

SYNOD OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

FIRST SIDERUNT.

The Synod of British Columbia held its fourth annual meeting in St. Andrew's Church, Nanaimo, B.C., May 1st, 1895. Rev. J. C. Herdman, retiring Moderator, delivered an earnest and practical sermon, from St. Luke's gospel, xvi. 8, "The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light," for which he received the thanks of the Synod.

Rev. Arch. Lee, of Kamloops, was elected Moderator, and Rev. John A. Logan, of Chilliwack appointed clerk. There are four Presbyteries in the Synod. The Presbytery of Calgary was represented by Revs. J. C. Herdman, J. A. Matheson, and E. G. Walker; Kamloops, by Revs. A. Lee and Thomas Paton; Westminster, by Revs. E. D. McLaren, J. McLeod, G. R. Maxwell, J. W. McMillan, James Buchanan, Thos. Scouler, E. B. Chestnut, John A. Logan, and Alex. Dunn, ministers, and Messrs. J. T. Brown, and J. McKenzie, elders; Victoria, by Revs. Dr. Campbell, D. McRae, A. B. Winchester, D. A. McRae, W. L. Clay, and T. H. Rogers, ministers and Messrs. Geo. Leask, J. A. Thomson and Alex. Sharp, elders. In all 25 members present.

The changes in the roll were 2 inductions, 3 licensures, 4 ordinations, 3 demissions, 2 appointments, 2 new fields and 3 new churches.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures was appointed. Revs. J. C. Herdman, convener; D. A. McRae, Thos. Scouler, Thos. Paton, clerks of Presbyteries and the Synod clerk who prepared the daily order of business.

The Synod adjourned to meet on the following day at 10 o'clock a.m.

SECOND SIDERUNT.

Thursday, May 2nd, 10 o'clock a.m.

The first half hour was spent in devotional exercises taken part in by Dr. Campbell, Messrs. McLaren, Walker and Chestnut.

The salary of the clerk was fixed and a committee appointed to arrange for Sabbath services at Nanaimo, Vancouver, Victoria and Westminster.

Mr. Thos. Scouler gave in the Synod Treasurers report, which on motion was received, and he was directed to prepare a statement of delinquent congregations to the fund, and the clerk to notify Presbyteries ament the same.

On motion J. A. Thompson's name was substituted for J. B. McKilligan as representative elder for St. Andrew's, Victoria.

The Synod adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

THIRD SIDERUNT.

The Synod met pursuant to adjournment, the Moderator presiding.

The Synod entered upon the consideration of the Dr. Garrow case, which was an appeal from a finding of the Presbytery of Victoria. This case originated in the Session of First Church, Victoria. Dr. Garrow, a member of that Church, had applied for his certificate. The Session, on account of a *fama* declined to give it, and forthwith by a process proceeded to examine into the *fama*. From their finding Dr. Garrow appealed to the Presbytery of Victoria, which sustained the Session, from which he appealed to Synod.

The parties were called to the bar and the documents in the case read. They were: (1) The proceedings of the Session of First Church, (2) Dr. Garrow's appeal, with reasons, and answers thereto, (3) Various other appeals, (4) Judicial proceedings of the Presbytery of Victoria, Dr. Garrow's appeal with reasons, and Presbytery's answers thereto. Messrs. Clay and D. A. McRae represented the Synod in the matter. Having heard the case, the Synod appointed a committee consisting of Messrs. J. C. Herdman, convener; J. W. McMillan, E. D. McLaren and Jas. Buchanan to consider it, and prepare a finding, and report to Synod to-morrow morning.

The Synod then adjourned.

FOURTH SIDERUNT.

At 7:30 p.m. the Synod resumed business.

This evening had been set apart for Home Missions. Rev. E. D. McLaren spoke of the work done within our bounds and submitted an overture with recommendations, which appears further on. Addresses were delivered by Messrs. J. C. Herdman and D. McRae, after which the Synod adjourned to meet on the following morning.

FIFTH SIDERUNT.

Friday morning, May 3rd, 10 o'clock.

The Synod being duly constituted, a report from the Committee on Bills and Overtures was presented and adopted.

The committee on the Dr. Garrow case reported as follows—

"The Synod having heard the parties in the case find as follows:

"They sympathize with the Session of the First Church, Victoria, in the difficulty they experience, in dealing with an unusually complicated question, but they regret the Session did not investigate the *fama* in regard to Dr. Garrow, before he applied for his certificate of Church membership.

"Recognizing that this case has an interest for the whole Church, they instruct their clerk to procure from the proper officer of the court in Oregon, a copy of the decree of divorce, granted to Mrs. Jennie Crogan.

