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shall yield her increase and God even our God shall bless us."

The Assembly still resounds with the echoes of great "Home Mission Nights," when Drs. Robertson, Cochrane, and Warden used to appear in the spirit of a John the Baptist. If since then a glory has passed away from the Assembly when the same subject is discussed, it is simply the inevitable law of life. After the bands and bunting about a departing army to bear their "baptism of fire" there will be the slow marches, retreats, mistakes, and all the other difficulties due to the evil world in which we live. But it is both by good and ill fortune that great soldiers are made and great conquests won. Dr. E. D. McLaren's message was not new, not popular, not heroic, but it was the straight talk of a man who knows the fight is on. He is a good speaker, wielding fluently a mass of Miltonian English. His speech is also flavored with eloquent and patriotic lines of Canadian verse. And, judging an address by the compelling power to listen, he always does great service upon the platform. He said that the first note was one of discouragement, because the estimate of \$195,000.00 of last year was not reached. If these defects continue the reserve fund will soon disappear. Is any member of this great wealthy Church prepared to call a halt in the needed march of progress? For thirty years our Church has been the pioneers at the front. Others have been compelled to both compliment and copy. Must we now confess that our hands have become weary, or the task too big for us? Turning from this, the men and women who are serving the church on the frontiers are worthy of highest praise. They are practically further from home and kindred than their worthy brethren in the foreign field, because the latter are provided with a furlough every seven years. The position of our country as a nation has serious aspects. We are on the highway between the East and West. No one can foretell the changes likely to come in the next fifty years. Regarding immigration, to realize what every 250,000 of an annual increased population brings a tremendous increase in the financial obligations of the Church. The work among the foreigners is bearing fruit. This is a fact that both friend and foe recognize. The Montreal La Presse lately gave its first page to the report of a Roman Catholic inspector who has investigated the religious affairs of the Galician community in the West. These people, who in the main belong to the Greek Church, have organized an independent Greek communion in Canada. They have had the assistance of the Presbyterian Church in the solution of their problems. Principal Patrick has given much of his time thereto. But no encouragement was given to draw them into the Presbyterian denomination. The La Presse states that the time has come when the machinations of the Presbyterians must be stopped. If the Church of Rome knew one hundredth of the diabolical things the Presbyterian Church has done among these people it would bear out the Scripture that the children of darkness have surpassed the children of light. It concludes by warning against the "fury of the wolves."

Now what has been this fury? To spend \$1,000 a year for 8 or 9 years, in order by education and moral well-being to enable them to become better citizens of Canada? Is that the fury of wolves? The truth is that such unfounded charges are proof that something has really been done for the Galician people, who were otherwise down-trodden or neglected.

Rev. Mr. Douglas, of Chilliwack, B.C., was the next speaker. He is a picturesque "sky-pilot," and looks the part of a man ready in the line of courage

and duty to go for a cruise in an air-ship, or a walk in the deep, dark valleys of life. He said the "right calibre of man succeeds," and also looked the test. His superintendent gives a great tribute to his previous work in Trail, while on the Kootenay force. He won his way with the miners, to the credit of the Presbyterian Church.

He said: Your sons and daughters are coming to our fruit lands, mines, and forests. I went West first as a school teacher, and my first attempt at religious service was to save a poor dead miner from an unhallowed grave. I got a Church of England Prayer-book and read the service. Times are better now, through the energy of the Church. But the situation is still alarming. Not long ago a missionary was compelled by a man to go into a saloon "to have a drink." He at first resisted, then went inside only to so win the men that everybody, save the bartender, went to his service that night. Away up on the mountain-side there was an old Scotchman. By "his swear words" I knew he was a Highlander. I asked if he had a Gaelic Bible, because I learned a little of the language at my mother's knee. He refused; but his wife soon found one. They knelt in prayer. At first he refused to uncover his head. But when they arose he said: "It is twenty years since I took off my hat to God or man." I have still that Gaelic Bible. There are more "tired Christians" beyond the Rockies than would reach from ocean to ocean. I ask a young lady to assist in the Sunday school, and she may say: O, I taught when in the East, but I want a rest." I urge a young man to take the Bible class, and he says: "Yes, I used to teach long ago; but I came here to have a rest."

