cropp, Kamloops District, (attending college), D. W. Scott and C. W. Nelson, Victoria District; W. G. Mahon, New Westminster District; Dr. Large, Bella Bella District; W. Gordon Tanner (attending college), and G. K. Bradshaw.

Robt. Hughes, of Victoria, was accepted as a candidate for the ministry, and granted standing as a probationer of two years.

The Ministerial Session adjourned to meet at the call of the chair.

### CONFERENCE TEMPERANCE MEETING.

On Wednesday evening the Conference Temperance meeting was held, Rev. S. J. Thompson, of Revelstoke, occupying the chair. A full choir was present,

and under the efficient leadership of Mr. T. R. Pearson, rendered two very fine anthems in their usual acceptable style. While stirring and able speeches were given by Revs. W. L. Hall, of Langley; R. Hughes, of Victoria, and C. S. Keith, Esq., of New Westminster.

Rev. W. L. Hall gave a really original and forceful address on the liquor problem. He made the statement that Great Britain consumed one billion gallons of beer every year, enough beer to float the British navy. He pointed out that the British House of Peers was largely recruited from the wealthy brewers and liquor sellers and consequently would oppose any temperance legislation. He said that large donations to election expenses from the liquor dealers gave them a vast influence in politics; while the revenue was a continual sop to the conscience of the people. Mr. Hall's speech was well received. Mr. C. S. Keith spoke briefly, advising the church to educate the young in Sabbath School and Epworth League along the lines of pledged abstinence. Rev. R. Hughes, whose name was not originally on the programme for this meeting, but who had consented to speak on very short notice, spoke on the general question and made a most favorable impression upon his audience. A collection was taken at the close and the benediction was pronounced by the veteran missionary, Rev. Thomas Crosby.

## Proceedings of General Sessions

### THURSDAY MORNING'S SESSION.

The representative sessions of the Annual Conference opened on Thursday morning, May 10th, at 9:30, Rev. R. Whittington, M.A., presiding. The President in calling the assembly to order referred to the fact that the connection with the Conference of the Rev. J. C. Speer, pastor of Metropolitan Church, Victoria, would cease that day, he having been transferred to an important charge in Toronto; he was sure therefore that the brethren assembled

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would share his own feelings when he asked Mr. Speer to conduct the Conference Prayer Meeting. Mr. Speer at once consented, and the meeting, which lasted just an hour, was one of the most inspiring in our recollection. As brethren both clerical and lay from all parts of the province breathed out their supplications, interjected fervent "Amen's" and "Hallelujahs," and gave full vent to their feelings in singing our grand old hymns, one felt anew the bond of sympathy and the benefits of our connexionalism, and rejoiced that he was called to be a Methodist. It was good to be there!

The Prayer Meeting being ended, the President called for the Secretaries of the Districts to report the names of laymen elected as delegates to Conference. The roll was then called and the following were found present: Ministers—Revs. W. H. Barracough, J. P. D. Knox, Chau Sing Kai, Joseph W. Winslow, G. H. Osborne, T. W. Hall, W. W. Baer, C. H. M. Sutherland, Wm. Hicks, Jno. P. Hicks, E. E. Scott, R. W. Whit-

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