"They direct that a reference be then drawn up, by a committee consisting of Revs. J. A. Logan, E. D. McLaren and J. Buchanan to be sent in the name of this Synod to the General Assembly praying for a deliverance on the following points. 1. Is a member of the Church to be granted his

certificate on application, if there are no charges against him before the Session? 2. Is marriage to a woman whose husband has been divorced on the plea of desertion and cruelty a valid ground of exclusion from membership.

"They direct that a clear statement of the history of this case accompany this reference and they counsel all parties to accept the deliverance of the General Assembly in the spirit of loyalty and brotherliness.

"The Synod wish it to be understood that nothing in the finding is to be construed as countenancing any laxity in opinion or practice as regards the marriage tie."

On motion this finding became the judgment of the Synod.

The parties to the case being called to the bar of the Synod, Dr. Garrow acquiesced in the finding, and the Presbytery of Victoria protested and appealed for reasons to be given in and craved extracts.

The Moderator appointed a committee to draw up answers to reasons of appeal, consisting of Messrs. E. D. McLaren, convener, J. C. Herdman, J. Buchanan, J. W. McMillan and J. A. Logan.

The meeting of next Synod was appointed to be held in First Church, Vancouver, on the first Wednesday in May next, at 8 o'clock, p.m., and the resident ministers were appointed a committee on arrangements, with Mr. Maxwell, convener.

The Synod then adjourned.

SIXTH SIDERUNT.

At 2 o'clock p.m., the Synod met.

The recommendations of the Home Mission Committee report were then considered and adopted, and the committees directed to overture the Assembly in terms thereof as follows:—

That the Synod overture the General Assembly:

I.—(1) To fix the minimum salary to be paid to unmarried ordained missionaries in the Synod at \$750, instead of at \$700 as proposed by the Assembly's Committee. (2) To make the remuneration of students \$6 per Sabbath in the summer, and \$7 in the winter, instead of \$5.50 and \$6.50 respectively as proposed by the Assembly's Committee. (3) To instruct its committee in making grants to the fields in their Synod to take into account the great expense of living in some of these fields, the outlay for house rent being in certain places four times the amount allowed by the committee as an equivalent for a manse. (4) To direct that in the event of there being a deficit in the Home Mission Funds at the close of any ecclesiastical year, the grants promised to the missionaries for the half year then closing be paid in full, and that whatever reduction in the payments to missionaries may be rendered necessary by such deficit, be only made after six month's notice has been given to missionaries of the likelihood of such reduction taking place. (5) To recommend its committee to guard against any tendency toward unnecessary separation or division in the home mission work of the Church, and therefore to return to the practice that has hitherto prevailed of dealing in the same way with the claims presented by the various Presbyteries, instead of voting a lump sum to each of the Synods of Manitoba and British Columbia, as was done at the last meeting of the committee. (6) To instruct its committee to remain in session at least four days at the annual meeting in March in order that the whole home mission work of the Church (Western Section) may be brought fully under the review of the Committee.

II.—That the Synod enjoin all the ministers and missionaries within the bounds to bring more frequently under the notice of their congregations the vast extent of our home mission field, and the absolute necessity of a vigorous prosecution of their work in the interests alike of the nation and the Church.

An overture from the Presbytery of Calgary re co-operation in missions was read and supported by Mr. J. C. Herdman. After discussion it was adopted and ordered to be transmitted to the Assembly.

Mr. Thos. Scouler, on behalf of the committee, reported the Standing Committees as follows:

State of Religion—J. C. Herdman, convener; T. Glassford, Alex. Dunn, Alex. Tait; elders, F. A. Thomson and J. Creighton.

Sabbath Schools—J. A. Logan, convener; J. R. Grant, G. R. Maxwell, W. L. Clay; elders, A. L. Fortune and E. S. Wood.

Sabbath Observance—Charles Stephen, convener; T. H. Rogers, E. B. Chestnut, G. A. Wilson; elders, T. E. Patterson and J. McQueen.

Temperance—J. Knox Wright, convener; J. M. McLeod, Gavin Hamilton, D. A. McRae; elders, J. B. Kennedy, M.P.P., and R. Erskine.

Home Missions—E. D. McLaren, convener; J. W. McMillan, Thos. Scouler, D. McRae, D. A. McRae, D. G. McQueen, A. Lee; elders, Major Walker and Alex. Snarpe.

Systematic Benevolence—J. A. Matheson, convener; Geo. Murray, J. S. Buchanan, J. Jaffery; elders, Thornton Fell and Thomas Graham.

Statistics and Finance.—Dr. Campbell, convener; Arch. Lee, T. Scouler, J. Ferrie, J. C. Herdman; elders, Alex. Buchanan and J. C. Brown.