Rev. J. A. Macfarlane, of Levis, presented the Home Mission problem in the Province of Quebec. Amidst the difficulties of the work he instanced the vast area of that province. Its area is 347,000 sq. miles, as compared with Ontario's 200,000, exclusive in both cases of the new territories recently added. Yet there are but two full presbyteries, and part of another, for its supervision. The lack of proper common schools for Protestant education in many places was a second drawback; and a third very serious one was the lack of men to preach and teach, and of money to send them out, and to remunerate properly the men who are there.

Notwithstanding these difficulties, Presbyterianism had advanced more in Quebec Province in the decade ending 1901 than in any province east of Manitoba.

Mr. Macfarlane then spoke of the new plans of work being inaugurated by the Church, and of the doors that the harnessing of the great water powers along the Laurentides were flinging open to new industries and enterprises. He affirmed that three-fourths of the best water powers east of the Rocky Mountains were in the Province of Quebec, and that the voice of the waters must issue a call to the Church as it does to the great world of business; for that country is destined to play a leading part, and that speedily, in Canada's manufacturing.

#### The Record Report.

The report of Rev. Dr. Scott, editor and manager of that excellent publication The Presbyterian Record, showed that there were printed during the year 60,000 copies monthly, a total for the year of nearly three-quarters of a million copies, and that there was a financial balance at the end of the year of \$12,875. The report was adopted.

The Assembly adjourned at 10 o'clock.

#### Young People's Societies.

The report showed that during the past year the list of societies had been considerably augmented, and that the membership had increased by more than 1,300. Rev. Dr. McTavish, Kingston.

Convenor, in a review of the past seven years, during which he had served, said that in that time there had been an increase of 51 societies and of 4,600 members, while to-day \$18,000 more were raised than seven years ago. He called the attention of the Assembly particularly to the recommendation that the subject of amalgamating committees on Sabbath schools and young people's societies should be sent to Presbyteries for consideration and report.

In moving the adoption of the report Rev. A. H. Drumm, Belleville, thought it would be a mistake to amalgamate the committees, and Principal MacKay, Westminster hall, deprecated any haste in making a change in the present system. The whole problem of educating young people for the work of the Church should be carefully considered. The report was adopted, but the recommendation concerning the amalgamation of the committees on Sabbath schools and young people's societies stood over until the report on Sabbath schools is taken up.

#### Statistics.

Rev. Dr. Ratcliffe, St. Catharines, presented and moved the adoption of the report on statistics, and commented on the inaccuracy of the reports sent in by Presbyterian committees.

The report called attention to the inaccuracy, if not carelessness, of those who prepared the statistical reports. "It has been a growing time in Canada, and yet the returns show a decrease of 7,001 in the number of families. Either the figures of a year ago were greatly inflated, or those now reported are far below the mark; for no one can believe that the Presbyterian population of the Dominion has decreased to the extent of 7,000 families. When we turn to the columns devoted to communicants, a further surprise awaits us. The number of communicants on the roll shows an increase of 4,689 over the number reported in 1903, while the column giving the number removed would lead us to expect a net gain of 9,330. The number enrolled in Sabbath school and Bible classes show a gratifying increase—14,470. The two features of the report which more than any others reveal the spiritual condition of the Church as a whole are the additions to the Communion roll by profession and the amounts contributed to the schemes of the Church. In each case the returns show a decrease. The number received on profession is 129 less than in 1907, while the contribution for schemes are \$12,345 less.

As an illustration of carelessness shown in the Presbytery, Rev. Dr. Ross, London, pointed out that 5,000 families in London had by a slip of the pen been omitted.

Mr. Walter Paul, of Montreal thought the time had come when something should be done to secure correct statistical reports. The reports showed a decrease, whereas everybody knew the Church had been increasing all along the line.

#### Conclusion of Queen's Debate.

HAMILTON, June 4.—The debate on the resolution urging the appointment of a commission to consider the removal of denominational restrictions from the charter of Queen's University was resumed by Professor Dyde, of Queen's University, who suggested a change in the amendment proposed by Mr. G. M. Macdonnell, K.C., with a view of giving the proposed commission a larger measure of freedom to deal with the question. He moved as a substitute that "The Assembly, while reaffirming its resolutions of 1904 and 1908, appoints a commission to consider, in co-operation with the trustees of Queen's, the matters referred to in the resolution presented by them to the Assembly, and any other matters that may be deemed advisable, and to report to the next Assembly."