

F. C. B. CONFERENCE.

Report Showing Status of the Denomination.

Greetings from Conferences of Maine and Nova Scotia.

Proposal that N. B. and N. S. Conferences Become Integral Part of F. B. Church of America.

(Staff correspondence of the Sun.) Fredericton, Oct. 8.—According to usage, a social conference was held in the F. C. Baptist church this morning, led by the pastor of the church. After the address of welcome testimony was given by ministers and laymen, men and women, concerning the preciousness of the faith of Jesus and the blessedness of the Christian life. The first regular business meeting of the conference was opened at 2.30 with singing; Coronation, the reading of Psalms 122 and 125 by Rev. B. H. Nobles, the moderator, and prayer by Rev. Gleason Swin. There was a good attendance. The pretty church was tastefully decorated for the occasion with crossed sheaves of wheat on the front of the gallery, and potted plants and palms on the platform. Suspended from the sanctuary arch was the motto, "Conference 1897, Welcome," in large white letters on a pale green ground. The moderator extended a welcome to all present and expressed gratitude to God for the services of the past year. He invited all present to join the singular Dorchester.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Rev. Dr. McLeod submitted the following reports: The summaries sent by the district clerks are, presumably, as full and accurate as could be made of the material furnished in the reports from the churches. The clerks have, also, at the request of the corresponding secretary, kindly permitted him the use of their records and the 1897 reports of the churches.

Of the ministers twenty-eight (21 ordained and 7 licensed) have sent reports as required by resolution of the conference of 1896; from twenty-six (22 ordained and 4 licensed) no reports have been received. The non-reporting brethren will, perhaps, at the present time state their reasons for not complying with the request of conference.

From the sources of information indicated the facts hereinafter set forth have been ascertained: Ministers—There are on the conference roll forty-three (43) ordained ministers and four (4) licentiate. Besides these there are seven district meeting licentiate, and three church licentiate.

Of the ordained ministers five are out of the province—Rev. J. H. Brib, in Texas, on account of his health; Rev. F. A. Currier, M. A., who has a pastorate in the Nova Scotia conference; and Revs. A. H. McLeod and W. Rend, who are at Cobb Divinity school. Four—Revs. Thos. Connor, J. S. Jones, T. W. Carpenter, and L. A. Cosman, on account of age or ill-health, have not been able to engage in the work of the ministry. The working force of the ordained ministry has, therefore, been thirty-four. Of these, four—Revs. J. Noble, T. O. Dewitt, H. Hart and J. Henderson—have been engaged in general mission work, brethren Noble and DeWitt the whole year, the former some of the time under the direction of the W. M. society, the latter some of the time under direction of the conference. In addition to these, brethren Henderson and Hart, part of the time, independently.

Twenty-nine—Revs. John Perry, G. A. Hartley, J. T. Parsons, J. N. Barnes, E. S. Vanwart, E. B. Gray, C. P. Phillips, W. Dowse, W. W. Clarke, J. J. Barnes, W. J. Hale, O. N. Mott, G. W. Foster, G. F. Currie, B. H. Nobles, W. H. Perry, G. Swin, C. B. Lewis, F. C. Hartley, H. A. Bonnell, A. G. Downey, D. Long, G. Perry, L. D. Hart, W. C. Keirstead and E. S. Patterson—have been pastors; and one, Rev. Jos. McLeod, has been editor of the denominational paper—the Religious Intelligencer.

Of the conference licentiate, C. T. Coombs and A. H. Williams were in charge of pastorates the whole year; S. J. Case was teaching at Horton academy, and was also teaching in the Free Baptist school at New Hampton, N. H.; L. A. Fenwick was pursuing his studies at Acadia university, and is now there; both these brethren did some preaching during the summer vacation.

Of the district meeting licentiate, P. S. Hartley, who is at the Divinity school, spent the summer vacation with churches in the third district under direction of the H. M. executive; T. Patterson, who is at the Bible school, spent part of the summer with churches in the sixth district; A. D. Paul has been two years in Maine, part of the time attending the Bible school, and he thinks to continue his studies there another year; J. E. Priddington was engaged with some churches in the second district; A. Stogier with churches in the third district; C. Stirling with churches in the fourth district; and Z. Doody gave some care to a church in the fifth district.

Of the church licentiate, M. L. Gregg and G. D. Murray spent the summer under direction of H. M. executive, with churches in the seventh district; B. McKim gave some care to a church in the fifth district. As ordinations take place only at district meetings, there could not be any ordinations during the year. To the list of licentiate there have been added since last conference by the first district meeting, Z. Doody; by the second district meeting, Chas. Stirling and J. E. Priddington; by the third district meeting, A. Stogier; by the sixth district meeting, Talmage Patterson; by Fredericton church, G. Douglas Mil-

bury; by Sulper Mountain church, M. L. Gregg; by Fifth Wickham church, Robert McKim.

