

who were most willing to distribute the literature furnished by the Committee. The Committee named several of these gentlemen, and acknowledged also the assistance of Rev. D. Wishart, of Madoc. Reports from those who were engaged in the work were appended, and at the conclusion a hope was expressed that congregations in the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa would contribute more generally to the work. The receipts were \$400, and the expenses such as to leave a balance in hand of \$2.50.

The rev. gentleman bore testimony to the value of a work so important, and yet so economically carried out.

Rev. Dr. Wandrope stated that Rev. Mr. Gordon had labored indefatigably on this Committee, and he would move that the report be received and approved, that the thanks of the Assembly be given to the Committee, and to the Convener, and that the object be especially commended to the congregations of the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa.

Rev. W. Ross seconded the motion and was carried.

RE-ARRANGEMENT OF COMMITTEES.

On motion of Mr. Wm. Adamson, Rev. Mr. Laing was permitted to present the report of the Committee appointed to consider the mode of electing Committees, which recommended that the Committees should be as follows:—Bills and Overtures of Review, Ministerial Applications, Commissions, Theological Education, Home Missions, Foreign Missions, State of Religion, Finances and General Business, Beneficiary Schemes, on Causes, on Correspondence, and to appoint the Standing Committees. The report also provided for the appointment of a Committee to select Committees; that their report be subject to amendment; that the Committees be composed of an equal number of ministers and elders, and a convener appointed by the Moderator, and that all reports be printed, held as read, and not discussed until reported upon by the Committees to which they were referred. The rev. gentleman moved the reception of the report, and that it be sent down to the Presbyteries for consideration.

Mr. Fairbairn, of Oshawa, said the idea of providing that there should be an equal number of ministers and elders on Committees, was to remedy the feeling that existed that those who formed the Committees did not place a large enough number of elders upon them, not because they wished to keep elders off the Committees, but because elders did not push themselves forward, as perhaps they should do in the work of the Church. He seconded the motion.

Rev. Dr. Jenkins thought the report should be sent to the Committee on Ecclesiastical Procedure.

Mr. Adamson, Toronto, hoped the matter would not be allowed to lie dead, and that future Assemblies would feel that sixty gentlemen were not sufficient to do the work of the Committees, and that there was work for every one to do.

The Moderator said that he at least had not ignored any person whose name had been proposed to him as a Committee man.

Rev. Dr. Waters contended that the greatest consideration had been paid to laymen, and neither the Moderator nor the ministers had thought of preventing them from participating in the honors of the Court, which honors they were so well qualified to bear.

Rev. Dr. Robb testified that the Moderator was not only desirous to put proper persons on Committees, but he was anxious after to receive suggestions from the House. He suggested that those sent up to the Assembly should first be proved to be qualified by a proper acquaintance with the forms of procedure of the Court.

SUNDAY SCHOOL WORK.

In accordance with the order of the day, the discussion on the Sabbath School Committee report was resumed. It was participated in by Mr. McAlister, of Kingston; Principal McVicar, Mr. J. S. Potter, and Mr. J. Kernagan, of Goderich.

The motion for the adoption of the report was then carried.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Prof. McLaren presented the amendment to the report of the Foreign Mission Committee, as ordered by the Assembly in the afternoon. He, in addition to the report, indicated that Dr. Fraser, while his engagement was not definitely terminated, was not in receipt of salary from the Board. He also stated that Rev. G. L. McKay had sent letters setting forth reasons why Dr. Fraser should not return to Formosa.

It was due to Dr. Fraser to state that the reasons adduced against his return were not of a kind affecting his moral character or his standing as a minister. It was impossible to come to any understanding on the matter without entering into a long correspondence with parties in China; and the Committee agreed to adopt a resolution stating that having respect to the improbability that Dr. Fraser and Mr. McKay could work harmoniously in future, it was inexpedient to send Dr. Fraser to Formosa, but that the Committee did not withdraw their confidence from Dr. Fraser as a Christian gentleman, or as an efficient missionary. The report also states that the Committee had decided to recommend Dr. Fraser to the English Presbyterian Church and the Reformed Church of the United States. The amendment was accepted, and the report adopted.

RE-ARRANGEMENT OF COMMITTEES.

The Assembly re-considered the report of the Committee on the Re-arrangement of Committees.

Rev. D. J. Macdonnell moved that the report which bears on the instructions of the Assembly be referred to the Committee on Ecclesiastical Procedure.

Rev. Mr. Laing contended that he had not had a good hearing, and he would not submit to have his report treated with indifference. If members who engaged in work for six months in such a manner as this were not treated respectfully, the Assembly would have a great difficulty in getting parties to do the Church's work.

The Moderator thought Mr. Laing had a respectful hearing.