Manitoba College—J. Buchanan, convener; A. B. Winchester, J. Jaffery, Thos. Paton, J. A. Matheson, J. K. Wright; elders, J. B. McKilligan and A. Bethune.

Augmentation—E. D. McLaren, J. C. Herdman, joint conveners; D. McRae, A. Lee, D. G. McQueen, G. R. Maxwell, C. McKillop; elders, J. J. Ferguson and Captain McMorris.

Foreign Missions—Thos. Scouler, Dr. Campbell, joint conveners; W. S. Clay, T. H. Rogers, J. Buchanan, J. M. McLeod, J. K. Wright, C. McKillop; elders, J. B. McKilligan and J. B. Kennedy, M.P.P.

An overture from the Presbytery of Calgary was received, asking that the Synod of British Columbia be represented on the Assembly's Home Mission Committee by two members. It was supported by Mr. E. G. Walker, and on motion adopted and ordered to be transmitted to the General Assembly.

The Synod adjourned to meet in the evening at 8 o'clock.

SEVENTH SIDERUNT.

Synod met pursuant to adjournment.

Rev. Thomas Scouler presented the report on Foreign Mission work, and submitted the following recommendations which were adopted:—

1. That the Foreign Mission Committee of the several Presbyteries within the bounds of the Synod, be urged to endeavor to secure contributions from all our congregations and mission stations. 2. That efforts should be made by all our congregations where the Chinese and Indians are found in considerable numbers, to do what they can for their instruction and evangelization. 3. That where halls or rooms are required to be rented for this purpose the Assembly's Foreign Mission Committee should be asked to defray the expenses, and that a copy of this recommendation be sent to the Assembly's Foreign Mission Committee with an appeal for such help.

Mr. A. B. Winchester gave in Mr. Swartout's report on Indian work, and spoke on the work done among the Chinese in British Columbia, and earnestly pleaded the cause of Foreign Missions. He also introduced his assistant, M. Ng-Man-Iing and interpreted his address to Synod. Mr. Winchester submitted the following recommendations which were adopted. 1. That in the opinion of the Synod it is desirable that one of the Chinese workers should reside for the present on the Mainland and further that the matter of designation be referred for further action to the executive of the Foreign Mission Committee in conjunction with Mr. A. B. Winchester. 2. There is also urgent need for an inexpensive building, and help for a teacher at Union Mines. It is recommended that this matter be brought to the notice of the Assembly's Foreign Mission Committee.

Dr. Campbell presented the report on Sabbath Observance, addressing the Synod thereon, moving the adoption of the report, which was agreed to.

The Synod adjourned.

EIGHTH SIDERUNT.

Saturday, May 4th, 8 o'clock p.m.

The Synod met and was duly constituted.

Mr. J. M. McLeod presented the report on Temperance and submitted the recommendations which were adopted as follows: 1. That Synod prepare a list of questions for the guidance of the Presbytery's conveners in seeking information on the subject of Temperance. 2. That ministers and missionaries be enjoined to preach at least one sermon in the year dealing with this subject. The report on the records of Presbyteries was given in, and indicated that they were neatly, and, in the main, accurately kept. They were ordered to be attested.

Synod adjourned.

NINTH SIDERUNT.

Monday, May 6th, 8 o'clock p.m.

Synod met pursuant to adjournment, the Moderator presiding.

Mr. J. C. Herdman gave in the report on the State of Religion which was adopted. Recommendations: 1. More prayer is recommended; prayer from our home and hearts, prayer in our societies and sessions. 2. Moral and religious training is recommended; parents to have the duty insisted on of warning and counselling their children against vice and evil practices; pastors not to forget the children in their sermons, and that the Moderator be asked to issue a pastoral on Family Religion. 3. That special attention be paid by pastors, elders and church members to non-church goers, including the various nationalities who have no pastors of their own. 4. That with a view to the better upholding of our work in new districts, organization along the lines of our own system be proceeded with betimes, or when organization is already in process, that it be brought to a proper completion as speedily as possible. 5. More interest in Missions is recommended,—that information be given from the pulpit, that missionary services be sometimes held, that the practical interest of our Young People's Home Mission, our Women's Foreign Mission Society, Christian Endeavor and kindred societies be enlisted more fully in our mission work, and when possible that church papers be more widely circulated. 6. That conferences be held in Presbyteries at convenient times, at which specific questions on the state and growth of religion shall be considered. The report on the Manitoba College was given in by Mr. Buchanan, when it was agreed that the report be received and the claims of the college be presented by ministers to all our congregations.

The Synod then adjourned.

TENTH SIDERUNT.

Tuesday, May 7th, 10 o'clock a.m.

Synod met and was constituted by the Moderator.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures presented their final report.