Of the pastors only five have held two churches each. The others have had the care of pastorates embracing from two to seven churches each, the pastorates averaging four churches each.

Churches—The number of churches connected with the conference, according to the enrollment in the several districts, is one hundred and fifty-five (155). Of these one hundred and eighteen (118) reported to their respective district meetings this year. The following table shows the number of churches in each district, the number reported and the number unreported this year:

Table with 3 columns: District, Churches Reported, Churches Unreported. Rows include First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh districts.

Churches having pastors—One hundred and fifteen of the reported churches had pastoral care during the year. The additions during the year were: By baptism, 185; by letter, 62; total, 247. The increase is 46.

The membership of the reported churches is 9,169; the estimated membership of the unreported churches is 2,790, making a total of 11,959. New churches—Churches were organized as follows:

At Havelock, K. Co., June 12th, by Revs. J. N. Barnes and A. G. Downey, with 17 members.

At Riley Brook, V. Co., a church long dormant was reconstituted in January by Revs. C. T. Phillips and S. J. Perry.

Church buildings—A new church building at Connell, Car. Co., was dedicated to public worship. Church buildings are nearing completion in the following places: Victoria, C. Co.; Kingsley, York Co.; Bloomfield, Y. Co.; Wassa, S. Co.; Westfield, K. Co.; Castalia, Ch. Co.

Besides the foregoing several church buildings have been much improved at considerable cost, among them the following: Gibson, Marysville, Lincoln, Brown's Flat, Portage, Coverdale, Upper Millstream, St. John.

Church property—There are twelve parsonages—three in the second district, two in the third district, four in the sixth district, and three in the seventh district.

Financial statement—The money raised for all purposes by the reported churches was \$28,907.48. Some of the items which go to make up the total (\$28,907.48) are incomplete. For instance, the reports of only two districts make mention of money raised for Sabbath schools. It is not to be understood that the other districts failed in this branch of work. The explanation of the omission is that the clerks of five districts, knowing that a report dealing exclusively with Sabbath school work is presented by an officer of the conference, did not think it necessary to include financial or other particulars of Sabbath school work in their reports to your corresponding secretary.

Other items, such as education, Y. P. societies and others, are manifestly not fully reported.

Comparisons—Comparing this year and last it is seen that the additions to the churches by baptism are 252 less this year.

Comparing the salaries and other expenditures for church purposes, it is shown that there is an increase in this year of \$2,415.52.

The increase was chiefly in expenditures on church buildings, the increase in salaries being only \$15.39.

There has been a falling off in the contributions to home missions of \$32,114; and in those to foreign missions of \$11,914.

The conference fund is larger this year than last year.

Besides the financial record, the record of attendance at conferences and mid-week prayer meetings, and the statements of the additions to the churches—each of which indicates something of the religious condition of the churches—the reports from ministers throw considerable light on the situation. The following are brief summaries of reports received from ministers. They are given in the order of seniority—as the names are recorded in the year book:

Rev. G. A. Hartley is in the fortieth year of his pastorate in Carleton, St. John. Sunday services were increased, and mid-week meetings fairly so. All branches of church work well sustained. Finances very good; \$1,722 for the year. Three added.

Rev. J. T. Parsons in his 37th year at Marysville, Baptized three, Church has raised \$903. Y. P. society in good condition. W. M. society doing good work. Outlook good. Preacher also at Acadia, fortnightly. Church there small.

Rev. T. S. Vanwart has been pastor one year at Upper Hainesville, Millville and Staples Settlement. No special interest, but churches in healthy condition. The field is too small to sustain a pastor without H. M. aid. It is an important field, and should have care of denomination. Other denominations are in all parts of the field, and unless our people have regular care our cause will suffer loss.

Rev. P. O. DeWitt spent six months under direction H. M. executive—three months at Upper Gasquetown and three at Rusagomish. Revival in both places, baptized sixteen. Last three months of year was acting pastor at Greenfield churches must have regular care or they may be lost to us.

Rev. E. B. Gray has been pastor one year at Tracy Mills and Knoxford. No revival. Meetings good, especially the conference at the Mills. Not so encouraging at Knoxford.

Rev. J. Henderson visited Rusagomish several times during winter. Held special meetings in Geary; nine were baptized. During the summer went to Geary fortnightly.