Rev. Mr. Laing said he did not think so. He also said he would agree to the sending of the report to the Ecclesiastical Commission.

The resolution of Rev. Mr. Macdonnell was adopted with the addition that the Assembly offered its thanks to Mr. Laing and his Committee for their services.

The Assembly then rose, to meet again at 10 on Thursday morning.

EIGHTH DAY MORNING SEDERUNT.

The General Assembly met at ten this morning.

FRENCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Rev. Mr. Williams addressed the House on the subject of the French Canadian Missionary Society. The work of the society consisted of the distribution of religious literature and the education of French Canadian Catholic children. In spite of many difficulties the work was going on prosperously. The priests now had not their ancient hold on the people, and bands of converts had been drawn into the Presbyterian Church. The work was a great one; it was auxiliary to the work done by the French Evangelization Committee and to the work of Montreal College, and as such deserved the support of the Church in general. Owing to the development of other work this work was in danger of being overlooked—which ought not to be.

Rev. Mr. Burton moved: "That the Assembly expresses its continued sympathy in the work of the French Canadian Missionary Society, nevertheless, as this Church is fully committed to the work of French Evangelization the Assembly does not feel justified in doing more than in general, commending the work of the society to the sympathy of the Christian Church."

Rev. Mr. Lindsay seconded the motion, expressing his opinion that it was to such work that the placing of a Swiss Protestant at the head of the Quebec Government was owing.

The motion was carried.

JUVENILE MISSION.

Rev. Mr. Burton read the report of the Juvenile Mission Committee. An increasing interest in the work with increasing contributions, was reported. The Committee, it said, had determined to direct its funds into channels more specially connected with the Canadian Presbyterian Church. Contributions had therefore been provided for the work at Indore and Trinidad. About fifteen orphans were still supported, besides which the four high caste schools in the vicinity of Calcutta were still supported by the schools which had undertaken to support them. Details were given of the various schemes to which monies were sent, and the work of the Committee was commended to the consideration of the Assembly. The rev. gentlemen moved that the report be received, that the thanks of the Assembly be given to the Committee and the Convener, and that the report be referred to the Committee to whom was referred the Foreign Mission report.

The motion was carried.

RETURNS TO REMITS.

Rev. Mr. Gray read the report of the Committee on Returns to Remits. After referring to several remits, the report went on to say that on the question "Shall an agent be appointed for the purpose of advocating the Home Mission scheme?" twenty-six Presbyteries replied in the negative, and four in the affirmative; on the question "Shall there be a common fund for the maintenance of the theological colleges of Montreal, Kingston, and Toronto, to be apportioned among them?" eight Presbyteries answered in the affirmative, sixteen in the negative, and nine gave no reply; on the question whether the names of retired ministers should be retained on Presbytery rolls, ten Presbyteries approved; six approved on condition that leave be granted from the Assembly; four approved, provided that the ministers reside within the bounds of the Presbytery; six were in favor of retaining them as corresponding members; three disapproved; on the question "shall the names of ordained missionaries employed for one year or longer be placed on the roll of Presbyteries during the time they laboured in the Presbytery," the replies were twenty-four in the affirmative and four in the negative; the questions proposed to be put to ministers and elders were generally approved of; eighteen Presbyteries generally approved of the report on ecclesiastical proceedings and eight approved of it.

It was decided to consider the remits seriatim.

HOME MISSIONS.

Rev. Dr. Waters presented the report of the Committee appointed to consider the Home Mission report, which recommended that the thanks of the Assembly should be given to the Church of Scotland, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and the Free Church of Scotland for contributions; that thanks be given to the Home Mission Committee, and especially to Rev. Dr. Cochrane and Dr. McGregor and the Secretaries; that Rev. Dr. Cochrane be re-appointed Convener of the Committee, and that he be allowed \$600, in order that he might be in a position to secure such help as might be necessary in the discharge of his duties; that the request to Mr. Jamieson, of British Columbia, to send in statistics, be renewed; that the arrangements regarding the missionaries in Manitoba be continued, viz.: that their salaries be \$900 for married and \$700 for unmarried missionaries, irrespective of other sources of income; that the claims of the missionary be impressed upon the congregations; that the scheme for the continuous supply of mission stations be approved of; that Drs. McGregor, McVicar, and Caven, be added to the Committee on that point; that contributions be sent without unnecessary delay, and that the views of the Assembly expressed in 1876 be again impressed upon the Students' Associations.

Rev. Dr. Cochrane, with reference to his re-appointment as Convener, said the Home Mission work had really grown to such an extent as to be too much for him, and he would be much pleased if the Assembly would allow him to step out, and appoint some one else in his place. He, however, valued the work highly, and if the Assembly unanimously

re-appointed him he would feel it his duty to consider the matter.

