

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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logical should hereafter extend from the beginning of November to the end of April. It was supported by Dr. E. D. McLaren, who said that the change would give students in home mission stations the whole month of October in their fields, and Rev. K. Laird, who said that home missions should be the supreme object of the Church, and depended upon the efficiency of the colleges.

Principal Gordon drew attention to the fact that the term was now so fixed at Queens, and Principal Patrick said that only a few years ago the term at Manitoba College had been altered at the instance of the Home Mission Committee, to start in October.

The matter was referred to the senates of the colleges with instructions to report to the General Assembly next year.

Dr. James Farquharson, of Pilot Mound, Man., was named to take charge of the new church office to be opened in Winnipeg, and of the financial work of the various boards of the West. Principal Forrest presented the report of the special committee appointed to consider the question, and recommended that the salary be \$1,600 with \$400 allowed for expenses. The report was adopted, and Principal Patrick presented the names of Dr. Farquharson for the position. He said the nominee had given much gratuitous service to the Church, and commanded the respect and esteem of the whole people of the West. The nomination was received with loud applause, and Dr. Farquharson was escorted to the platform, where he expressed his thanks.

## Systematic Giving.

Dr. McLeod, of Barrie, presented the report on systematic benevolence, which was seconded by Rev. Dr. Macurdy and adopted without discussion.

The committee recommended: That in every presbytery a Committee on Systematic Benevolence be at once appointed with a view to securing a contribution for each of the schemes annually, proportionate to their need, from every congregation. That presbyteries endeavor to have a missionary association organized in each congregation; failing this, that systematic steps be taken by the office-bearers to obtain a collection annually for each scheme. That every congregation be recommended to procure envelopes for contributions. That the offerings for the schemes should be taken weekly or monthly by means of these envelopes, and where this is not found practicable, that the envelopes should be used at least quarterly. That treasurers be instructed to forward all money contributed to the schemes quarterly to the agent of the Church. That presbyteries require each congregation to report in the beginning of March annually the method adopted and the result.

## Missionaries' Wives Expenses.

An overture from the synod of British Columbia asked that the Church should pay the travelling expenses of missionaries' wives going to home mission fields for not less than two years, was received with much sympathy.

Prof. Munson, in supporting it, said that the celibacy of the clergy was one of the great sins of the Church, and the unmarried missionary was only half a man. The Foreign Mission Committee was instructed to pay the expenses of the women, if their funds would permit.

The committee appointed to consider the petition that Mrs. Dr. McColl, of Chatham, be made a beneficiary of the Widows and Orphans' Fund, was disposed to regard the matter favorably, but a strong telegram from Dr. Warden was read, deprecating the establishing of any precedent whereby claims could be made on the fund which were not justified.

Dr. Falconer spoke on the needs of the case, saying he would willingly surrender

his claim on the fund to help the widow of the aged minister. Rev. J. W. McMillan moved that the petition be not allowed, and said that a fund could probably be raised by voluntary contributions from the delegates. The motion was carried.

The report of the Presbyterian Record was presented by Rev. E. Scott, editor, who spoke of the limitations and difficulties of the publication. Its adoption was moved by Dr. Robert Murray, and seconded by Dr. Robert Campbell, and carried.

## French Evangelization.

Dr. A. J. Mowatt presented recommendations from the French Evangelization Committee, and thought that missionaries going to work in mixed fields should be required to speak both English and French.

Dr. Armstrong asked Dr. Torrance to take the chair while he spoke in support of the overture. He asked that the assembly take steps to secure a supply of ministers specially prepared for the work among mixed populations.

Principal Scrimger said Montreal College had always been doing something in the desired direction, but the necessity for it was gradually becoming greater. In regard to increased salaries to men so equipped, he said there was considerable difference of opinion. On motion of Prof. Baird, the whole matter was referred to a special committee, composed of Dr. Armstrong, J. T. Robertson, Dr. Scott, Dr. Milligan, Rev. John McKay, and W. R. Cruickshank, who will confer with the senates of the colleges in Quebec and report to the assembly next year.

## Women's Missions in Quebec.

The twenty-third annual report of the Women's Missionary Society of Quebec was presented by Dr. Scott. It showed receipts of \$5,453, with a balance of \$49.05, and worked in home, French and foreign missions.

