

dent of Missions, from the cruel and unmanly attack made upon him by an anonymous writer in the "Mail" some time ago. Though that journal had made the *amende honorable*, lies were sometimes hard to kill. He considered that the union of the churches in British Columbia was necessary. If it is not accomplished it would not be the fault of the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland. He quoted from reports of proceedings in their General Assembly at its recent meeting, in which the opinion of the desirableness of union is strongly expressed. He concluded by specifying the many generous bequests that had been made to aid the promotion of Home Mission work.

A lively discussion followed on various matters touched on in the report, participated in by Principal Grant, D. J. Macdonnell, A. B. Mackay, Principal Caven, R. H. Warden.

Mr. Robertson made a brief but forcible address on Home Mission work in the North-West.

The Rev. Principal Grant moved, and the Rev. A. B. Mackay seconded, the following motion, which was unanimously adopted:

"That this General Conference now receive the report, and thank the Committee and especially the Convener, for their valuable services. The General Assembly expresses its deep gratitude to the Head of the Church for the many cheering features connected with the Home Mission work during the past year, especially for the extension of the work in the North-West, the success with which the Church and Manse Building Fund has been presented by its trusted Superintendent of Missions, the increase of liberality among the people generally, and the great energy manifested by the Missionary Associations in the colleges in view of the special expenses connected with ministerial labours in the North-West. The Assembly empowers this committee to raise the salaries of missionaries labouring there, should the state of the fund warrant, and also to take immediate steps to provide ministerial supply for the place that will be left vacant in a few months.

"The Assembly records its profound satisfaction with the attitude taken by the Church of Scotland towards the congregations in British Columbia connected with it, and instructs the Committee to do nothing to imperil the unity of Presbyterianism in that Province, leaving the matter in their hands."

The Moderator conveyed in fitting and impressive terms the thanks of the Assembly to Dr. Cochrane as Convener of the Committee.

The Assembly then adjourned.

THIRD DAY.

Morning Session

When the Assembly was convened Principal Grant obtained leave to make the following addition to his motion in relation to Home Missions.—"The General Assembly resolves to learn that the parent Churches recognize the claim on them that the new Districts and Provinces of the Dominion have, on account of the vastness of the work thrown on this Church, and the present large immigration to Canada from Great Britain and Ireland, and hereby conveys its thanks to the Church of Scotland for its grant of £100 for the mission work in the North-West, and of £50 for Manitoba College, and to the Church in Ireland for renewed and generous assistance to both the Eastern and Western sections of its Home Mission Committee."

Rev. Kenneth McLennan suggested that a committee be appointed to receive and examine References.

MINISTERIAL SUPPORT.

Rev. John Laing said that this question is becoming more and more important. Its discussion was very desirable. His experience and feeling were wholly Canadian. His prejudices were Canadian. When he was ordained twenty-nine years ago the minimum salary was \$400, that aimed at in present movement was \$650. There has in many cases been a large increase, but the sad fact remains that many of the smaller congregations have made no increase in their contributions for this purpose. There has always been difficulty in bringing the matter before the people. The late Joseph McKay offered \$10,000 if \$20,000 were raised by the Church for a manse fund. He recounted the steps taken to originate a plan for the improvement of the condition of poorly paid ministers. There were different elements in the Church. Each has a preference for its own methods. Old world schemes do not succeed here. What is there in the atmosphere of this western world preventing "sustentation?" Mr. Laing then discussed the proposed plans. He made a reference to the illiberality of some in the farming community, and he objected to the invidious distinction between ministers in self-sustaining and supplemented congregations. There ought to be a common fund to which every congregation can contribute, and a common rate of contributions. He pled for a careful consideration of this question by our business men. He concluded by moving "that a committee be appointed in which the elders and private members of the Church shall be largely represented, who may consider what is the best method of securing adequate support for the ministry of the Church, and prepare a statement on the subject; and in order to ascertain the mind of the principal congregations and of the laity of the Church generally, on whose approval and cordial support the success of any scheme must largely depend, instruct that committee to send down the statement by them prepared to sessions and congregations, asking in reply for an expression of opinion through the Presbyteries next year."

Mr. George Daft, Cookstown, thought there had been an unworthy aspersion of farmers. He could not let the reflection on the class to which he belonged pass unchallenged. In his neighbourhood he knew several who give from \$20 to \$30 a year for the support of ordinances.

Hon. Alexander Morris seconded the motion. He held that the voice of all classes of the people in the Church should be heard on the matter. The real question was sustentation, or supplement. You may get a man for \$50, but he will only be a \$50 man. It was the imperative duty of the Church to secure an educated ministry and to relieve those who are suffering from penury.

