

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

The Committee for that purpose presented their report nominating Mr. George Hague, Montreal, as Chairman for 1881. A motion of concurrence was made and carried unanimously. Mr. Hague was a cordially declared Chairman for the ensuing year.

BOND STREET CHURCH.

Among several applications for admission to the Union was the following:

The Bond Street Congregational Church, Toronto, to the Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec.

DEAR BRETHREN,—

We believe that the time has now come for a renewal of our interest in the various organizations of the denomination, and for co-operation with you in the promulgation of those principles of freedom in matters of church government and discipline to which as a body we adhere.

You will agree with us that this will be best accomplished by our return to membership with your Union, and we accordingly make application for re-admission thereto at the ensuing meeting to be held in Zion Church, in this city, on the 8th June next.

We feel that in submitting this application it is alike due to ourselves, and to the churches of our faith and order generally, that we should again express our sorrow and regret for the mistake we made in extending a call to the late pastor of the church.

The deplorable effects of the extension of that call upon the church at large we now realize, and earnestly desire that the matter may from this time forth be considered as forever closed.

Accompanying this application is one from the Rev. Joseph Wild, D.D., our esteemed pastor, and the hope of the church is that both may be received to your fellowship together, and that henceforth nothing may occur to disturb the peace and prosperity of the churches.

On behalf of the church, signed, Joseph Wild, Pastor; Francis Robinson, Geo. Virtue, Thos. Elgar, William St. Croix, Ed. Beckett, W. McCartney, R. Dunlop, Deacons. Thos. Elgar, Secretary. Toronto, May 30th, 1881.

The application was referred to the Membership Committee without discussion.

After some further routine business the Union adjourned till 2.30.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Union resumed business at 2.30. The Treasurer's report was read and referred to the Finance Committee. It showed a balance on hand of \$19.08.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP, ETC.

The following applications for membership were received.—Rev. E. Ebbs, R. Wrench, J. W. Cutler, and J. Wild. Letters of dismissal were asked by Rev. R. W. Wallace, of Detroit, and John Allworth, of Benton Harbour, Mich. Revs. James Howie and John Salmon asked for certificates of membership as they had left the denomination. A letter from Rev. W. Wetherald, of St. Catharines, concerning his application for membership. All referred to the Membership Committee.

A communication was read from the Church in Brantford, inviting the Union to meet there in 1882. Referred to a committee.

REPORT OF UNION COMMITTEE.

The Union Committee presented their annual report. The death of Rev. S. T. Gibbs was alluded to with deep regret. The question referred to them regarding the amendment to the rules so as to elect the chairman by ballot without nomination, had been considered, but the change was not recommended. The following amendments were recommended.—The Finance Committee shall pay the fares of (1) ministerial members who are pastors or members of the Congregational Churches in Ontario to Quebec; and (2) one delegate from each church contributing not less than \$5 to its funds, or if unable to pay in full shall deduct from

the claim of each such equal amount as may be found necessary, such payment not to be made until after the final adjournment except with the leave of the Union. A recommendation regarding the several denominational societies taking advantage of the assembling of the Union to hold their meetings was made. It was stated that out of 78 churches on their roll, 32 failed last year to contribute anything to the funds of the Union, although enjoying with the rest the benefit of the concerted action. It was thought that the scale of contributions might be raised so as to supply the Union with a contingent fund. In reference to the formation of a Ladies' Auxiliary Mission Society, it was mentioned as coming within the province of the Committee of the Canada Congregational Missionary Society, to which society the question had been referred. A warm expression of approval was made. The Jubilee in the English Congregational Church on the completion of the 50th year of the English Union was alluded to, and the cordial welcome extended to the Rev. Dr. Stevenson, of Montreal, on the occasion of his presenting brotherly greetings on behalf of the Canadian Union, mentioned. It was suggested that one or more representative brethren should be appointed to attend the autumnal meeting at Manchester. The Jubilee extends from May, 1881, to May, 1882. The report was adopted.

The Union was declared adjourned.

HOME MISSIONS.

The meeting of the Home Missionary Society was held immediately afterward. Mr. H. Cox was appointed Chairman, Rev. A. T. McGregor acting as Secretary.

Dr. Jackson, Secretary, read the

ANNUAL REPORT,

which set out that the number of ministers aided during the year was 22. So far only two had been aided in Manitoba. The Colonial Missionary Society promptly paid 20 per cent. on the last year's contributions, amounting to \$753, making a total of \$2,142. A balance of \$248 towards the payment of next quarter the Society was pledged to pay. In every district except Ontario East there had been a falling off in the receipts. The officers are Dr. Wilkes, President, and Dr. Jackson, Secretary.

Mr. J. C. FIELDS, M.P.P., spoke as to the deficit mentioned in the report. He thought they should relieve the Treasurer of that liability. He would make one of ten gentlemen and contribute \$25 to wipe out the debt of nearly \$250.

Several speakers expressed their convictions that the time for praying about their missions, and not putting their hands in their pockets and giving and urging their people to give, had gone by. Many left the matter to the Lord and then ceased their efforts.

Rev. Mr. FORSTER, Montreal, referred to the want of sufficient interest among their people in Home Missions. He had determined, he said, that if next year he came to the Union, and his church had again failed to contribute to the Home Mission he would be no longer their pastor. Some of their churches were said to be in existence 25 or 30 years and not yet self-supporting. His idea was that they ought to have a Central Committee in Canada, and if it was rightly worked an improvement would, he believed, be noticeable very soon.

Mr. MCKAY thought that they were able to say something encouraging about their Home Missions. He could tell them that the churches at Ottawa and Lanark village were now self-supporting.

