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Assembly Notes.

Dr. Robertson made a most excellent Moderator. He presided with dignity and held the balance even. His ruling was prompt, pointed and correct. His reply to the deputation of the Anglican Church was every way worthy of our Church and of himself. His knowledge of the condition of things among us was an advantage that that was notable. Every way the Church may be congratulated on having such a man at the helm for this year.

The work of the Assembly was simply immense. No stronger argument could be found for the leaving a large part of it in the hands of the Synods, than that much of it—42 items—were hurried through under great pressure at the last, when only a mere handful of the members were present.

The spirit of the Assembly was most harmonious. The heat evolved on the Manitoba School Question at the start, did not glow. The reference of all the resolutions to a Committee was oil on the troubled waters.

It was a pity some one did not gather up all the witty and wise things said. We never attended an Assembly where the air was so electric. Every now and then a spark would shine and dazzle, and the Assembly would be hilarious with mirth.

The old question of the Constitution of the Standing Committees came up again and again. Dr. Grant said he was surprised that the principle of rotation had not been adopted by the Church years ago. Dr. Milligan said that three years ago when he was placed on the Foreign Mission Committee some names on it were "ancient." An overture from the Presbytery of Guelph asking the Assembly that the Committee for Striking Standing Committees be composed of one member from each Presbytery was laid on the table. Dr. Dickson supported it, urging that the young men be trained for the work of the Church, and that a proper distribution of the members of the Court would take up two-thirds of the members each year and give each his place year in and year out. He referred to the fact that some names appear as many as three, five and six times on Committees, and did not think the Church so barren of administrative ability that this should be the case etc. Dr. J. B. Fraser argued strongly that as the C. P. R. or any of the banks of our country would not give their business into the hands of all the stock holders neither would the Assembly put its business into the hands of all the members. A few had always done it and a few would always do it. This was in answer to a statement of Dr. Dickson "that if any one had dropped into the Assembly prior to that day he would have noted this fact, that the work of the Assembly

was done by a dozen men, while the rest voted as the Moderator had called them as 'a meek lot.' This is a question that cannot lie, as it does, in the mind of Dr. Fraser—no one but himself can take that view of the case. It calls simply for "adjustment" without much ado. The wider the interest in the work of the Assembly the healthier the Church will be.

The appointment of a Committee on Young Peoples Societies is a step in the right direction. It will be productive of much good. The Young People are loyal to the Church, and will now be helped and guided in the expression of that loyalty.

The sermon of the retiring Moderator was altogether worthy of him a grand utterance. Sound in the faith, full of the Christian feeling and lofty thought, and delivered with a fervour that was catching. Many went away saying, "that's the kind of preaching after all."

The missionary evenings were good, but the Foreign Mission had the best of it in its platform full of missionaries. Why should the Home Missions not have something of the same? If there is no provision for furlough for Home Missionaries once in so many years, let there be a furlough for a couple of weeks for Assembly purposes. Mr. Buchanan's presence was worth the cost of his expenses. So was Mr. McQueen's, on behalf of the work of the Church.

The amalgamation of the Committees on the state of Religion, Temperance, Systematic Benificence and Sabbath Observance, will save the overlapping of these in the reports but we fear it will so minimize important interests that loss will accrue instead of gain. The only mode of rescuing them now seems to be for the Convener to arrange beforehand for some good addresses on the main topics in the report. Thus it is done in the Free Church Assemblies of Scotland. The Church cannot afford to minimize these great and essential matters.

Why was there not more singing in the Assembly? At the missionary meetings even the Church choir was absent. A breeze of song would have lifted everything up higher and made the audience feel rested. The want of singing led by the good choir and fine organ was much connected on. An important help was dropped out here.

What we need is one thing: what we want is quite another thing. God has regard to our needs when we pray, although we are more likely at such a time to think of our wants. God be praised for his refusal to answer our prayers, when they are for our wants, and not for our needs!