

(Moderator of the Presbyterian Assembly), Rev. Walter Inglis (Moderator of the Synod of Hamilton and London), Rev. John Laing (Dundas), Dr. Macdonald (Hamilton), Rev. John Smith, Rev. J. M. Cameron, Rev. W. T. McMullin, Rev. John Thompson, Rev. P. F. McLeod, Rev. G. M. Milligan, Rev. Robert Wallace and Mr. James Brown.

At a preliminary meeting of the conference, held prior to the interview with the Attorney-General, the following resolution was adopted, which was submitted to the Attorney-General, as the views of the deputation :

"That this conference pledges itself to press upon the Attorney-General the making of the reading of the Holy Scriptures by the children and teacher, together with the prescribed prayers issued by the Department, an obligatory exercise at the opening of the Public schools of Ontario, the passages of Holy Scripture to be read each day, being prescribed by the Department in conformity with the recommendation of the committee of this conference, or some other representatives of the various churches of Ontario, regard being had in all cases to the provisions of the Consolidated Public Schools Act, Victoria 37, cap. 28, sec. 142, providing that any parent who has conscientious objection shall be entitled to withdraw the child from such instruction ; and that this conference press upon the Government the necessity for a return to the Scriptural and moral instruction contained in the first series of national readers, issued by the Educational Department for use in the Public schools of Ontario, or of some similar Scriptural instruction."

In addressing the Attorney-General in regard to this resolution, Dr. Nelles stated: "It had been prepared with great care, and we have spent quite a number of hours upon it in order that the phraseology might be put in the best form and most likely to secure the object we have in view, and at the same time protect the conscience of those who may differ from us. * * * * I think it will be found to express the wishes and feelings of not only the ministers, but also the laymen of the Methodist Church of Canada." Dr. Cochrane (Presbyterian) said: "The whole church in Canada is all but unanimous for the introduction of the Bible in the Public schools." Provost Body (Church of England) said: "The Synod of the diocese of Toronto were quite unanimous, and the resolutions had been passed without a dissenting voice. They simply ask that the prayers should be said, and that a reading of a portion of Scripture shall be made obligatory and not left simply to the trustees."

This resolution called for five things: (1) That the reading of the Scriptures and prayers be made obligatory; (2) that the passages to be read be prescribed by the Education Department; (3) that these selections be made in conformity with the recommendation of this conference or some other representatives of the various churches of Ontario; (4) that the conscientious scruples of parents and children be respected; (5) that selections from the Scriptures be introduced into school readers.

Furthermore, it is obvious from the remarks made by the members of the deputation that they did not regard the preparation of a book of selected passages as a mutilation of the Bible.