A motion was passed expressing the thanks of the Church for its work.

An overture from Prince Edward Island asked that a yearly revision of the roll of communications of each congregation be required, as the statistics of the Church were often valueless. The matter was referred to a special committee, with instructions to report to the next assembly. Similar action was taken in regard to an overture from Hamilton Presbytery in regard to the dispensation of the Lord's Supper, it being desired that the form obtained by Christ might be followed and uniformity secured in public worship. The names of Prof. Kilpatrick and J. D. McIntosh were added to the Committee on Union, to take the places vacated by death.

## Church Life and Work.

The report on Church life and work was presented by Rev. A. S. Ross, of Westboro, Ont., in the absence of Rev. A. B. Winchester.

Of fifty-seven presbyteries, thirty-eight reports reached the committee. Your committee regrets the form and quality of a number of these presbyterial reports. Six presbyteries deplore that, despite the assembly's earnest and repeated request, a majority of the replies are the individual compositions of the ministers.

Among the recommendations of the committee are the following:—

That the report on Church life and work be considered and answered by each session—not merely by the minister; that presbyteries and sessions be encouraged to continue their efforts to secure a better observance of the Sabbath; that the assembly reaffirms its oft-repeated judgment in re the fearfully destructive and morally indefensible bar-room traffic; urges total abstinence upon all our members as a Christian privilege; expresses the conviction that more definite, united, aggressive action is demanded, and counsels presbyteries and sessions to co-operate with such

organizations as the Dominion Alliance, with a view to securing by petition, education and the ballot, at least the following amendments and further legislation:—

That before an application for a license be received, the petition therefor must bear the signatures of a majority of the electors of the district for which it is craved; that the Local Option Act be made available by depriving Councils of the power to set aside the expressed will of the people, that legislation be enacted abolishing the bar and the treating system; that sessions be encouraged to labor yet more systematically and sympathetically to reach non-church-goers, and to foster a spirit of true Christian neighborliness among those who are members and adherents of the same congregation.

## Questions Hard to Answer.

With regard to the expressed regret that replies had not been more generally received, Principal Scrimger said he had a great deal of sympathy with those who had the questions to answer. They were undoubtedly well meant, but very ambiguous and hard to answer. He thought they should have been framed so that an ordinary person could answer them.

Rev. Dr. Murray objected to cutting and carving into political details in referring to the liquor traffic, and on his motion they were stricken out. On the recommendations that amendments be secured to the license law, Dr. Murray regretted the absence of the old Temperance Committee, and deplored the wavering policy to which the assembly had descended. He thought the Church had better stick to principles and have nothing to do with licenses.

Rev. Dr. McLeod of Barrie, and Prof. Munson supported the report as amended, which was adopted.

## Anti-Opium League.

A communication was read from the Toronto Anti-Opium League asking co-operation in an endeavor to have the Chinese opium treaties annulled. Rev. Dr. McLaren said that opium was forced on the Chinese by British treaties, and the conclusion of peace between Japan and Russia might afford an opportunity for annulling them.

Rev. D. McGilivray, of Shanghai, said that the only relief possible was by petitioning the King directly, as appeals to the House of Commons had proved unavailing. A resolution was passed declaring the position of the assembly.

Resolutions were passed expressing the loyalty of the Church to King Edward and Earl Grey, satisfaction at the general participation in the celebration of the Knox quadri-centenary, and sympathy with the United Free Church in the loss of its property. A special resolution was also passed expressive of the deep regret felt at the death of Rev. Dr. Caven and appreciative of his many qualities of heart and head.

## Representatives of Assembly.

The following members were appointed as representatives of the assembly on the Executive of the Dominion Alliance: Rev. S. H. Eastman, Menford; Dr. E. R. Hutt, Ingersoll; Rev. William Frizell, Toronto, and Mr. Walter Paul, Montreal.

## Votes of Thanks Extended.

The assembly business was now at an end, and Rev. Principal Falconer took the platform to move the customary vote of thanks. He said that the assembly had never been before received in such stately surroundings as it had been this year. The beautiful grounds of Queen's compared with the best he had seen in the old land. Queen's had set the pace in that regard for the other Presbyterian colleges. The assembly was glad to have come and seen Queen's University. Its members knew of Queen's