A communication from Mr. J. F. Deane, Nanaimo, complaining against the action of the Victoria Presbytery in their disposal of charges he

made against Mr. D. A. McKay. On motion the communication was referred to a committee consisting of J. W. McMillan (Con.), E. D. McLaren, J. A. Matheson, James Buchanan and T. Scouler.

The Moderator called for the overture from the Presbytery of Calgary re Assembly's Travelling Expense Fund. This overture was supported by Mr. J. C. Herdman, and was on motion adopted and transmitted to the Assembly. Another overture from the same Presbytery on Synod Travelling Expense Fund was also read and referred to a committee composed of Mr. D. McRae (Convener), J. Buchanan, J. C. Herdman, W. L. Clay and A. Lee.

A further overture from the Presbytery of Calgary ament the ordination of Peter Naismith and supported by Mr. J. A. Matheson, was received and ordered to be transmitted to Assembly simpliciter.

The Synod adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock p.m.

ELEVENTH SIDERUNT.

The Synod met in the afternoon pursuant to adjournment. Dr. Campbell gave in the report on statistics and finance which was adopted and the Convener asked to furnish an abstract for the religious press.

A final overture from the Presbytery of Calgary re lists of questions to Sessions was read and supported by Mr. E. G. Walker. The overture was adopted and ordered to be transmitted to the Assembly with the request that all question lists be directed to Kirk Sessions.

The printing of the minutes of the first meeting of Synod and present Sessions was left in the hands of the committee, consisting of the clerk of Synod and Mr. E. D. McLaren. The Synod's commissioners to Assembly, along with Dr. Robertson, were appointed to support the overtures, before the General Assembly.

The following is the report of the committee on the Synod Expense Fund, given in by Rev. D. McRae, and adopted: 1. That the principle of the overture be approved of, and that a fund be established to be called the "Synod's Travelling Expense Fund," the general provisions of which are that congregations paying stipends under \$1,000 shall pay \$4 annually; paying stipends from \$1,000 to \$1,500, shall pay \$6; paying stipends above \$1,500 shall pay \$10. That only actual outlay for fares on railways and steamboats be allowed as expenses, that the amounts be paid in March 1st, and that the treasurer, Mr. A. Lee, shall disburse the funds *pro rata* of the amounts paid in. Where it is impossible to collect from congregations, ministers are expected to pay personally.

The Synod adjourned to meet again in the evening.

TWELFTH SIDERUNT.

The Synod met at 8 o'clock and was duly constituted. Mr. McMillan on behalf of the committee, reported on the Deane communication as follows: On examination of the document submitted, they found: (1) That Mr. Deane had complained to the Presbytery of Victoria of language used against himself by the Rev. D. A. McRae in the pulpit of St. Andrew's Church, Nanaimo, which he, the complainant, regarded as unwarranted and unbecoming. (2) That the Presbytery had referred this complaint to a committee to report upon. (3) That this committee having examined the papers in the case, and having heard Mr. Deane and Mr. McRae, had recommended that the complaint be dismissed, and Mr. Deane held morally responsible for the injury done Mr. McRae by the criticisms that have appeared from time to time in the *Free Press* newspaper. (4) That the Presbytery had adopted the recommendation of its committee and dismissed the complaint. (5) That Mr. Deane had not appealed from this finding of the Presbytery until several weeks after the finding had been arrived at. Your committee having heard both parties, have concluded: That while emphasizing the importance of keeping the pulpit as free as possible from all personal references, the committee cannot refrain from expressing their sympathy with Mr. McRae in the unfavorable criticism to which he had been subjected for a considerable time before he preached the sermon complained of, and their unimpaired confidence in the purity of the motives by which he has been actuated in his arduous and successful labours in the City of Nanaimo. They therefore recommend that the Synod take no further action in this matter.

The report was adopted.

Mr. J. W. Macmillan presented the report on Sabbath schools, which was adopted with the following recommendations: (1) That the Sunday-school committees of the Presbyteries of Victoria, Westminster and Kamloops be recommended to negotiate with each other with the view to holding a Sunday-school Convention. (2) That the Sunday-schools within the bounds be earnestly enjoined to contribute to the General Assembly's Sunday-school Fund.

The usual vote of thanks was passed, minutes read, Doxology sung, after which the Moderator announced the next Synod meeting and pronounced the apostolic Benediction.

JOHN A. LOGAN,

Synod Clerk.

Chilliwack, B.C., June 1st, 1895.

The induction of the Rev. E. Beauchamp, who has been called to Angers, Q., will take place on the 25th inst.; Rev. E. Saylaz to preach and preside; Rev. C. E. Knowles to address the minister, and Rev. C. A. Doudier, M.A., the people.