

The N. B. Western Association.

The Western Association of New Brunswick, met with the church at Lower Newcastle, Queen's Co., near the head of Grand Lake, on Friday, June 8th. Owing to the remoteness of the place from leading lines of travel, and to the consequent limited transportation privileges, it was not expected that the attendance of delegates would be very large. The boat from St. John, for example, makes only two trips a week, one on Wednesdays and the other on Saturdays, so that delegates by that route were under the necessity, either of leaving home two days in advance of the meeting of the Association, or of arriving when the business was about over. In spite of these disadvantages, however, the attendance was good. The brethren of Fredericton and vicinity chartered a small steamer, and arrived to the number of about twenty on Friday afternoon.

Those who went to Newcastle found it a charming spot. The lake, which is the most imposing piece of inland water in the Maritime Provinces, is an extensive and beautiful sheet of water, with a shore line marked by frequent indentations and surprises, and presenting picturesque alterations of wooded hills and valleys, and thrifty farms and homesteads. The view of the lake at Lower Newcastle, is a wide and beautiful one. The immediate country around has the appearance of thrift and comfort as an agricultural district, but one discovers as soon as he touches the wharf—if indeed the name of the place has not already suggested the fact—that Newcastle has other wealth from nature's kindly hand. Huge piles of coal, ready for shipment, cover the land in proximity to the wharf.

One learns that for miles around there is a deposit of bituminous coal, covered sometimes by only two or three feet of earth, and never very deep below the surface. The seam is a shallow one, but covers such an extensive area, as to make the district very rich. It seems to be admitted that the coal is not of the first quality, but last year when prices became so high, a great deal of the coal was mined and sold at good prices. The bloated capitalist has not yet entered the neighborhood. Each farmer does a bit of mining on his own account at such times of the year as he may find most convenient and profitable. One direct and important result of these economic conditions is that the young men remain at home, to refresh the visitor's eyes with the unique sight of a New Brunswick country community where the young men are the preponderant element in society. If only a proper share of this wealth shall be consecrated to the cause of God, and these young men shall become His servants, Lower Newcastle and the adjoining district should become as the garden of the Lord.

Rev. W. J. Bleakney is at present the pastor at Upper and Lower Newcastle, and he and his good people were abounding in their hospitality, and did everything to make the Association pleasant and profitable.

The first meeting was at 2.30 p. m. Rev. W. E. McIntyre, the Moderator, called the Association to order and offered some tender and appropriate remarks in reference to some brethren who had been removed by death during the year and others who were missed from their accustomed places in the Association on account of serious illness. Then followed a refreshing prayer and social service in which a number of the brethren present took part. The report of the Committee of Arrangements as to the programme of the evening session was then heard and the meeting adjourned.

The evening session opened at half past seven, a large congregation being present. Prayer was offered by Rev. W. J. Gordon and the Association proceeded to elect its officers for the year. The balloting for Moderator resulted in the choice of Bro. H. C. Creed of Fredericton. Rev. C. N. Barton was elected Clerk, Rev. F. B. Seelye, Assistant Clerk; and Bro. Leamans, Treasurer. The report on Home Missions was read by Secretary Rev. B. N. Nobles. This report gave an extended account of the Home Mission operations carried on during the past year under the direction of the joint committee of the Associations.

It showed that during the nine months (from September 1, 1900, to June 1, 1901), covered by the report, 17 circuits, comprising 36 churches, have received aid to the extent of \$1,004.16. The larger amount of these disbursements have been within the borders of the Western Association, where seven mission fields have been helped to the amount of \$500.41. In the Eastern Association \$162.50 have been divided among three fields, and in the Southern Association seven fields have been aided to the extent of \$341.25.

