

Seathorh; Charles D. B. Mullor, Michigan; Jno. S. Arthur, Dulhousie, N. S.; George Hovenden, Tirol; Wm. Stewart, Ottawa; Wm. Campbell, Seathorh.

The first Secretary read a letter from Mr. Allen Pringle of Selby, Ont., regretting not being able to attend, and fully endorsing the Convention.

The Secretaries presented the following list of names of *bona fide* attendants and delegates to the Convention:

Mrs. S. A. Underwood, Messrs. B. F. Underwood and W. S. Bell, Boston, Mass., W. McDonnell, J. G. W. Martin and W. J. Logie, of Lindsay, Ontario.; W. Sisson, Port Hope; J. Groom, Meaford; Jas. Brown, Galt; John Fitzgibbon, Scarborough; O. Bounsell, Bowmanville; Joseph Pilcher and George Gray, Mount Forest; Joel Lewis and Albert White, Aylmer, Ont.; Sylvester Taylor, Port Stanley; J. I. Evans, R. Green, W. J. R. Hargrave, C. Harper, J. D. Keiley, S. B. Davenport, Donald Fraser, William Brown, Robt. Manson, A. Earsman, A. Fiddes, W. Earsman, A. Roe, C. A. Scadding, W. B. Cooke, R. B. Butland, Jno. C. Hawke, Sidney Smith.

It was moved by W. J. R. Hargrave, seconded by R. Green, that Committees consisting of five members be appointed to consider the principal features to be discussed by the Convention.

The following were the Committee appointed to consider "Upon what common basis shall the Freethinkers of the Dominion organize themselves into Associations:" Messrs. Eyre Evans, Cooke, Underwood, Bell and Fraser.

To consider the advisability of establishing a Freethought Journal in Canada: Messrs. Hargrave, Sisson, McDonnell, Martin and Scadding.

To consider the expediency of extending the principles of Freethought throughout the Dominion by means of assisted lecturers: Messrs. Hawke, Logie, Groom, Brown and Taylor.

To consider resolutions to be submitted to the Convention: Messrs. J. I. Evans, A. Roe, A. White, W. Sisson and W. J. R. Hargrave.

After verbal reports had been delivered by delegates relative to spread of Freethought, the convention adjourned until 10 o'clock next morning.

The Convention again met at 10 o'clock, a. m., on Sunday, April 15th, 1877, when it resolved itself into Committees, and was further adjourned until 2 o'clock p. m. of the same day.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION, 2 P. M.

The minutes of previous session were read and confirmed.

Mr Cooke presented the report of the Committee to consider "Upon what common basis shall the Freethinkers of the Dominion organize themselves into Associations."

It was moved by Mr. Scadding, seconded by Mr. Hargrave: That the Convention resolve itself into a Committee of the whole, with Mr. J. I. Evans in the chair. Carried.

The Convention resolved itself into a Committee on the whole, and considered the report clause by clause.

It was moved by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Meek: That the report be referred back to the Committee on Organization to report certain additions; to report as to the constitution of the Executive, and the persons best calculated to give general satisfaction as representatives on that board.

The motion was carried, and the Committee retired, having again reported. The Convention considered in Committee of the whole the report on the advisability of starting a Freethought Journal in Canada, the Committee having reported favorably of the scheme. The report was adopted.

The Committee on Organization then reported the supplementary clauses which were adopted, with several amendments.

The hour of adjournment having arrived, the Convention adjourned until 9 o'clock the next morning, April 16th, 1877, leaving the consideration of the report on organization as unfinished business.

The following delegates had arrived and were present, in

addition to those mentioned in the minutes of April 14, 1877.

From Owen Sound, Edwin Dunn; Oshawa, John Mullan; Vienna, H. Sells; Woodbridge, B. Farr; Toronto, Samuel Hans, James Cosh, James Strachan, F. W. Allpott, S. G. Hill, E. Davies, J. Bulstrode, E. Meek, A. Jury, D. Hudson, W. Hudson, R. F. Riley, Eyre Evans, W. Davies; Leslie, Donald Fraser, Jr., Jno. Fraser.

The Convention again met at 9 a. m., on Monday morning, April 16, 1877, and was quickly called to order by the Chairman. After the minutes of previous meeting were read and confirmed, the Convention resolved itself into a Committee of the whole for the consideration, clause by clause, "Upon what common basis shall the Freethinkers of the Dominion organize themselves into Associations"

It was then agreed that the title or name should be "The Freethought Association of Canada."

#### OBJECTS.

1. The free discussion of all questions of public interest, without any restrictions whatever on account of their specific character.
2. The maintenance and enforcement of the right and duty of free expression of opinion and belief.
3. For the mutual benefit, assistance and support of the members of the Association, by such means as may, from time to time, be determined upon at any regular business meeting of the Association.

#### DIFFUSION.

The means employed in furthering these objects shall be regular meetings, free discussions, lectures, addresses, conventions, the platform, press in general, and all such other means as are peaceful, orderly, and right.

5. Membership in this Association shall leave each individual responsible for his own opinions alone, and effect in no degree his relations to other associations; and nothing in the name or constitution of the Association shall ever be construed as limiting membership by any test of speculative opinion or belief, or as defining the position of the Association, collectively considered, with reference to any such opinion or belief, or as interfering in any way with that absolute freedom of thought and expression which is the natural right of every rational being.

The Committee recommended that throughout the Dominion associations be formed which shall be branch or auxiliary to the General Freethought Association of Canada, and that the officers of the Freethought Association of Canada be instructed to put themselves in communication with Liberals in various parts of the country with a view to securing such co-operation as may be necessary to open and maintain branch societies in every district of the Dominion.

The Committee also recommends that the Freethought Associations of Canada have a National Executive Board, composed of members representing different parts of the Dominion, to devise plans and measures for the advancement of its interests, and to be constituted as follows:

1. The General Freethought Association of Canada shall consist of all the various branch Freethought Associations throughout the Dominion.
2. The officers of said Association shall be, first, a President; second, Vice Presidents; third and fourth, Secretary and Corresponding Secretary; fifth, Treasurer.
3. There shall be an Executive Committee of the said Association consisting of the officers of the Freethought Association of Canada and seven members of the Association, who shall be elected by the Annual Convention.
4. There shall be an Annual Convention of the General Freethought Association of Canada held in December of each year at such place as shall be decided upon by the Annual Convention of the General Freethought Association of Canada.
5. The Annual Convention of the General Freethought Association of Canada shall consist of the officers and the Executive Committee of the General Freethought Association of Canada and two delegates appointed from each branch association throughout