

assembly. The committee suggested that during the year Dr. Campbell be engaged in collecting subscriptions already made and tabulating and publishing returns, also in canvassing Manitoba, the Northwest Territories, British Columbia and other regions not yet overtaken. Further it was recommended that the century fund committee be instructed to take into consideration what the position of Dr. Campbell may be after the next general assembly. The report was adopted.

Rev. Alfred Gandier, Toronto, presented the report of

The Young People's Societies.

The report showed that there are 758 Young People's societies of all kinds with a membership of 26,801, of which 13,008 belong to the church. The total amount contributed for schemes of the church, \$11,738, for all other purposes, \$27,793.

The causes given for the decline of the society were lack of interest among older people, lack of preparation for meetings, monotony of methods, lax look-out committee work, etc. Among societies that have remained Christian Endeavor in their aims and spirit there is a distinct tendency to abandon the pledge. When the first enthusiasm dies out members who took the solemn pledge hold it lightly, attend the meetings when convenient and stay away just as readily when there is anything more interesting to occupy them. This thoughtlessness in taking of a pledge, it was said, is tending to undermine the moral honesty of the young people concerned, and make them lax in their views of moral obligations generally. The remedy suggested for the undesirable conditions was the organizing along denominational lines like the Methodists and Baptists, the holding of Presbyterian unions, supporting of missionaries, etc., such as is in vogue among the Methodists. Mr. Gordon said that this would improve the esprit de corps among the young people, this feeling not being as pronounced among the Presbyterians as among other young people. He concluded by moving the adoption of the report and asking authority for the committee to prepare a plan along denominational lines. Mr. Henderson, of Hensall, seconded the motion.

Dr. Gregg, Toronto, urged that the Young People's societies tended to draw a line of cleavage in the church, and for instance in the choice of a minister the young people dominated and the old people were ignored. He said the old people should try to organize also to conserve their standing in the church.

Rev. J. S. Conning, Walkerton, said that one of the reasons why the older and younger element were not closer together was because the minister and older people were seldom seen at the meetings.

Dr. Gregg—They are never invited.

Rev. Jos. Hogg opposed withdrawing from affiliation with the Christian Endeavor society, and the moderator said it was not proposed to do so.

Dr. Johnston, London, expressed disappointment with the report of the committee, and said it did not seem to realize the seriousness of the situation. He quoted figures to show a decrease of 12,000 members in five years. This was not caused by inaccurate returns, but a spiritual condition, which the superficial suggestions of the committee failed to meet. A mere change in name and form would not remedy it. He agreed with Dr. Gregg that there is too much cleavage in the church. He moved an additional suggestion that the committee consider whether or not it would not be better to have the young people's societies brought under the supervision of the Sunday School committee.

Other speakers were Rev. Dr. McMullen and Dr. Somerville.

The latter speaker said he knew societies where the members balled to see whether their pastor should be admitted as a member or not.

The Christian Endeavor society found an ardent champion in Dr. Dickson, of Galt, and Dr. Anderson Rogers, of New Glasgow.

After a discussion which lasted until 12 o'clock Dr. Johnson's amendment was defeated, and the recommendations of the committee were adopted.

Finances.

The report of the finance committee, eastern section, was then presented by E. A. McCurdy. The contributions for the different church funds totaled \$105,010.77, as compared with \$75,875.57.

The report of the western section was presented by Mr. George Keith, the contributions to church funds being \$604,978.25.

Student's Applications.

The report of the committee on applications of students was presented by Dr. Fletcher, chairman.

Henry Carmichael, North Bay presbytery, will be licensed to preach; J. L. King, Superior, will be licensed and ordained; F. W. Anderson, Winnipeg, was granted standing for second year in theology; E. G. Taylor, Victoria, ordained in 1896 and working as a missionary, was exempted from the third year course; Robert Simpson, Calgary, was ordered to take a second year course, to be prescribed by the senate of Winnipeg college; McLoughlin, of North Bay, who wanted standing for first year in theology, was ordered to take the regular course of the church.

AFTERNOON SEDERUNT.

In the afternoon the report of the eastern section of the committee on augmentation fund was presented by Rev. J. S. Sutherland, Halifax. In the eastern section the estimates for the year totaled \$10,000 and for eleven months the revenue was \$8,224. Mr. Sutherland moved, seconded by Rev. Dr. Fraser, of St. John, N.B., the adoption of the report, which was agreed to.

The Augmentation Fund.

Rev. Dr. Lyle, of Hamilton, presented the report of the western section and moved its reception and adoption.

Dr. Lyle pointed out that the committee was able to add only 11 mission stations to the list of congregations on the augmented list during the year. This disappointing result was due to lack of means. The report noted that \$30,000 was asked for and only \$24,327.18 given. Had it not been for contributions from the British church the standard of the ministry on augmented fields would have been lowered to 70 cents on the dollar. He appealed to the church to contribute sufficient funds to enable fifty men to be placed on the augmented list every year. The committee noticed a lack of business methods among the augmented charges and suggested that if possible an agent be appointed for not more than two years to teach them how to conduct their business. At least \$30,000 should be contributed next year, otherwise a less number of the congregations claiming for augmentation should be placed on the list than were entitled to go there, or the payments would have to be reduced below \$700.