Rev. J. J. Barnes pastor (this year) of Rockland, Coldstream, Gordonsville and Windsor churches. Rockland has a measure of spiritual life; prayer meeting has interest well sustained though attendance is small; members are scattered. Coldstream is in like condition. Gordonsville doing well. Fine mid-week prayer meet-

ing. Windsor has large Sabbath congregations. Churches as whole doing well. No serious disturbances.

Rev. G. W. Foster in "third year at Hampton, Upper Hammonds, Fort-Halen and Hibernia. Gave some care to Gasquetown also. Held special meetings at Upper Hammonds, Hibernia and Gasquetown. Five baptized at Gasquetown, four at Hibernia. Churches satisfactory condition, but as bright and flourishing as should be. In one church there are some difficulties, to make the work more successful we need a deeper, more complete consecration to God.

Rev. G. F. Currie first year "at Norton, Midland, Long Point and Ebb Settlement. Norton in good condition; meetings are seasons of spiritual refreshing. Midland has good Sunday services. Difficult to maintain mid-week prayer meetings. Church long distance from church; some are old; but chiefly trouble perhaps is low spirituality. Long Point a small church. Not much chance for enlargement. Cortex for one man to our people and those of other denominations. Long Point and Kara, directly across the Belleisle, would be helped by uniting in work, have same pastor, and go back and forth to meetings. They are practically one community, especially in winter. Ebb Settlement is small church. A grant of \$30 to \$25 from H. M. board would help the church. No special meetings during year. No additions. In aggressive work we are not doing what we ought. The good features on this field are (1) peace, (2) church buildings in good condition, and no debt on any, (3) good parsonage, with only \$200 debt, and that to be paid in few months. We ought to be paid in new ground here—Case Settlement and Mercer Settlement.

Rev. B. H. Nobles has three churches "at Upper Gasquetown and Newtown. Pastorate too large for one man to successfully carry on all branches of the work, and build up strong intellects. Not easy, if even possible, to make proper arrangement of appointments. Success in a most promising field, if rightly cared for; but cannot become the strong church it is capable of being unless the pastorate is divided. Spiritual condition of pastorates might be better. Feel, as probably other pastors do—that to awaken deeper spirituality there should be one or more evangelists in our field.

Rev. W. H. Perry has been four years pastor of North Head, Grand Harbour and Seal Cove. Seven have been added. The success of the year was weakened by the secession of 1888, but is gaining.

Rev. G. Swin has "at Portage, Cornhill, Lower Ridge and Portage. Spiritual condition of churches, not all as desired, but hopeful. Graveyard cemetery church is in the pastorate, and is visited occasionally. It is small and weak, and should have H. M. help if it is to live and grow.

Rev. J. E. Francis is at Cobb Divinity school. Preaches every Sunday, and says, "I am happy to say that I am preaching the gospel with all the love and earnestness of my being, and that the message finds acceptance."

Rev. C. B. Lewis has the 1st, 2nd and 4th Wickham and 2nd Johnson and Henderson churches. Preaches three times each Sunday. Churches getting a revival. Some of the churches are faithful at conference and prayer meetings. Regrettably that so small proportion of members realize responsibility to God and His cause. Outlook not so cheering as would like, but am hopeful that seed of Divinity truth, though sown in weakness, will bear fruit to the glory of God. Held special meetings at Shannon and 6th Wickham; two baptized, four others added.

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Rev. D. Long spent the year "with Lower Millstream, Upper Millstream, Midland, Moncton, Sulper Mountain and Apohaqui churches. Interest in churches fairly good. No special work during year. No debt on churches or parsonage. Need of special work on the part of the churches.

Rev. J. B. Daggert spent part of the year at the U. N. B. During this time he visited several churches, as Lincoln, Rusagomish, Bear Island, Lower Queenberry and Prince William. Revival in Lincoln, Sulper Mountain and Apohaqui churches. Interest in churches fairly good. No special work during year. No debt on churches or parsonage. Need of special work on the part of the churches.

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This will not be the case with an animal whose blood is out of order. When a horse is all run down he needs a tonic the same as a man. Often he cannot have complete rest. Give him

Dick's Blood Purifier

and note how quickly he will pick up. His whole system will be invigorated. His digestion will be strengthened so that all the nourishment will be drawn from the food and less of it will be required. Dick's Blood Purifier drives out Bots, Worms and all parasites. In cows it greatly increases the flow of milk.

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LEEMING, MILES & CO., AGENTS, MONTREAL. DICK & CO., PROPRIETORS.

