

The Wesleyan,

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NO. 48

CHANGES IN THE ECONOMY OF THE METHODIST CHURCH OF CANADA, EFFECTED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1878.

ITINERANCY.

That a minister shall not be re-appointed to a circuit within a less interval than three years.

LEADERS.

It is recommended that the paragraph on page 78 of the Discipline which reads,—

"To make strict inquiry in the Local Preachers' Meeting once a quarter into the moral character of all the Leaders, their punctuality in beginning and ending their Class Meetings in proper time, and whatever relates to their office," be expunged, and that the following be substituted:—

To make strict inquiry in the Leaders' Meetings, preceding the May Quarterly Meeting, into the moral character of all the Leaders, their punctuality in beginning and ending their Class Meetings in proper time, and whatever relates to their office; and if there be no objection alleged and sustained they shall continue in office for the year; and in case there be no Leaders' Meeting, then the examination or inquiry shall be held at the Quarterly Official Meeting in May.

The recommendation was adopted.

RIGHT OF PREACHERS ON TRIAL TO VOTE.
In regard to the memorial in reference to the rights of preachers on trial to vote in District Meetings, the Committee are of opinion that the Discipline is sufficiently plain and gives them that right.

Adopted.

TRANSFER COMMITTEE.

That the President of the General Conference and the Presidents of the Annual Conferences shall be a Committee for the transfer of ministers and preachers from one Annual Conference to another, subject to the regulations hereinafter mentioned.

The Annual Meeting of the Committee shall be held on the day and at the place which the President of the General Conference may appoint.

All communications from Presidents of Annual Conferences, in relation to transfers from their bounds, and from brethren who desire a transfer, shall be sent to the President of the General Conference not later than the thirty-first day of March in each year.

The General President shall notify the President of each Annual Conference of all proposed or desired transfers to or from his Conference not later than the fifteenth day of April in each year, and the President shall immediately notify any member of his Conference affected by such proposed transfer.

In case there be a Conference from or to which no transfer is proposed or desired in any given year, the representative from such Conference shall not be under obligation to attend the meeting of the Transfer Committee for that year.

That the Transfer Committee shall have authority to fix the date at which the transfer shall take effect.

MISSIONS.

That every Superintendent of a Circuit be required to promote by every means in his power the augmentation of juvenile contributions to the funds of the Missionary Societies, by Sabbath collections, the use of cards or Missionary boxes, or such other means as may be judged best in each locality.

That the Annual Report of the Missionary Society do contain the missionary notices as heretofore; and that, with a view of reducing the size and expense thereof, it do not contain the names of any subscribers for a less sum than four dollars.

That all communications for the Mission Districts intended for publication in the organs of the church, shall be first examined and approved by the

That there be one Missionary Secretary, and that the Central Board have authority to secure for the Mission office, whatever assistance in their judgment the necessities in the work may demand.

That the Committee to whom the Conference committed the question concerning the claims of the Superannuated Ministers' Fund and Supernumerary Funds respectively, report that the claims of Missionaries who have travelled on Circuits of such a character as to give no support to those funds have legitimate claims on the Missionary Fund—claims that have been acknowledged for many years; that in order that those claims may be equitably adjusted, they instruct that grants be made to the Superannuated Ministers' Fund and the Supernumerary Fund in the proportion of six-sevenths to the Superannuated, and one-seventh to the Supernumerary Fund, on condition that these funds provide for the allowance of these Missionaries in accordance with the rules of the said Fund.

That all moneys collected for Missions shall pass through the hands of the Chairmen of Districts to the General Treasurers, and all moneys from the General Treasurers shall also pass through the Chairmen's hands.

ELECTIONS TO GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Instead of one member in every eight members in Annual Conferences one in every ten are to be elected.

That each Annual Conference after the election of the number of ministerial delegates as provided in paragraph 2, page 26 in the Discipline, may elect a reserve delegate, and in addition to the reserve delegate so elected, shall also elect one reserve delegate for every ten members of the number it is intended to send—such reserve to take the place of a delegate when by reason of death or for other cause there is a vacancy in the delegation, in the order of election as determined by number, provided always that the vacancy occurs before the meeting of the General Conference. Each District may elect a layman as a reserve in addition to the number of delegates it is entitled to elect, who may, upon notice from the President of the Conference, take the place of a delegate in order of election as determined by number, when by reason of death or other cause, there is a vacancy in the delegation, provided always that the vacancy occurs before the meeting of the General Conference.

That the basis for computing the number of ministers and laymen to compose the General Conference, shall be the number of ministers in full connection with the Conference, and the number of members as found in the Conference, next preceding that at which the election is made.

POWERS &c., OF ANNUAL CONFERENCES.

That each Annual Conference shall have authority, by a two-thirds vote of the ministers present and voting, to locate any of its members at any time up to the tenth year from the time of their reception on trial, and that such action of the Conference shall be final; provided that notice of each location be given at the preceding session of the Conference.