Principal Caven wished to contribute a little to the discussion of this important—almost vital—question. The reproach of negligence cast upon the Church is undeserved. Mr. Laing's statement removed a wrong impression on this point. Of scheme making we have had enough. There is no need of a third plan. What is wanted is something practical. He proposed that "The General Assembly is deeply impressed with the duty of putting forth the most strenuous efforts for the better support of the ministry, so that if possible a minimum stipend of not less than \$750, with manse, shall be secured. The Assembly deems it inexpedient to pronounce in favour of the principle of a supplementary rather than sustentation scheme, yet, considering that our past working has been in the line of supplement, the General Assembly instructs the Home Mission Committee, east and west, to use their best endeavours to put into operation the scheme of augmentation presented to the Assembly last year. The Assembly thus hopes to be able next year to bring a valuable increase of experience to bear upon this great interest of the Church, with the view either of improving said scheme of augmentation or of preparing the way for the harmonious introduction of another scheme, towards which our experience shall be found to point."

Dr. K. F. Burns, Halifax, seconded the motion. He thought it undesirable to enter on any new scheme at present. It is better to make advances on present lines. The separation of Home Mission and supplemental funds worked well in the Eastern Section. He defended the action taken by Montreal Presbytery.

Rev. William Bennett, Springfield, did not like the motion, because it staved off all efforts to relieve a class of suffering men. He did not like the amendment, because he is opposed to a supplemental scheme. Sustentation could best secure the necessary funds.

Rev. D. D. McLeod, Paris, recommended the throwing aside of preferential prejudices in favour of any mere scheme. He paid a tribute to the Moderator for the manner in which he referred to this subject in his opening address. There ought to be no fault-finding as to the liberality of the people, which, in many cases, was most creditable.

The Moderator then named the judicial Committee.

Afternoon Session.

The discussion on the question of ministerial support was continued by Rev. D. D. McLeod who had the floor; he moved "That a committee be appointed by the Moderator to draw up a deliverance for submission to the Assembly on this subject of ministerial support." He denied that \$1,000 raised by each of the Presbyteries, would secure to the whole ministry a minimum salary of \$620. He thought too, that the supplemental scheme would be better divorced from the Home Mission Committee's work.

Mr. James Croil, Montreal, seconded, and expressed the opinion that whatever plan might be adopted, the action of the Assembly would be liberally supported by the people of Montreal. He thought the divorce suggested by Mr. McLeod should be effected and a committee appointed to devote its whole energies to the scheme of supplementing insufficient salaries.

Rev. Dr. Reid thought the motion of Mr. McLeod should indicate some definite line of action.

Rev. D. J. Macdonnell claimed that the motion of Dr. McLeod was out of order, as it was not strictly an amendment to the amendment of Principal Caven.

The Moderator ruled the motion of Mr. McLeod out of order.

Rev. Mr. Lyle, Hamilton, supported the amendment of Principal Caven, and strongly advocated the separation of the scheme for ministerial support from the work of the Home Mission Committee.

Rev. Principal Caven asked leave to add to his motion the following:—"The Home Mission Committee be instructed to take measures to bring the whole subject of the better support of the ministry before the several Presbyteries and congregations of the Church, in order to awaken such an interest in the matter as shall result in a large increase in the funds available for carrying out the objects of the scheme."

Rev. Mr. Laing begged leave to withdraw his motion, which was granted, and the following amendment was then moved by Rev. R. H. Warden, Montreal, seconded by Rev. A. B. McKay:—"that with a view to increase the salaries of the ministers of the weaker congregations of the Church to a minimum of \$750 per annum and a manse, it be remitted to the Home Mission Committee of the Western Section of the Church, and the supplementary committee of the Eastern Section to revise the present regulations, or frame additional ones as may be necessary and as shall best conduce to the accomplishment of this object, said regulations to go into effect at the earliest possible moment with instructions to the Home Mission Committee of the Western Section hereafter to set apart for supplementary purposes a definite proportion of the entire moneys received for the Home Mission funds; farther, that the committee, both east and west, be empowered to solicit, in such manner as they may deem best, special contributions for the work of supplementing."

Rev. Mr. Warden vigorously supported his motion. He claimed that by the provisions and operations of the Montreal sustentation system not less than \$1,000 it was anticipated would be added to the Home Mission Fund, and careful provision was made that the General Fund should not suffer meanwhile, owing to the systematic character of the scheme, the minimum salary of \$750 was secured to each of the ministers in the Presbytery.

Rev. A. B. McKay, in a terse, humorous, and forcible speech, characterized the condition of things, which permitted a salary of \$4,000 to be paid to some ministers, and compelled others to labor for less than \$600 a year, a scandal. If no other remedy were possible, reduce the higher salaries and increase the lower. They had plenty of expert aid, all they wanted was cash. He would like Presbyteries to be instructed to do as Montreal had done. Say something definite, give the congregations an accurate idea of what was required, and the response would readily come. He thought the better paid ministers did not sufficiently exert themselves in behalf of their poorer paid brethren.