The Committee has adopted the policy of employing a general missionary for the Province. Rev. I. B. Colwell has accordingly been engaged and has entered upon that work. Early in the year the Committee by mutual agreement with the Board of N. B. Convention, took over its work with its liabilities, amounting to \$340. The sum of \$1000 was received in February from Rev. A. Coboon, Secretary of the Home Mission Board of the Maritime Convention, being the amount of a bequest from the late Gilbert White for Home Mission work. The Maritime Board, considering that the bequest had probably been

prompted by the testator's interest in Home Mission work in New Brunswick, decided that it ought to be expended in this province, and accordingly, of its own motion, passed the bequest to the New Brunswick Committee. The report shows that while the contributions of the churches and the receipts from trust funds have been almost equal to the expenditure, there was abundant opportunity for further profitable outlay of money, which however, it was felt the present state of the treasury did not warrant. The receipts from August 1st 1900, to June 1st 1901, including \$91.64 from the W. B. M. Union and the Gilbert White bequest of \$1,000 amount to \$2030.84 and the expenditure, including the \$340 on account of the work of the N. B. Convention has been \$1037.28. The balance on hand, June 11th, 1901, was \$993.56.

The report on Home Missions was laid on the table for discussion at a future session and the subject of Education came before the Association. A carefully prepared report on this subject, in which were presented the principal facts in regard to the work of our institutions at Wolfville during the year, was presented by the Moderator and was discussed in excellent addresses by Principal H. L. Brittain of Horton Academy, President Trotter and Rev. W. R. McIntyre.

Principal Brittain in addressing the Association, said that he felt quite at home in the Western Association. It was in this Association that he was converted and found his first church home as a Christian. He emphasized the importance of denominational schools, where the Christian element can be incorporated into the ideals and life of the school. He had not always seen the importance of this, but his experience at Wolfville had converted him on this point. He reviewed the work of the year, pointed out important changes that had been made in the organization of the courses, and that were in contemplation as respects the comfort and enlargement of the building, and appealed for a larger patronage from New Brunswick. He spoke well, and created a very favorable impression.

Dr. Trotter followed in behalf of Acadia Seminary and the College. Before touching upon particulars respecting the two institutions, he raised the question as to what it was the institutions at Wolfville were trying to do. This question he answered by a broad discussion of what education means, of the ideals of it to which the institutions at Wolfville stand pledged, and showed how closely allied this work was to the life of the home, of society, and of the Kingdom of God. He insisted that education was a most practical thing, and that college education was the most practical of all. Speaking of the Seminary he warmly commended its ideals, and pleaded for a larger use of this institution by our people. He referred in appropriate terms to Mr. McDonald's retirement to assume the pastorate at Fredericton, and to the appointment of Mr. DeWolfe. He expressed great confidence that Mr. DeWolfe would prove to be the man for the place. Referring to the College he touched upon its general property, the new provision for Biblical and theological work, and the appointment of Dr. Chute. His words respecting Dr. Chute were words of warm esteem and confident expectation.

The Rev. W. E. McIntyre then spoke to the report, expressing his deep interest in the cause of Christian education, and enforcing in his own strong way points advanced by the previous speakers.

The educational meeting was decidedly successful.

SATURDAY MORNING.

After a prayer service led by Rev. W. J. Gordon, the morning session of the Association was opened with the reading of the Scriptures by the Moderator and prayer by Rev. R. B. Smith. A part of the time of the session was devoted to hearing the letters from the churches, which were read by Bros. Howard, King and Buchanan.

Rev. Dr. Trotter, Principal Brittain, Rev. B. N. Nobles, Rev. I. C. and Mrs. Archibald were invited to seats in the Association. The Home Mission report which had been read the previous evening was now taken from the table, and after receiving consideration clause by clause was adopted.

The afternoon session was opened with singing followed by prayer by Dr. Trotter. The report on Temperance was submitted by Rev. C. W. Sables, was spoken to by a number of the brethren present and adopted.

The committee on Church Incorporation reported progress through Rev. J. H. Hughes. After a free expression of opinion on the subject a resolution was unanimously adopted continuing the committee, and instructing them that the Association favored the incorporation of the trustees of Baptist churches rather than the incorporation of the churches.

The report on Systematic Benevolence was presented by Rev. F. B. Seelye and was adopted without discussion. The subject of systematic giving was afterwards discussed in stirring speeches by the Moderator, Revs. F. B. Seelye, J. H. Hughes, and Bro. M. S. Hall.

With the purpose of cooperating with the two other Associations of the Province in the matter of home mission work, a resolution was adopted, instructing the nominating committee to name a committee to represent the Association upon the joint-committee of Home Missions for New Brunswick, in consideration of the large extent of country covered by the Association, and the de-

alrability of its being represented in every meeting of the Board or joint-committee, it was resolved to appoint a committee of twelve and to suggest to the other Associations that they each appoint a like number, it being provided however that, should the other Associations appoint a smaller number than twelve, a corresponding number of the twelve appointed by the Western Association, taking the names in the order reported by the nominating committee, should constitute the Association's representation on the joint-committee.

