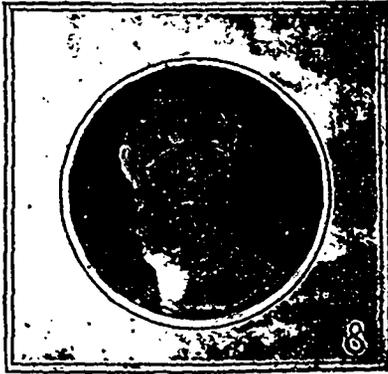


THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Election of Moderator—Rev. Dr. Moore Chosen—
—Appointment of Committee's—Receptions
—Overtures, Resolutions and Reports Con-
sidered—Public Interest Manifested in the
Proceedings.

WINNIPEG, JUNE 14TH, 1897.

As had been expected great interest is shown by the citizens in the General Assembly—in the Commissioners and in the proceedings.



REV. WM MOORE, D.D., OTTAWA.

The citizens excel each other in hospitality and nothing could be more gratifying to the visitors than the warmth of the reception given to them publicly and in the homes where they have been billeted.

St. Andrew's church was crowded on the opening night when Professor Gordon, the retiring Moderator delivered his admirable sermon—admirable as to matter as well as to manner of delivery.

Then came the pleasing duty of electing the Moderator. The nomination was made by Revs. Dr. King and Mr. Herridge and the nominee was Rev. Dr. Moore, Ottawa. The election was unanimous. Rev. Principal King remarked that he hoped Dr. Campbell, whose name had been mentioned in connection with the Moderatorship, would be elected next year.

Rev. Dr. Gordon read letters from the British Secretary of State for the Colonies and from the Governor-General acknowledging the receipt of the loyal resolution and a resolution of the Assembly last year respecting affairs in America. A communication from the Governor-General was also read asking the Assembly to consider the appropriateness of a public thanksgiving on Sunday, June 20th, the anniversary of the Queen's ascending the throne.

A resolution was passed recognizing the ability and urbanity of the late Moderator.

FRIDAY.

On Friday the Rev. Dr. Moore presided. He named the following as the Committee on the Loyal Addresses to the Queen and the Governor-General:—Rev. Dr. Gordon, Rev. Dr. King, Rev. W. T. Herridge, Messrs. John McIntyre and Robert McBeath, Winnipeg.

Rev. Dr. Warden read the following list of applications, which were taken up individually and referred to the proper committees:—Applications for leave to receive ministers—Presbytery of Halifax, W. P. Logan and W. S. Whittier; Presbytery of Montreal, David Down and Alfred Logan; Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrow, R. Harkness; Presbytery of Brockville, Alfred Fitzpatrick; Presbytery of Peterboro', R. McKnight; Presbytery of Barrie, W. T. Noble; Presbytery of Guolph, David Anderson and B. W. Williams; Presbytery of Algoma, B. K. Boshgeton; Presbytery of Hamilton, E. Snyder; Presbytery of Paris, P. A. Tinkham; Presbytery of London, Robt. Adams; Presbytery of Glenboro', N. S. Stevenson; Presbytery of Winnipeg, H. J. Gunn; Presbytery of St. John, C. W. Irwin. Applications for students—Presbytery of Montreal, A. S. MacLean; Presbytery of Toronto, J. G. Reid; Presbytery of Regina, Hugh Matheson and Neil Gilmore.

The reports of the various colleges were presented and adopted, complimentary addresses having been made in their support.

Rev. Dr. Cochran presented the report of Brantford Ladies' College. The attendance had been exceedingly fair, notwithstanding depression in trade. There had been 100 pupils, and fourteen students would graduate. The speaker dwelt upon the efficiency of the teaching staff. This was the oldest ladies' college; it had not asked a single dollar from the Church, and the people of Brantford had paid out for it \$50,000. It had graduates in Winnipeg, Brandon, Vancouver and Victoria.

Rev. Dr. Gordon made a motion that the report be received and adopted, and that the General Assembly expresses gratification at the high standing of scholarship that has characterized the college from its inception twenty-three years ago, and at the aim of the directors to make it increasingly worthy of the Church.