Mr. W. P. CLARKE asked how it was that Mr. Forster's church had not done anything for Home Missions. It had done a good deal for foreign work, but he thought Mr. Forster had not put the responsibility upon the conscience of his

people regarding home work. It was the prime duty he imagined of the pastor to bring the matter before the people personally.

Mr. FORSTER in reply said he had charge of a Congregational Church, and had to make his appeals through the officers of his church. Mr. Clarke, he remarked, had written an elaborate pamphlet he believed on Congregationalism pure and simple.

A general discussion ensued on the whole policy of the Church with regard to missionary work. Various causes were ascribed for the lack of interest in the Home Mission work among the people.

Dr. JACKSON said that although an officer of it he had to admit that dissatisfaction with regard to the Society existed. Better supervision he believed was wanted. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. CORNISH moved the adjournment of the discussion till eight o'clock. Carried.

THE JONES REQUEST.

Dr. JACKSON moved "That there having been some delay on the part of the executors of the estate of the late Mrs. Jones, of Brockville, in the payment of the bequest left by that lady to the funds of the Canada Congregational Missionary Society, Resolved, That Messrs. J. C. Fields and G. Fenwick be appointed to wait on the executors, Messrs. Frederick and Anson Jones, and obtain a prompt settlement." Carried.

The meeting then adjourned.

INDIAN MISSIONS.

A meeting of the Canadian Indian Mission Society was then convened.

Rev. Mr. HOWELL read the twentieth annual report. It was stated that the missionary referred to in their last report, Mr. Nichol, had entered upon his work; also that Miss Baylis had gone up and renewed her efforts. The report, which was very lengthy, was attentively listened to and adopted.

The following were elected officers of the Board: President, James H. Richardson, M.D.; Vice-Presidents Rev. Messrs. S. N. Jackson, J. E. Stevenson, H. D. Powis, J. Burton, W. W. Smith, W. H. Warriner, A. F. McGregor, Geo. Hague; Secretary, Rev. J. Howell; Treasurer, J. C. Copp; Directors, Rev. Messrs. R. Robertson, James Unworth, Charles Duff, John Wood, Messrs. David Higgins, J. D. Nasmith, George Scott, James Farquhar, John Adams, David Williams; Auditors, Messrs. Jas. McDunnough and William Freeland.

EVENING SESSION.

The discussion on the report of the Missionary Society was resumed at eight o'clock by Dr. Cornish, who dwelt upon the present inefficient mode of conducting home mission work. He trusted that they would be able to see their way more clearly in regard to their future work.

Mr. WRENCH suggested the employment of one or two general travelling agents, dissolving the Committee. This would, he thought, effect a great improvement.

Mr. ALLWORTH said it was easy to suggest things, but how they were to be carried out was the great question. He reminded them that in the nature of things a small body like theirs had uphill work in competing with large bodies for what he called "pay and patronage," substantial aids to the schemes of a church. There was an overwhelming temptation to men to give to denominations already large and influential. They had to remember that according to their constitution their missionary efforts were also directed toward sustaining small small country churches, unable from their position many of them ever to become self-supporting. The fact was that people were always ready to say that they did not want missionary deputations, and then they would tell the Church that they did not know anything about

the matter. Those people would approve of foreign missions, but urged various objections to the home mission work. He would say, however, that no Church spent their funds more economically than did the Missionary Committee of their Church.

The report was, on motion, adopted.

A resolution from the Missionary Committee was put to the meeting. It recommended the appointment of a general missionary superintendent.

Mr. HAY thought it would be well for them to return to the old system of having missionary agents. They would form, he was sure, a bond of sympathy between the different churches, which was essential to the life of the Church at large. He spoke eloquently and earnestly in favor of trying to reclaim the youth of their Church, and thus making them a means of building it up. He had been 25 years a missionary and his heart was in the work, therefore he felt it very keenly that the contributions in some parts of the country were so small.

Mr. FIELD, in a terse address, said that although they trusted in divine favor, at the same time they had to depend upon the contributions of mortals on earth, and he believed in pushing forward and forming a live missionary organization, and he was quite sure that the money would be forthcoming for the support of anything tending towards the accomplishment of that object.

Mr. MCKAY said that the tone of the meeting might lead strangers to think poorly of the nature of the work they had been discussing, and he desired to say a few encouraging words. A great work had been done and many many souls won over to Christ through the agency of missionary Congregationalism.

Mr. O'HARA moved in amendment to the motion that a superintendent be appointed conditional on a guarantee of \$500. This, on being put, was carried almost unanimously.

The meeting was then closed by the benediction.

THIRD DAY.

The Union met again at ten o'clock on Friday morning. Dr. Jackson in the chair.

After devotional exercises a letter was read from the Secretary of the Dominion Alliance for the suppression of the liquor traffic, commending the movement to the support and sympathy of the Union. It stated that two cities and twenty-two counties had already adopted the Canada Temperance Act. The Alliance requested the Union, or its separate congregations, to petition the Dominion Parliament not to pass any retrogressive legislation.

The communication was referred to the Business Committee.

An application for membership from the Rev. Thomas Hall, pastor of Bethel Church, Kingston, was also referred to the Membership Committee.

A CHURCH OF ENGLAND OPINION.

The following telegram was read from the Rev. Wm. Lumsden, addressed to the Chairman: "I congratulate you on your noble religious liberty, your freedom from dissension and superstition, and your sound Christian character and discipline.

(Signed) WM. LUMSDEN,
Incumbent of Cayuga."

It was resolved that the delegates of the Ministerial Association of Toronto be received and heard on Saturday forenoon.

REPORT OF MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE.

The Membership Committee reported in favor of the reception of the Revs. Messrs. Ebbs, of Unionville, and Wetherald, of St. Catharines, into the Union. Also in favor of granting certificates to Revs. James Howie and John Salmon, who were joining other bodies.

The report was adopted.