Before the close of the afternoon session the Moderator announced that he had just received intelligence of the death of Rev. G. W. Springer, an aged and very highly esteemed minister connected with the Association, who, after many years of faithful service for his Master, closing in a painful and trying illness of several months, had now passed to his reward. Remarks in a tender and kindly and reminiscent vein concerning the departed brother was made by Rev. George Howard, who also, at the request of the Moderator, led the Association in prayer.

During the afternoon a Woman's Mission Aid meeting was held in the hall near by.

SATURDAY EVENING: The evening service was opened with prayer by Rev. W. R. McIntyre. The Circular Letter was read by Rev. M. P. King, and after remarks by Rev. J. H. Hughes, Geo. Howard and M. P. King, was adopted as the letter of the Association to the churches.

Bro. Buchanan presented the report on Denominational Literature, and the report was adopted without discussion.

An invitation from the Rockland church was on motion accepted for the next annual meeting of the Association.

The remainder of the evening was given to a platform discussion of the subject of Foreign Missions. Rev. I. C. Archibald gave the first address, and spoke with his accustomed earnestness and power of the importance of our Telugu mission and the great interests involved in it. This was followed by an address by Miss Clark who has been accepted by the Board for service on the Foreign field, and who gave expression to her deep interest in the great work toward which she had felt herself called. The closing address was by Mrs. Archibald, who spoke with the instructive and persuasive power which she has at command, and whose earnest and forceful words, born of her long and successful experience in missionary work, must have made a deep impression upon her hearers.

On Sunday morning the annual sermon before the Association was preached by Rev. J. H. Hughes. The text was found in Luke 24:50. "And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands and blessed them." This excellent and impressive discourse was heard with attention, and doubtless with great profit, by the large audience assembled. Revs. M. P. King, B. N. Nobles and Dr. Trotter assisted in the service. Rev. Geo. Howard preached at the same hour to an overflow meeting in the hall near by.

At the afternoon service an address in the interests of the Home Mission work was delivered by Rev. B. N. Nobles of St. John, an address on Sunday School work by Rev. Geo. Howard, and an address on Bible Wines by Rev. W. R. Robinson.

A Woman's Mission meeting was also held in the afternoon in the hall, at which Mrs. Archibald and Miss Clark were the principal speakers. In the evening Rev. R. Barry Smith was the preacher, and a social service which followed was led by Rev. F. B. Seelye.

The weather during the Association was fine though at times very warm. The people were most hearty in their hospitality. The spirit pervading the sessions of the Associations was kindly and Christian, the sermons, addresses and discussions were earnest, stimulating and helpful, and the opinion was freely expressed among the delegates that it was one of the best sessions the Association had ever held.

Pray and Ply Your Paddles.

When the cruel savages of Tanna were thirsting for Paton's blood, he, with his three Aneityumese teachers, Matthew, Abraham, and Abraham's wife, followed by a Tannese boy named Katanian, got into a canoe, and under cover of the night pushed out to sea. Almost swamped by the waves, his helpers threw down their paddles, exclaiming: "We are all drowned now! We are all food for the sharks!" Ordering the lad with the steering paddles to sit firm in his seat, Paton cried: "Abraham where is your faith in Jesus? Remember he is ruler on sea as on land. Pray and ply your paddle. Keep up stroke for stroke with me. Our lives depend on it. Matthew, bail with all your might. Don't look around on the sea. Let us pray to God and ply our paddles, and he will save us yet." And God did; for four hours later, with the skin of their hands sticking to the paddles, they stepped ashore just as day was breaking. They were delivered by praying and paddling. If they had done nothing but pray, the waters would have engulfed them. If they had done nothing but paddle, the issue would have been equally disastrous; for Paton declares: "Had I been a stranger to Jesus and to prayer, my reason would verily have given way. We must pray as if all depends upon God, and work as if all depends on us. Praying without working is hypocrisy. Working without praying is presumption. If prayerlessness is a grief to God, laziness must be an abomination.