

We dream of homes so pure, so cultivated, so Christ-like in foreign lands that a Susannah Wesley may arise in Japan and a Frances Willard in China.—*Mrs. Ross.*

"If you want to reform a man, you should begin with his grandmother," said Wendell Phillips. This is only a quaint way of saying that we are affected by our heredity and environment. We cannot go back and begin with the grandmothers, we have to begin with the grandsons, and one of the mistakes of the church in the past has been its neglect to train and keep hold of the young people.—*Rev. G. J. Bond, B.A.*

JUST A LINE OR TWO.

The Connexional fire insurance scheme was knocked in the head.

The portrait of John Wesley is to be placed in all future editions of our hymn book.

The work of the Lord's Day Alliance was heartily commended by the General Conference.



REV. WILLIAM BRIGGS, D.D.,
Book Steward, Western Section.

Rev. Dr. Ross received great praise for the valuable "Agenda," which materially helped in shortening the session of the Conference.

Everybody agreed that it was the most satisfactory General Conference ever held as far as putting through business expeditiously was concerned.

The Conference expressed a strong desire to have Dr. Cornish's second volume of the "Cyclopedia of Methodism" published at an early date.

The General Conference declared that it regarded the movement looking toward organic union with the Presbyterian church with great gratification.

It was further resolved to appoint a committee to co-operate with similar committees in other churches in considering the question of union.

The Conference decided that we are to have a "Year Book" which will contain much valuable information concerning our work. The new publication ought to be cordially welcomed.

It was proposed to change the General Superintendent's term of office from eight years to four but it was not carried. The term remains at eight years.

The Sabbath Observance Committee declared that the liquor traffic in Ontario and in some other provinces, is the worst and most incorrigible Sabbath breaker with which we have to deal.

The Conference protested against the giving aid by the Ontario Government to universities that are denominational, and not strictly provincial, and under the control of the government.

The third Sunday in October was set apart as "St. James Day," and the Conference recommended that a united effort be made to raise the \$50,000 now needed to permanently relieve the church.

The Conference decided to celebrate the bi-centenary of John Wesley's birth by raising a special fund of a quarter of a million dollars for missions. It is a big scheme, of which more will be said in future issues of this paper.



REV. S. F. HUESTIS, D.D.,
Book Steward, Eastern Section.

The *Christian Guardian* is to be changed in form—made similar in size to the *EPWORTH ERA*. This is a good idea, but there is danger that the people will then speak of it as "a little paper."

The amusement question was settled, without debate, by adopting the recommendation of the committee that "no change" be made. Several amendments were suggested but they failed to carry.

It was decided that on particular fields of labor, when specially authorized by a three-fourths vote of the ministerial session of the Annual Conference, a probationer of at least one year's standing may administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper.

The assessment on circuits for the Superannuation Fund was raised from five to six per cent., and ministers must pay a percentage on their salaries in an increasing scale. Those who receive \$700 or less are to pay 3 per cent., and all who receive \$1,400 and over will pay 4 per cent.

The general way of addressing the chair was, "Mr. President." A few of the delegates insisted on saying, "Mr. General Superintendent," and they were rewarded in nearly every case by seeing the other fellow get the floor. "Mr. General Superintendent" is altogether too big a mouthful for an occasion like the General Conference.

In the discussion on the Superannuation Fund, Mr. Joseph Tait said he did not wonder that some ministers found it difficult to raise their assessment for the fund. He had been in churches when the announcement for the Superannuation Fund had been made in such an apologetic way that it would have been surprising if the people had responded very liberally. He urged the ministers to present the claims of this cause in a straightforward business-like way.

General Conference Officers.

The election of General Conference officers is always an occasion of unusual



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interest, especially when there is a probability of any changes being made.

The first ballot was for General Superintendent, which followed a sharp discussion on the length of term of his office. A proposal to change the term from eight years to four was defeated. It was understood, therefore, that whoever might be chosen would be General Superintendent for eight years. One ballot was sufficient to settle the question, as Dr. Carman was elected by a good majority, receiving 144 votes. The venerable superintendent was most heartily received as he stepped forward to make his acknowledgments, the whole Conference rising and applauding loudly. Dr. Carman thanked the brethren for this renewal of confidence, and stated that under the circumstances he appreciated it greatly.

Nobody thought of opposing Dr. Briggs as Book Steward, for his wonderful success in this department has stamped him as eminently qualified for the position. His geniality, coupled with great business capability, have made him universally