The Moderator, having left the chair, supported the pro-

position of Principal Caven. He said it would require from \$20,000 to \$25,000 to accomplish the end in view. He could not favour the principle of a sustentation fund. We had a right to take precautions that the congregations did their duty according to their wealth and proportions. He disliked the prescribing of rates. They weakened the force of appeal to the congregation. They wished to get the money but also to educate and elevate the giver. The less we spoke of rates and the more of great principles the better we would succeed. The Home Mission Committee met in September, and before that time the Presbyteries would be enabled to give this matter consideration. He gave a very decided preference to the motion of Dr. Caven. He could not approve the action of the Montreal and Quebec Presbyteries, but after all that action might be instrumental in awakening a proper activity in relation to this important question.

Rev. Robert Campbell, Montreal, said whatever scheme was launched should be learned from the action of the Montreal Presbytery that an appeal to local sympathies was a very powerful influence, and therefore an extension of the system could scarcely fail to be advantageous.

Principal McVicar was in favour of the motion which would best contribute to the acquirement of the necessary funds. Systematic instruction and earnest labour were imperative. It was necessary to say to every man, "How much will you give?" There would be no difficulty about administering the money. The difficulty was to get it.

Rev. R. J. Laidlaw, Hamilton, supported the scheme of Principal Caven. He thought the Home Mission scheme and the scheme for the augmentation of salaries should be separated. He had no fear but that the Presbyteries of Montreal and Quebec would fall in line with the action of the Assembly in the scheme for augmentation of salaries which might be devised.

Rev. Principal Caven asked and was permitted to add the following words to his motion: "Except that the extent of the supplement to ministers in the North-West shall be regulated by the action of the Assembly on the Home Mission report."

Rev. K. McLennan, Charlottetown, supported the views enunciated in the motion of Mr. Warden. It was more genial and left the Home Mission Committee more freedom in the arrangement of details.

The vote was then taken. Mr. McLeod's amendment was declared lost. Fifty nine voted for Mr. Warden's amendment, and on being put against Dr. Caven's motion the latter was defeated.

Before putting main motion, Principal Grant moved in amendment as follows:—"That in view of the unanimity of sentiment in the Church on the subject of increased ministerial support the General Assembly resolves: 1. That it is the duty of every Presbytery in the Church to see that no minister settled over a congregation within its bounds receive a smaller stipend than \$750 or \$700 and a manse; 2. That it is the duty of Synods to see that Presbyteries attend to this important matter, and to devise methods by which Presbyteries having resources inadequate to the work shall be assisted by the wealthier Presbyteries within its province; 3. That the Presbyteries of the Church are hereby enjoined to visit the congregations within their bounds during the year, and in that or in some other equally effectual way ascertain what amount of outside aid is required to secure the above named minimum stipend, and that they report accordingly to the next meeting of their respective synods, that the various Synods take the whole subject into their earnest consideration and report to the ensuing General Assembly whether it is possible to attain the end desired by this Assembly without aid from other Synods. The General Assembly agrees to the foregoing resolutions with the confident hope that each of its four Synods will take action so that the minimum stipend will be secured independently of aid from other Synods; and then that the work of Home Missions proper and the whole of our work in the North-West shall be carried on by a general fund contributed by the whole Church. Further, the General Assembly instructs its Home Mission and Supplementing Committees to use their utmost efforts during the ensuing year to carry on the work committed to them."

The consideration of this subject to be resumed to-morrow morning.

Evening Session.

The evening was devoted to the consideration of the Foreign Mission work of the Church.

Professor McLaren, Convener of Foreign Mission Committee, Western Section, presented the report. He gave an account of his recent visit to the Indian Missions in the North-West Territories. The work there has been done very satisfactorily. The Indians are making progress in the arts of civilization. The best ploughing he had seen was done by Indians at Bird Tail Creek. One of the elders of the church there is an Indian; so is the minister. Last year has been one of trial and triumph in the China mission. Mr. Junor had been laid aside by sickness. He is able to be with us to-night. In the McKay Hospital, founded by Mrs. McKay, Windsor, 1,900 patients had been treated, and 8,000 had received medical aid from Dr. McKay and his assistants. Residents in Oxford County, Ontario, had contributed \$6,215 to found Oxford College in Formosa. A minister's daughter on her death-bed had given \$500 to help the work. With this Dr. McKay had erected new churches. There are twenty-six chapels and twenty-six native agents. One hundred and forty converts had been gained during the year. Their contributions are generous. In India the mission staff has been reduced by the return of Mr. Douglas to Canada. Each missionary in our field there has baptized twelve converts. Mr. Joseph Builder, a distinguished graduate of Toronto University, is about to proceed to India, and Miss Roger is expected to return soon. Mr. J. S. Taylor has been obliged to abandon his intention of joining the India Mission on account of weakened eyes, and Mr. James Ballantyne is unable to go at present. The financial condition of the Foreign Missions is more favourable than it has ever been. The year's income is \$40,111. Messrs. John Macdonald and William Gooderham, of the Methodist