Committee on collections—Rev. John Peterson, Fred Bloodgood, Chas. Vanwart, Feleg Smith, Jas. Macrae. Committee on appeals—Rev. John Perry, Rev. G. A. Hartley, Rev. J. J. Barnes, Rev. Elijah Gray, Wm. Peters.

Committee on deceased brethren—Revs. Joseph Noble, J. W. Clarke, A. G. Downey, G. W. Foster, W. H. Perry.

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Committee on district meetings—Rev. S. J. Perry, Rev. J. N. Barnes, T. S. Vanwart, Jas. S. Kinney, H. A. Bonnell, T. B. Basset, E. Slipp.

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SABBATH SCHOOL REPORT. Jas. E. McCready, corresponding secretary, presented the annual report, which was adopted on motion of Rev. Mr. Swin, seconded by T. B. Basset.

The report stated that returns had been received from 86 schools, representing a total of 5,203 scholars and 451 teachers—on the face showing a decrease in totals, but in reality due to the failure of schools to make returns as compared with the preceding year. The returns received, taken by districts, were as follows:

1st district—4 schools, 133 scholars and 12 teachers. Five conversions during the year.

2nd district—15 schools, 806 scholars, and 77 teachers; 28 conversions.

3rd district—11 schools, 606 scholars, 66 teachers; 28 conversions.

4th district—14 schools, 672 scholars, 54 teachers; 29 conversions, a gain of 150 scholars and 8 teachers.

5th district—9 schools, 339 scholars, 33 teachers; 11 conversions.

6th district—21 schools, 1,032 scholars, 86 teachers; 15 conversions, a loss of 3 schools, 233 scholars and 18 teachers.

7th district—12 schools, 1,460 scholars, 133 teachers; 17 conversions. Ten of the schools in this district are evergreen.

The foreign districts reported in libraries 1,194 volumes, against 7,534 last year; \$1,448.75 cash, received, against \$1,877.94 last year; property to the value of \$3,108.73, against \$2,104.29 last year.

The sixth, heretofore the banner district, has fallen back to second place, the seventh district taking the lead. The committee urged renewed efforts on the part of all school workers, pointing out that from the children came the hope of the church.

Rev. Gleason Swin, in moving the adoption of the report, emphasized the fact that 174 young people had been converted to God through the Sunday schools last year, as encouraging to teachers and parents and as demonstrating to Sabbath school workers that their labors had not been in vain. The best Christian in the churches today, said the speaker, were those who had been converted young.

T. B. Basset seconded the resolution in a pointed speech. Col. Alexander said he was not satisfied with the report, as it showed that the people had not done their duty by the Sunday schools. One phase of the report, however, that gladdened his heart was that the evergreen schools were increasing every year.

G. A. Hartley was the last speaker. He pointed out that the report did not cover the whole field, and was therefore to a considerable extent misleading when comparisons were made with the figures of the preceding years. This was not the fault of the committee, but was due to the failure of districts to send in returns of all the schools. He, like the preceding speakers, urged the conversion of the young, and the branch of the work of the denomination.

Sabbath school interests formed the topic of Rev. G. A. Hartley's address. J. E. McCready, corresponding secretary of the executive committee for Sabbath schools, submitted his annual report covering the returns from 86 schools with 5,203 scholars and 451 teachers. A smaller number of schools reported than for the preceding year. After Revs. Messrs. Swin, Bisset, G. A. Hartley and Col. Alexander had spoken to the report it was unanimously adopted.

Fredericton, Oct. 11.—All Protestant pulpits today were filled by delegates to the conference.

Hon. Mr. Foster writes from Ottawa to the conference secretary regretting his inability to attend.

Fredericton, Oct. 9.—The evening session was opened at 7.30 o'clock by singing Stand up for Jesus, the reading of Mark iv. by Rev. Gleason Swin, prayer by Rev. G. W. Foster and the singing of hymn 565. The large church was completely filled with delegates and attendants of the local church. The topic of the evening was Sabbath school interests.

Minutes of the preceding session were read and approved, and a number of delegates who had arrived during the afternoon answered to the roll.

The committee on nominations submitted its first report, which was adopted, as follows: Committee on absent brethren—Revs. S. J. Perry, Geo. McLeod, Chas. Knox, Col. Alexander, Alfred Slipp, J. McFarlane, Joseph Morrill.

Committee on collections—Rev. John Peterson, Fred Bloodgood, Chas. Vanwart, Feleg Smith, Jas. Macrae. Committee on appeals—Rev. John Perry, Rev. G. A. Hartley, Rev. J. J. Barnes, Rev. Elijah Gray, Wm. Peters.

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