

\$1,500 a year, with office and travelling expenses, and he would enter on his duties in Toronto on Sept. 1st next.

Rev. Dr. Neil supported the nomination because no man who had a congregation could do the secretarial work of the commission, and the necessity of the work demanded a capable man. They had the best plans of any church on earth, but no church had such poor machinery to carry out its work.

Dr. Scrimger supported the motion, saying the Sunday school work should be carried on more systematically and socially, and the nominee possessed the highest measure of common sense and great organizing ability.

Rev. E. Scott, of Montreal, also spoke in favor of it, and the motion was unanimously adopted.

The appointment of an official in Winnipeg to take charge of the financial work of that synod was recommended by a committee, of which Dr. Patrick was convener. It placed the salary at \$1,000 and office expenses at \$400 per annum, and the question was referred to a special committee named by the moderator.

Separate School Question.

The Separate school question came up on the following notice of motion, filed by Rev. R. G. MacBeth, of Paris:

"The General Assembly re-affirms on motion of the late Principal Caven, seconded by the late Principal King, in regard to Separate schools, by declaring that such schools are inimical to a united condition of citizenship, and by protesting against the establishment or perpetuation of Separate schools in any part of our country unless they are imperatively demanded by the Confederation compact, by the terms of the Constitution, or by the legislative action of the people most directly concerned."

The reading of the motion was received with applause.

Reception of Ministers.

The report of the committee on the reception of ministers did not go through without opposition. The application of Rev. J. L. Skerrett, of St. Andrew's Church, Glasgow, was withdrawn, but Principal Forrest made a fight on Rev. MacFarlane, of the Church of Scotland. He said the applicant had been employed irregularly in the presbytery of Barrie, and had been told distinctly in February last that he must get his certificates. The reason why he had not done so was not known to the presbytery. Dr. McLeod of Barrie, said that Principal Forrest had not presented the facts correctly. The presbytery of Barrie did not think another certificate necessary. The committee had refused the application, but an amendment was carried permitting Mr. MacFarlane's admission on condition that he obtained his certificate.

The application of Rev. E. B. Chestnut was recommended on condition that he file a written statement of his views on infant baptism. Rev. G. D. Bayne, presenting the report, said it was thought that the applicant's opinions should be on record, in view of the way he vacillated in Hamilton presbytery. He had changed his mind three or four times, and should be asked to get it in writing. Rev. Dr. Bryce said Mr. Chestnut's history indicated a great degree of conscientiousness, and he was a very valuable man. Dr. Sedgwick said there were good men in every church. He had grave doubts that such a man could be useful in the Presbyterian Church, and hoped the application would not be entertained.

Dr. Duval said that when a man had wobbled five times within a short space of history, it would dignify the assembly if it arranged that he did wobble any more.

The convener of the committee agreed to drop the requirement of a written declaration of faith, and all of the applications were passed.

Scotch Delegation.

The evening session was chiefly devoted to the reception of Dr. Norman McLeod and Rev. Milford Mitchell, the delegates from the Church of Scotland, who were warmly received and addressed the assembly at length.

Dr. Mitchell, after conveying the greetings of the Scotch Church, congratulated the assembly on the continued success of the Church in Canada. He was lost in wonder at the greatness of the work in the North-West. Scotland had been asked to furnish more men and money. She would not send failures, and a wave of religious indifference that passed over the land had shortened the supply of men. The quality was better than ever, but there were now only as many students all over the land as there were in Edinburgh 40 years ago. But there were signs of the two great branches of the Church growing closer together. There were no Little Englanders in the Church of Scotland; they believed in the Empire. They believed that the Presbyterian was the ideal church government for a democratic country, and in Canada the Church had a task sufficient to awaken the ambition of any church.

Growth of Imperial Spirit.

Dr. McLeod said there had been nothing so remarkable as the growth of the Imperial spirit. It animated every heart in all the Empire, and no possession had a greater place than Canada. In Scotland the people were still divided, but the Church of Scotland was sound and healthy, and its members were increasing every year. In Canada the Church was opening up a splendid destiny, and he trusted that it would succeed in moulding the character of the people.

On motion of Principal Patrick and Dr. Fletcher a resolution expressing the gratification of the assembly at the visit of the delegates and conveying its best wishes to the Scottish Church was passed by a standing vote.

French Evangelization.

