

SYNOD OF TORONTO AND KINGSTON.

This court of the church met in St. James' Square, Toronto, on the evening of the 11th inst. with a large attendance of members.

The retiring moderator, Rev. Dr. Dickson, preached the sermon, taking as his text the words: "Obey them that have the rule over you," which are found in Hebrews xiii, 17. He began by pointing out that Christians always paid proper respect to their lawful rulers and leaders. A Christian congregation would obey and follow their minister, who should be a spiritual leader of his church, a moral leader, an intellectual leader, a financial leader. Under each head the preacher pointed out how the minister should make himself the leader of his flock.

The election of a new moderator brought out two nominations. Rev. T. W. Wilkins, M.A., of Trenton, whose name was presented by Rev. Dr. Turnbull, and Rev. James Buchanan, of Dundalk. The name of Rev. Dr. J. B. Fraser, of Annan, was presented by Rev. Findlay Matheson, of Chataworth. Dr. Fraser withdrew his name and Rev. Mr. Wilkins was declared unanimously elected, after which he expressed his appreciation of the honor.

The report of the treasurer showed the synod finances to be in a good position with a balance on hand of \$1,117.05. The treasurer, Mr. A. T. Crombie, who is too ill to attend the meeting, resigned his position after twelve years' faithful services, and a committee was appointed to convey to him the synod's appreciation of his services and regret at his illness.

Mr. R. C. Jennings of Toronto was elected to fill the position rendered vacant by Mr. Crombie's resignation.

Rev. Jas. A. R. Dickson, D.D., of Galt, the retiring moderator, was cordially thanked for his valuable services to the synod during his year of office.

Rev. Ebenezer Scott, a graduate of Glasgow University, from St. George's Presbyterian Church, Liverpool, England, was received into the synod, as he has come to reside in Canada.

The question of changing the date of the synod meeting was referred to the presbyteries to decide on.

Sabbath School Work.

"Only three-fifths of the children of Sabbath-school age in Ontario attend Sabbath schools," said the Rev. T. D. McCulloch at the evening session of the synod last night. He introduced the report on the Sabbath schools.

The schools now number 621, an increase of 31 over last year. There are now 6,567 teachers and officers, an increase of 145. The scholars now number 57,711, a gain of 4,045. The cradle roll shows a gain of 1,386, now numbering 3,716. The home department numbers 2,229, against 1,498 for 1907.

Last year's contributions for self-support amounted to \$23,930, a gain of \$1,725. For the children's day fund, \$2,692, a gain of \$115. For other schemes of the church, \$12,430, a gain of \$1,483. For other purposes, \$7,816, a drop of \$1,703. Contributed for the support of the Sabbath schools, \$5,462, an increase of \$910. The number of union schools, 71, shows an increase of 18 over 1907. In 36 the superintendents are Presbyterians, an increase of four. Out of 319 teachers, 176 are Presbyterians, an increase of 33. Out of 3,500 scholars 1,436 are Presbyterians, a gain of 216.

The general secretary, Rev. J. S. Robertson, said there was the only church that had a special system of training for teachers and that this would be greatly improved and extended during the next year.

The Rev. Geo. A. McLennan, B.A., introduced the report of the Young People's Societies. The report shows an increase in membership of 738, being 8,513. There are 5,669 full communion church members connected with the societies. The total collection for all purposes amounted to \$11,681.

Revivals in Honan.

The Foreign Mission Report was presented by Rev. Dr. McTavish, but the

time was given to Rev. Jonathan Goforth, the returned missionary, who gave a graphic account of the recent remarkable revivals in Honan. The revivals had assumed the particular form of spontaneous confessions of individual acts of wrongdoing from all parts of the hall at his meetings, and had given a wonderful impetus to the work. He had met the same experience at a meeting in the East-end of London, on his way home.

Hearty congratulations were extended by the synod to Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Gregg on the jubilee celebration of their married life. Several speakers gave testimony to the invaluable services of Dr. Gregg on behalf of the Church, and the resolution of congratulation was carried by a standing vote. The recipient expressed briefly his acknowledgment of many kindnesses.

Deficit in Home Missions.

The report of the Home Mission Committee, presented by Rev. Jas. Buchanan, of Dundalk, regretted a large deficit in the fund aimed at last year. The synod was expected to contribute \$60,000, but was \$18,000 short of that amount. This year it is asked for \$65,000, of which \$30,000 is Toronto's share. Home rule for home missions was strongly advocated, and a recommendation was adopted to the effect that the synod should supervise and pass all grants and generally care for all the home mission work within the bounds. It was also recommended that the synod make the necessary arrangements with the General Assembly to carry out the proposal. Lieut. Col. McCrae, of Guelph, urged that special efforts should be made to aid weak congregations in Quebec and the men in lumber and railroad camps.