The report was received and its accompanying recommendations considered, including one for the appointment of a vigorous and energetic man who should spend his whole time in visiting the augmented charges of Montreal and Ottawa, Toronto and Kingston, Hamilton and London.

Rev. J. W. McMillan moved the adoption of the resolution for the appointment of an agent. He said there was considerable laxity in connection with the augmented fund and it might not be a bad thing to have an agent to organize the work and report delinquents.

Rev. Mr. McKellar opposed the appointment, which he regarded as a reflection upon the existing machinery in connection with this fund. There were too many agents already.

After a sharp discussion the motion for the appointment of an agent was put and defeated by a large majority.

Rev. Dr. McKay, of Montreal, moved that considering the necessities of the fund that the committee be requested to take into consideration the advisability of establishing

A Sustentation Fund.

in connection with the church.

President Forrest, Halifax, deprecated any radical change because there had been a little deficit in the augmentation report. The truth of the matter was that the people did not give enough money and the ministers were as largely to blame as the people. The wealthier congregations of Montreal and Toronto were conspicuous by their lack of contributions.

The motion of Dr. McKay was lost and the report of the committee, minus the recommendation, adopted.

The moderator before the matter dropped, said he believed in the parity of the ministry. If the church was to grow it was desirable they should secure the services of the very best men in augmented fields. All honor to the men who instead of listening to enticing calls from wealthy congregations, were willing to take charge of augmented congregations in the hope of building them up into self-supporting churches. If he were offered a subscription of \$20,000 towards the work of the church he would, without a moment's hesitation hand it over to the augmentation committee with the understanding that it

was to be used extending over a period of four years for the augmenting of new congregations.

At the end of four years they would have 100 self-supporting congregations contributing \$1,000 each a year for the support of their home and foreign mission work. (Applause.)

Aged and Infirm Ministers

Judge Forbes moved the adoption of resolutions adopted unanimously at a meeting of 100 elders in regard to the aged and infirm and the widows' and orphans' fund. These resolutions asked that greater prominence be given to the two funds and that a larger measure of business principles be introduced in connection with them. So far as the aged and infirm mini-sters' fund was concerned, improvement would be accomplished by adopting the plan of deferred annuities, or else reconsidering and increasing the fund. The elders pledged themselves to give hearty support to the fund. Mr. McMurchy, of Toronto, spoke feelingly in support of the funds. The resolutions were adopted with an expression of thanks at the great interest felt by the elders in the two funds.

EVENING SEDERUNT.

When the assembly resumed the report of the widows' and orphans' fund, western section, was presented by Mr. McMurchy. A deficit of \$3,302 was reported in the ordinary fund. The debt a year ago was \$1,533. For the current year \$13,000 would be required. Three annuities were added during the year. The report of the fund of the Presbyterian Church in connection with the church of Scotland was read by Rev. Robt. Campbell. The receipts were \$23,539, balance on hand, \$2,089. The assets amount to \$113,484. The annuities are growing less yearly.

Rev. Dr. Macleod, of Barrie, presented the report on

Church Life And Work.

General satisfaction was expressed, there being a conviction that the former days were not better than these. Attendance at the divine ordinances was reported as encouraging. The habit of many to attend only one service on Sunday was criticised, as also the slim attendance at mid-week prayer meetings. The conditions of social and church life have changed, and methods must conform to the change. The report pointed out a healthy religious tone in the homes and a growing generosity in supporting the church work. The tone of the reports from all over was encouraging. As regards prohibition, Dr. MacLeod did not think any one should cast reflection on any one of the provincial governments or on the Dominion government in regard to this question. It was a difficult one to solve. The motion to adopt the report was seconded by Rev. Dr. Kilpatrick, of Winnipeg, and the report with its recommendations was adopted and Dr. McLeod thanked for his labors.

The assembly spent an hour discussing a proposal to appoint three Sunday school missionaries but was unable to agree and adjourned at 10.45 o'clock.

Eastern Ontario.

Lanark St. Andrew's congregation purposes celebrating the 80th anniversary of the organization of the church by special services next Sunday followed by an entertainment on Monday evening.

Congratulations are being showered on Rev. W. Amos, of Aurora, who has completed the 25th year of his pastorate in the Presbyterian Church there. His faithful services during a quarter of a century, were suitably recognized by the congregation presenting him with a purse of money.

Nothing could so forcibly set forth the rapid growth of Sault Ste Marie as the mention of the city at the east end of Lake Superior as inviting the Assembly to meet there in 1903. The invitation comes through the Rev. W. A. Duncanson, who said that in two years time they would be in a position to entertain the Assembly right royally.

The deputation which went to Cannington from Lindsay to oppose the call of Rev. J. W. McMillan to Fort Massey Church, Halifax, was a marvellous tribute to the popularity of that gentleman in his own town. The deputation of the church, and the ladies as well, pleaded with the Presbytery to allow Mr. McMillan to remain; but the most unique circumstance was the presence of Mr. J. W. Flavell, a leading Methodist, who represented the citizens of Lindsay in a protest against the Presbyterian pastor's departure. Mr. McMillan has decided to remain.