The report of the Board of French Evangelization was presented by Dr. A. J. Mowatt, of Montreal. The report showed that the work had been fruitful of spiritual results. Twenty-eight pastors and ordained missionaries, five colporteurs, eight students and catechists, and nineteen teachers have been employed. The average attendance of persons over 10 years of age at 86 preaching stations in 43 mission fields and colportage districts has been 1,810, representing 712 families, and 463 single persons not connected with these families. There are 1,220 communicants, of whom 186 have been added during the year; 917 scholars in the Sunday school, and 558 in the mission schools, and of the latter 288 came from Roman Catholic homes. Eighteen hundred and forty-eight copies of the Scriptures and 29,044 religious tracts and papers have been distributed. The fields contributed \$5,481, and the schools \$2,175, a total of \$7,656.

In moving the adoption of the report, Rev. John McKay said the Roman Catholic Church was a great agency for good in French Canada. There was found genuine devotion, not exceeded in other parts of the country. The priests said they could not hold the people. Countless numbers were leaving the Roman Catholic Church, and that was the great problem of the country.

The motion was supported by Dr. F. W. Kelly, who drew a dark picture of the condition of Presbyterian missions in Quebec, and appealed for \$50 from every church in Canada.

E. H. Brandt, principal of the Pointe aux Trembles School, concluded the session with an address on his work.

Mr. MacBeth's Motion.

It was almost the hour for adjournment when Mr. MacBeth's motion was reached on the order paper. As he rose to speak, Mr. A. G. Farrell, R.C. of Smith's Falls, drew attention to the fact that the resolution was inaccurate, in that it referred to the position taken on the school question by the assembly in 1896 as unanimous. He was present at that time, and the assembly was not unanimous. Mr. MacBeth argued that the word should be stricken out, but Mr. Farrell insisted that it would necessitate the giving of a new notice of motion.

Rev. Robt. Campbell pointed out that the objection was not well taken, and Rev. Wm. Martin, of Exeter, said it was unfortunate that the House was so small, and thought that consideration of the motion should be postponed. He moved that it be laid on the table, amid cries of "Next year."

Principal Scrimger said it would be unfortunate if the motion to lay on the table were carried, as it would create a most erroneous impression. He was interrupted by cries of "Vote" and Rev. Roderick McLeod, of Ripley, seconded Mr. Martin's motion to lay the matter over, which was carried by a large majority, almost all the leaders of the assembly voting in the affirmative.

The majority of the commissioners had left for their homes by noon, and it was a slim house that carried on the business this afternoon. A large amount of work was done, however, and great unanimity marked the proceedings.

Rev. Dr. Somerville, secretary of the Business Committee, in presenting the docket for the day's business, intimated that it could be cleared off and an adjournment reached before night. A tangle was encountered, however, in the report of the Committee on Statistics, which was before the House for the third time. It recommended that columns be added to the financial statement, to show the contributions of presbyteries to the different schemes of the Church. Rev. Dr. Somerville opposed any change in the direction of enlarging the statement, as it would become entirely too unwieldy. On his motion action was deferred until next year. A similar motion directing the committee to confine the figures to one page was also referred back, and the report as amended was adopted.

Prof. Ballantyne presented the report on the admission of students, which was adopted with a few modifications. Principal Patrick said he knew of nothing worse than extra-mural study. The results in Manitoba College had been most satisfactory, and he deprecated any direction to students to take such a course.

Churches and Manses.

The Church and Manse Building Fund report was presented by Prof. Baird. The financial statement showed receipts of \$38,680.67 and payments \$39,243.81, leaving a balance of \$3,436.86. The past year has been one of considerable activity in the building of churches and manses. The number assisted was 46 by way of loan and 19 by way of grants, a total of 65, which marks an increase of rather more than 50 per cent over last year, and is a record very much in advance of any earlier year. Of the 19 grants made during the year the largest sum was \$200, and the average was \$126. Repayments of loans advanced in former years have been made at a very satisfactory rate during the past 12 months. Seventy congregations have made payments of principal or interest, or both, and the amount returned in this way to the treasury has been \$12,649.04, a sum considerably larger than in any previous year.

The adoption was moved by Principal Gordon, secretary of the committee in its earlier years, and carried.

Terms in Theological Colleges.

An overture from the Synod of British Columbia prayed that the term in theod-

(Continued on Page 12.)