Dr. Thompson seconded the motion, speaking of the education in the college as of the highest kind.

At the evening session of the Assembly Rev. Mr. Gandier read a report of the Home Mission Committee, eastern section, and moved that the report be adopted. The motion was seconded by Rev. Mr. Bowman and carried.

Rev. Wm. Cochran followed with the report of the western section. In speaking of the progress of the Presbyterian religion in the Northwest he stated that in 1893 the Assembly consisted of five ministers, and that now it numbered 470.

Dr. Warden moved that the report be adopted. This was seconded by Rev. Mr. Gordon and carried.

Messrs. D. G. McQueen of Edmonton and Higginbotham of Lethbridge followed with remarks on missionary work in the Northwest.

Rev. Thomas Eaton, Kettle River, B.C., gave an interesting account of some of his experiences in the early days.

Mr. McKillop of Lethbridge was the last speaker of the evening, dealing briefly with missionary work in British Columbia and the Mormon settlement in Canada.

SATURDAY.

The report on Statistics was presented by Rev. Dr. Torrance, it contained interesting information in regard to the condition of the Church in Canada and concluded with the following summary comparison:—The number of churches or stations in the former year was 2,432 and in the latter 2,412, giving twenty of an increase; of sittings 646,506, increase 25,784; of families 102,213, increase 5,632; of single persons 27,884, increase 675; of communicants 196,404, increase 8,224. Additions during year on profession, 12,075, which was 27 fewer than the previous year; and on certificate 7,015, being 584 fewer. Removals by death, 2,711, or 12 of an increase; by certificate, 6,406, increase 146; without certificate, 3,263, an increase of 99; and by discipline 95; which was 67 fewer than the preceding year; 10,519 increase of 134, were baptized, and 1,318 adults, and increase of 12. There was an increase of 165 in the eldership, making the number 6,907, which gives an average of less than 3 to each church, and allowing about 15 families and 29 communicants to each elder. The other office-bearers were 10,790 an increase of 244. The number attending the weekly prayer-meeting was 64,428, increase \$57, and this, divided by the number of churches, gives an average attendance for each of about 27.

In Sabbath Schools and Bible Classes there were 156,104, which shows 3,040 of an increase; in those engaged caring for these, 18,078, an increase of 168. Each has an average of between 8 and 9.

In missionary associations, 355, there was an increase of 21, and of Woman's Foreign Mission Societies, 752, also of 21.

In 1896 there were 872 Christian Endeavor and 170 Young People's and other organizations, with a membership of 35,803; in 1895 there were 667 such societies, an increase of 205.

On the financial part of the report there was an increase of over \$30,000 in the year for stipends and a total increase all round. Of the eleven schemes of the church there was an increase in eight of these and a small decrease of about \$4,000 in three funds. The Young People Societies' givings to home missions are put into the report for the first time. Considering all the Schemes of the Church and deducting the amount of the decreases in the three funds there was a total increase of about \$8,000. Dr. Torrance reviewed the work since 1861, showing the steady increase in all lines, which was cause for gratitude. The Dominion census of 1891, just published, showed 190,000 more Presbyterians than the Church reports showed. He went over this, showing the reasons for it in incomplete returns, etc. Since the Union in 1875 the total amounts raised by the Presbyterian Church in Canada amounted to over \$3,500,000. It was impossible to find out all the liberality of the Presbyterians of Canada, as many of their gifts, as in the case of the India famine fund, were made through undenominational channels. The report was adopted and a resolution passed regarding the compilation of more correct statistics by individual congregations and their inspection and prompt return by Presbyteries.

The report was adopted on the motion of Drs. Grant and Thompson.

THE NEW HYMNALS.

The Rev. Dr. Gregg, seconded by the Rev. Dr. Smerville, submitted and moved the adoption of the report of the Hymnal Committee on the publication of the "Presbyterian Book of Praise." He presented a copy of each of the editions to the Moderator. The book will be given to the public as soon as a copy is printed in Canada, to settle the copyright question. The plates are now in Toronto, and a copy of each kind will be printed, to be entered with the Minister of Agriculture, after which the books can be brought over and sold. It was mentioned that one Canadian bookseller had already orders for 90,000 copies.