The Assembly re-appointed Dr. Cochrane without a dissenting voice.

On the motion to adopt the clause with reference to the salaries of missionaries,

Objection was taken by Rev. Mr. Laing, Rev. Dr. Ure, and others to the salaries as proposed, being exclusive of the \$200 received by some missionaries from the Temporalities Fund. It was contended that the receipts from the Temporalities Fund should be included as a part of the salaries.

Rev. Dr. Ure introduced a resolution having for its object the striking out of the words, "irrespective of other sources of income," from the clause.

Mr. Croil favoured the resolution, contending that the Temporalities Fund was as much a fund of the Church as any other fund.

Rev. Principal Caven said he was a member of the Union Committee, and at the Union it was distinctly understood that the Temporalities Fund was in no sense a fund of the United Church. Had it been supposed that it would have become a fund of the United Church, union would not have taken place.

Mr. Thomas McCrae, of Guelph, was of the same opinion.

Hon. Alex. Morris thought it was an advantage to the United Church to have men in receipt of an annuity from a fund irrespective of the precarious Mission Fund of the Church; and he hoped the existing arrangements would not be departed from.

The continuation of the discussion was postponed.

THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE.

Rev. Dr. Topp presented the report of the Judicial Committee, which he said was unanimous. The committee recommended that the appeal by the Presbytery of Sydney against the Synod of the Maritime Provinces be sustained; that the appeal of Mr. Cameron from the finding of the Presbytery of Stratford be dismissed, and that the judgment of the Presbytery of Stratford be affirmed; that in the case of the appeal of Mr. McMaster from the finding of the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa be allowed; that in the case of the appeal of Mr. McLennan from the decision of the Synod of Hamilton and London, the Kirk session of McNabb street Church, Hamilton, being in the exercise of a constitutional right in seeking an expression of the views of the congregation as to the use of additional hymns, dismiss the appeal; that in the case of the reference in relation to the reception of Mr. Andrew Watson, the Presbytery of London had received him as a minister without certificates of license or ordination, and without reference to the General Assembly, therefore the Assembly should declare the action of the Presbytery null and void.

The decisions of the Committee were declared to be the judgment of the Court, with the exception of the decision in the case of the appeal of Mr. McMaster from the finding of the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa, which was referred back to the Committee because of the reception of further papers in the matter.

HOME MISSIONS.

The consideration of the report of the Committee on the Home Mission Report was continued.

Rev. Dr. Robb, referring to the salaries of the Manitoba missionaries, held that they should be equal.

Rev. Mr. McCrae, (St. John), as a member of the Union Committee, and not interested in the Temporalities Fund, said it was understood by the Union Committee that the fund should be a private fund. It was a private fund; it did not belong to the United Church, and this proposal to make an equal division of everything was a step in the direction of Communism, to which he had a decided objection.

Rev. Dr. Gregg was sorry to differ from Principal Caven, but he did hold that in the future, account should be taken of the receipts from the fund. The Professors of Queen's College received from that fund, and if they did not, additional amounts would have to be made up from other sources.

Rev. D. M. Gordon, (Ottawa), did not think that the Assembly should endeavour to equalize the salaries of missionaries, any more than that it should equalize the salaries of ministers dependent upon the receipts of their congregations, for their salaries.

Mr. Taylor said that according to the act with reference to the fund it was only when there ceased to be any beneficiaries that the fund came to the United Church.

Rev. Dr. Ure withdrew his amendment, and the clause as proposed by the Committee was carried.

The remaining recommendations of the report were agreed to.

Rev. Mr. Laing entered his dissent against the discussion on the clause respecting salaries to missionaries in Manitoba.

HYMNOLOGY.

Rev. D. M. Gordon presented the report of the Committee on Hymnology. The report stated that: "Whereas the use of hymns was allowed in each of the four churches that now compose the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and whereas there are now in use several hymn-books, especially the English Presbyterian Hymn Book, the Scottish Hymnal, the United Presbyterian Hymn Book, and the Hymn Book of the Free Church of Scotland, all of which are allowed to be used, and are used in congregations of this Church; and whereas the variety of hymn-books now in use tends to impair the uniformity in worship which the overtures recognize as desirable, and whereas the prayer of the overtures is that steps be taken to provide one hymn-book which may be allowed by the Assembly for such congregations as desire the use of a hymn-book in their service of praise, and whereas the overtures do not contemplate restricting the liberty of congregations now using hymn-books, but consider it practicable to make a selection which may commend itself for general adoption; it is therefore resolved that a Committee consisting of Rev. Dr. Jenkins and Rev. Dr. Gregg (Joint Conveners); Rev. Mr. Bennet; Prof. Mowat, Donald McCrae,