

## Our Contributors.

### Meeting of General Assembly

in St. Andrew's Church, Vancouver.

6th June, 1903.

DEAR SIR,—According to arrangements just completed with the Railway Companies it is necessary that each Commissioner receive a certificate from me. This certificate I now enclose. On presentation of this to the Railway Ticket Agent at your point of departure, you will receive a return ticket to Vancouver or Victoria, at the special rates agreed upon.

Commissioners from points in Ontario, from Peterborough and west to Detroit and Niagara Rivers, can start either on the C.P.R. or the G.T.R. via Toronto and North Bay, and from points on the C.P.R. east of Peterborough, can go via Smith's Falls and Carleton Junction, and, from east of Smith's Falls, Montreal, Quebec and points in the Province of Quebec east of Montreal, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and points in Nova Scotia east of Moncton, can travel by the C.P.R. joining the main line train at Montreal. Those who are located on the Grand Trunk east of Toronto can travel by that road to North Bay, and those located on the Intercolonial west of Moncton can travel by that line to Montreal. Tickets will be on sale commencing May 20th to June 5th inclusive, return limit good until July 27th inclusive. Stop over privileges will be granted at Winnipeg and points west thereof, both going and coming.

Tickets are only good to go and return by the same Railway Company's lines.

Commissioners taking tickets by the Canadian Pacific Railway can go out by the main line via North Bay (or by Lake Superior steamer to Fort William) to Vancouver. They may return by the same route or via the Kootenay and Crow's Nest Pass, or via Portial and Sault Ste. Marie by the Soo Pacific Line, enabling them to visit St. Paul, Minneapolis and Sault Ste. Marie. Those desiring to do so, must intimate this when in Vancouver, to Mr. C. J. Coyle, Canadian Pacific Railway Assistant General Passenger Agent in that city.

Commissioners taking tickets by the Grand Trunk Railway can either go via North Bay, or via Chicago and by the Northern Pacific and Great Northern to Vancouver.

Please note that all Commissioners must select their route, before starting, and return by the same Company's lines.

The reduced rates are only good for Commissioners to the Assembly, their wives or daughters, and also for ministers of the Church, although not Commissioners, provided they hold certificates from me that they are going to Vancouver to be present at the meeting. I have endeavored to have the privilege extended, but the Companies positively decline.

The following are the rates agreed upon:—

From Toronto, Hamilton and points west in Ontario to Detroit River.....	\$62 40
" Peterborough .....	64 70
" Kingston .....	67 80
" Ottawa .....	68 00
" Montreal .....	68 00
" Quebec .....	71 00
" St. John, New Brunswick.....	75 00
" Halifax .....	81 00

And from all other points in proportion. These rates are for all rail. If the C.P.R. Lake Superior steamers are used an extra charge of \$4.25 for meals and berth is made each way. From Port Arthur, Fort William and as far west as Griswold, on the main line, the return rate will be \$50.00; from points west of Griswold single fare.

Yours very truly,  
ROBT. H. WARDEN,

Toronto, April, 6th, 1903.

P.S.—The Canadian Pacific Railway will provide first-class and tourist sleeping cars at the following rates to Vancouver: *First Class Sleepers*, from Halifax, \$22.00; St. John, N.B., \$20.50; Montreal, \$18.00; Toronto, \$17.00; and Fort William, \$15. *Tourist Sleepers*, from St. John, N.B., \$9.50; Montreal, \$8.00; Toronto, \$7.50; and Fort William, \$5.00.

### NOTES BY NEMO.

One satisfactory feature of Church life at the present day is the living interest in religious teaching and the study of the Bible. There has been much discussion as to the best means and methods; that cannot be avoided and is a healthy sign. If our young people do not know their Bible as well as they ought to do, and if religious training does not receive its fair share of attention, we are not content that this should continue. The great Convention recently held at Chicago University is significant as showing the determination on the part of a great many intelligent men to do something to improve matters in this respect in all our colleges and schools. We believe that something will come out of this, the progress may be slow as is the case with all steady enduring movements, but the attempt is significant and hopeful. The following extract will shew the spirit of the new Association:

The Association, through its departments, will propose to make new contributions to the cause of religious and moral education. Through the conduct of *scientific investigations* some of them will attempt to define more closely the true relation of religious and moral instruction to other branches of instruction and to indicate the part which religion should perform in the development of the individual and of society. Others will undertake to correlate religious and moral instruction with the instruction in literature, history, and science now provided in the public schools. Others will seek to determine the place of the Bible in religious and moral instruction and set forth the best methods of using the Bible for this purpose. Still others will endeavor to point out the application of the established results of modern psychology, modern pedagogy, and modern Bible study, as these stand related to religious and moral instruction.

*Practical experiments* will also be carried on, some of which shall have to do with the adaptation of religious and moral instruction to different stages of physical, mental, moral,

and spiritual development; others with the adjustment of the material employed for purposes of religious and moral instruction to the needs of the special sociological groups included in Christian Associations, Young People's Societies, Bible clubs, and the like; still others, with the working out of an approximately ideal curriculum for the Bible school—a curriculum which will embody the larger substance and the better methods of a religious and moral education that is in accordance with the present status of biblical, theological, ethical, psychological, pedagogical, and scientific knowledge.

From time to time *constructive propositions* will be presented, which shall be intended to serve as the basis for lesson-helms and textbooks on various portions of such curricula; to secure the more adequate training of teachers; and to place the work of religious and moral instruction on as high a plane as that on which secular educational work has come to rest.

The Association will do its work with the *scientific spirit*, and will consequently proceed carefully and cautiously upon the basis of fundamental principles, seeking to observe accurately the facts and from these to make deductions, and aiming to co-ordinate and systemize the material presented for consideration.

It will be controlled also by the *universal spirit*, and this will forbid the placing of emphasis upon the distinctive views of any one denomination or school of opinion to the exclusion of others; for it may be confidently asserted that those who hold different theories of biblical history may be able to unite upon a constructive teaching of the Bible from a practical religious and moral point of view. It will, likewise, forbid the limitation of the work to any single phase of religious instruction, inasmuch as the time has now come for the existence of an organization which shall not aim to supersede any of the existing agencies dealing with special phases of religious instruction, but will undertake to study and develop the subject in its entirety; this spirit will also forbid the restriction of the control to any one section of the country, or to those interested in any one division of the work, or to those representing any one school of thought.

And above all, the Association will cultivate the *cooperative spirit*, thus manifesting clearly its purpose to assist all organizations working in the same field; it will refuse to enter into rivalry with institutions or associations of any class; and it will perform that general service which will promote the efficiency of all institutions.

Some four months ago a French writer, Clondesley Brereton, gave an address before the Society of Arts of France, dwelling upon the decline and condition of the rural population of that country. The attractions of town life, higher wages and conscription are among the most obvious explanations of the depopulation of the rural districts. There are, however, other causes, notably the low birth rate and the spread of intemperance. In connection with this latter subject Mr. Brereton casts a lurid light on the present condition of what was once the most temperate country in Europe, if not the world. The phylloxera