That no Chairman shall have authority to employ any person with a view to his reception into the active work, without the consent of the Annual Conference, or of the Special Committee thereof; and in no case shall any person be so employed who has been rejected by a Quarterly Meeting, District Meeting, or Annual Conference.

That no new Missions shall be established unless by a vote of the Conference in which the Mission is proposed.

That this Conference requests the Presidents of the several Annual Conferences to see that the General Conference collection is taken up in every Circuit and Mission, and remitted to the General Treasurer as soon as possible.

In the case of distant Missions, or when for any cause it is impracticable for the President of the Conference to be present, each Annual Conference shall have authority to provide that the ordination of candidates approved by the Conference, shall be performed by the Chairman of the District, assisted by one or more ministers, according to our form of ordination.

That the Ministers hereafter appointed to office by the General Conference shall remain members of the District

members before such appointment to office.

The District Meetings and Annual Conferences are recommended to send no preacher on trial to College for a term of less than two years, and whenever possible to extend the time to three years.

No preacher appointed to College shall be removed therefrom, except by authority of the President of his Conference, with the consent of the Chairman of his District and the President of his College, or Dean of Theology.

That the standard of qualification for young men recommended to be received into our Conferences as probationers, shall not be lower than 50 per cent. of the marks on the Preliminary Course of Study.

That any candidate who may present a Public School Teacher's certificate of having passed a Matriculation Examination at any of our Universities, shall not be required to be examined on the English branches of the preliminary course.

GENERAL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT.

That this General Conference considers it necessary to provide assistance for its President in the discharge of his manifold duties, and that an appropriation be made from the General Conference Fund to meet the expenses that may be incurred.

To insert the words, "and especially to attend as many as possible of the sessions of the Annual Conferences," between the words "Conference" and "provided," in the 14th section of the Discipline, page 29.

The committee recommended that \$1,000 be placed at the disposal of the President, to cover expenses of assistance, &c., to be provided as follows:—
From the General Conference Fund.....\$500.00
From the Mission Fund..... 300.00
From the Educational Fund... 200.00
The Report was adopted.

COURT OF APPEAL.

Each General Conference shall appoint a Special Committee, on the nomination of the President, of not less than twelve persons, containing an equal number of ministers and laymen, who shall, from one General Conference to another, watch over and guard all the rights and privileges of our Church throughout the Connexion; promote, as far as possible, the recommendations of the General Conference; consider and decide upon any measures which may seem necessary for the general interests of the Church, and which could not have been foreseen at the meeting of the General Conference, and adopt such means for their accomplishment as it may judge expedient. The Special Committee shall be a Court of Appeal having jurisdiction on questions of law arising in the Annual Conferences, and its decisions shall be binding on the Annual Conferences and other Church courts concerned. The decision of the Special Committee on appeals shall be final.

The Special Committee shall meet at the call of the President of the General Conference, and when called together, seven men shall form a quorum, a majority of whom shall be competent to render judgment in any case submitted to it. The Special Committee shall appoint its own Secretary. In the absence of both the President and Vice-President, the Committee may appoint its own presiding officer.

An appeal shall be laid before the Special Committee against any action or decision of an Annual Conference involving a question of law, and if the appeal is sustained the action of the Conference against which the appeal is made is not to be enforced.

All notices of appeal shall be sent to the President of the General Conference, and all Presidents of Conferences against which an appeal is laid, shall furnish, as far as can be, all the documentary or other evidence that the Special Committee may require.

Provided the Special Committee, nevertheless, shall not exercise any legislative authority, or do anything that may interfere with the disciplinary duties of any Annual Conference, or any officer of the Church.

Committee of the General Conference as follows:—

The Rev. Dr. Ryerson, the Rev. Dr. Rice, the Rev. Dr. Elliott, the Rev. Dr. Jeffers, the Rev. Dr. Williams, the Rev. Dr. Pickard, the Hon. James Ferrier, the Hon. S. L. Shannon, the Hon. W. G. Strong, the Hon. J. J. Rogerson, Judge Jones, and Mr. John Macdonald.

MODE OF PROCEDURE IN TRIAL.

1—The officer under whose supervision a trial is to be conducted shall furnish to the accused, at least one week before the trial, a copy of the charges, along with notice of the time and place of trial.

2—In every case of an equal division of votes in a Committee of Investigation, the presiding officer shall have a casting vote.

3—A majority of the Committee appointed to conduct a trial shall constitute a quorum.

4—A defendant may challenge for cause the proportion of two in five of those nominated to form a Committee of Investigation, that is to say, may challenge, not peremptorily, but for reasons that are deemed sufficient by the presiding officer.

5—A majority of the Committee are competent to render a verdict.

6—The presiding officer shall see that a correct record be kept of the charges, evidence, and judgment in the case.