Increase in Systematic Giving.

The Committee on Systematic Giving reported a remarkable awakening in the matter, through the impetus given by the Laymen's Missionary Movement. It recommended the assumption by the synod of its share of the General Assembly's budget of \$630,700 for 1908-9, and suggested a plan for stirring up interest in the securing by each congregation of the amount of its allocation.

The Committee on Evangelism recommended united effort among the churches of each presbytery looking to a revival of spiritual life and work in each church.

The report of the Committee on Church Life and Work was adopted. It recommended that an effort be made to establish family worship in every home, and to ascertain why more young men do not offer themselves for the ministry, and that church life and work be discussed in the pulpit on one or more Sabbaths at an early date.

In future, instead of sending out questions, the committee will take the reports of all other committees, and sum up the work of the Church as a whole.

Young People Are Active.

Sabbath schools and Young People's Societies were discussed at the evening session. The number of schools reported was 621, an increase of 31; teachers and officers 6,567, increase 145; scholars 57,711, increase 4,045. The number of union schools was reported at 71, in 36 of which the superintendents were Presbyterians. The total contributions for all purposes amounted to \$46,778.

In supporting the adoption of the report, Rev. J. C. Robertson, general secretary, called attention to the fact that the Presbyterian Church was the only one that had a special training course for teachers. He expected it would be greatly aided by a book now being prepared by Dr. R. P. Mackay.

The report of the Committee on Young People's Societies was optimistic, giving a substantial increase in both societies

and members. It stated that there were 102 societies within the synod that met regularly throughout the year, and recommended that sessions be instructed to see that some form of organization of young people be effected in every congregation.

An illustrated talk was given by Mr. F. W. Moffat, who showed a number of interesting slides which had been used in connection with Sunday school work. He was given a hearty vote of thanks.

A resolution was passed expressing sympathy with Rev. Dr. Somerville, treasurer of the Church, in his illness, and satisfaction with the reports of his progress.

Aged and Infirm Ministers.

A resolution passed receiving the report of the aged and infirm ministers' fund, urging that the fund should receive more fully the sympathy and support of the Presbyterian ministry and congregations, and recommending that all Presbyterian ministers be placed upon this fund.

Rev. Dr. McLeod thought the Church should put more confidence in Mr. J. K. Macdonald, administrator of the fund, and that they should let him have some funds with which to work. It was useless to talk about or to pray to God for more men for the Christian ministry if they were not prepared to keep them, and to look after them in their old age. Then he thought that all the ministers of the Presbyterian Church should be made members of this fund, as was the case in the United Free Church of Scotland.

Rev. Dr. Gracey also put forward a strong plea that young men going into the ministry should be able to do so without the fear of going to the poor house when they had passed seventy years of age.

AN IDEAL TOUR.

To the Pacific Coast and the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition.

Because of the fact that the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition is being held in Seattle this year, crowds of people from the east will be attracted to the Pacific Coast. In fact many who have long wanted to visit the Coast will make an effort to do so this year because of the extra attractions which the west will have to offer and the low rates which have been established; because too, that many have learned by experience that the personally conducted tour is the ideal way to travel and get the most real enjoyment and value out of a trip many are naturally looking for such a tour. The same has been provided for by the Grand Trunk Railway System, and on July 16 a special train party will leave Montreal. The party will be made up of people from New England, northern New York and Canada and will be composed of teachers, business and professional men. The fact that the service of this road which is easily one of the finest equipped railroads in the country, with the only double track between Montreal and Chicago and one of the finest roadbeds in America, is at the disposal of the party, and that the party is to be personally conducted by Mr. E. C. Bowler of Bethel, Maine, who has long since established a reputation of making his tours truly ideal, is sufficient guarantee that those who take this tour will get the tour of a lifetime. No effort has been spared by the railroad from start to finish, the route that can be had between ocean and ocean; every possible detail looking to the comfort and pleasure of the party have been considered, and a rate which seems almost inconsistent with the service has been made. The party will be limited to the capacity of the train, and any desiring to secure accommodations should apply at once for full information to E. C. Bowler, Bonaventure Station, Montreal, Quebec.