7—In all cases of trial and appeal the presiding officer shall refrain from delivering any charge to the Committee or from interfering in any way with their liberty of judgment.

8—If the accused person evade a trial, by absenting himself, after sufficient notice has been given him, and the circumstances of the accusation be strong and presumptive, let him be esteemed as guilty. In such a case no appeal is permitted to a higher court.

9—The testimony of non-members of the Church may be received.

10—A charge may be instituted only by a minister, a probationer for the ministry, or a full member of the Church.

11—A copy of the judgment of the Committee of Investigation, signed by the chairman and the members of the Committee approving thereof, shall be furnished to the accused within two days from the time when such judgment shall be formed.

12—In every case of an appeal the appellant must within one week from receiving a copy of the judgment of the Committee, give notice to the presiding officer of his intention to appeal.

13—When the appellant does not appear personally or by a representative to prosecute his appeal, it goes by default.

14—In the conduct of an appeal the testimony presented to the lower court alone shall be received. If further evidence in the case is available, the Court of Appeal may order a new trial.

15—When the Appellate Court reverses the decision of the Court below, the appellant is reinstated in his former membership without any action of the court from which he took the appeal.

No member shall be expelled from the Church unless by proper legal process, prescribed by the Discipline.

LOCAL PREACHERS.

Several changes were made affecting these, which are too lengthy to be noticed here. See Discipline, amended, or General Conference Journal.

MISCELLANEOUS.

That all connexional notices, such as District Meetings, Missionary Anniversaries, &c., shall be published in our periodicals free of cost.

That the following clause be added to the directions relative to Baptisms: Let the minister when receiving persons on trial for membership particularly enquire whether or not they have been baptized, and if not, let that rite

FROM THE MISSION ROOMS.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

From the Rev. C. M. Tate, Chilliwack, B. C., dated July 3rd, 1878.

The work of the Lord on this mission has been very encouraging to me for the past few months. While the old members have been gaining strength, many others have come out from the world with a determination to serve God. Some who have given their hearts to God, are just merging into the light, manifest their desires to live a Christian life by seeking baptism at the hands of the church. Bro. Cushman supplied for me while I visited the Indians on the coast this spring previous to camp meeting.

At Nanaimo I found a few that were still walking in the narrow way. The grave yard is being filled very fast by those who are being swept away by drunkenness and disease. The great need of that mission is a school. It is painful to see the children growing up in a state worse than heathenism, with all the vices of the white man and Indian combined to ruin the body and destroy the soul.

Victoria, also, is very much in need of a missionary. The lay brethren are doing their utmost to sustain the mission work, but they cannot leave their several duties to visit and watch over the people, which is all important among the Indians.

Our camp-meeting at Chilliwack this year was very successful, especially among the Indians. We had conversions from among all the leading nations in British Columbia, and several from Alaska. We trust that these people will go as messengers of salvation, to carry the lamp of life to their perishing brethren beyond. It is sad to think that so many of our cities and towns are swamped with religious institutions and Christian ministers, while thousands of these poor Indians are destitute of the Gospel. When I look upon my insignificant field of 300 souls, I feel as though it was my duty to go where the multitudes are. After serious consideration, I have come to the conclusion that if the minister to the white people on this circuit had a native assistant, such as Bro. Cushman, with the co-operation of the local brethren (Indian and white), who are always willing to do what they can, he could with ease manage both departments of the work.

My heart has been cheered lately by hearing the report of a camp-meeting held at Nootsack, W. T., under the auspices of the M. E. Church, where for the past two years I have endeavored occasionally to scatter the seeds of eternal life. Numbers, both whites and Indians, have given their hearts to God. I have much cause for thankfulness throughout the whole of my labors, and while I do praise God for all the privileges and blessings of the past, I have a growing desire to be more useful in the future.

As new fields are opening with their hundreds or thousands of souls, should you be in quest of some one to carry to them the "glad tidings of salvation," here am I, send me.

ANOTHER TERRIBLE TALE OF THE SEA is announced, the sinking of the German steamer "Pommerania" by a collision, and the loss of the lives of about fifty second and third class passengers, chiefly it is said, Germans. The captain refused to desert his post and heroically went down with the ship! The doomed vessel had no warning, and in fifteen minutes from the time she was struck she sunk, and with her a host of lives went out. It is an awful story as succinctly related by the survivors.

An Albany surgeon removed a cancer from a smoker's mouth to save his life. The operation is very difficult, and the danger of death from hemorrhage is very great. The lower lip was divided to a point below the chin, the flaps turned up sufficiently to expose the lower jaw, which was then sawed through at the chin; and after the tongue had been amputated, holes were drilled through the jaw-bone and it was wired together and the lips replaced. The influence of the tobacco-pipe is direct and dangerous in developing this fearful disease; and did the public know the number of operations performed in private hospitals practice for the relief of men who have suffered from it, there would be less tobacco smoking.

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