

the Committee on the state of religion to bring this matter under the notice of the other Protestant Churches, and earnestly invoke them to co-operate in thus seeking to have the rising generation taught the principles of eternal truth, righteousness and love."

The resolution was seconded by Dr. Cochrane. It was opposed by several members, chiefly from the Maritime Provinces, where the system of "Separate Schools" has not been adopted, on the ground that it might furnish the enemies of the public schools with a pretext for re-opening a dangerous agitation. The final decision was not reached when the morning session closed.

NEXT MEETING.

In the afternoon the Assembly was invited to hold its next meeting in St. Andrew's Church, St. John. The invitation, conveyed by Dr. Macrae, was unanimously accepted, and the date of meeting was fixed on the second Wednesday of June at 7.30 o'clock.

SUSTENTATION AND SUPPLEMENTING.

Rev. P. McF. MACLEOD presented the report of the Sustentation Fund Committee. It appears that 16 Presbyteries were heartily in favour of a Sustentation Fund, 14 of these unanimously and 2 by a majority; 9 of that number approving of the Committee's scheme in all its details, and 7 not committing themselves to all the particulars; 5 Presbyteries give a modified approval to the principle of a Sustentation Fund and 12 Presbyteries entirely disapprove, 7 simply expressing a preference for a supplemental scheme and 5 desiring no change on the present system of supplementing by means of the Home Mission Committee. From the above returns the Committee are convinced that the interest in the whole subject of ministerial support is increasing in the Church, and that much of the opposition is owing not to hostility to the principle of a Sustentation Fund but to a lack of faith in its practicability in the present circumstances of the Church. They have, therefore, agreed that in order to test the prospect of the practical working of the sustentation scheme to make the following recommendations:—

The recommendations are to the effect that the scheme, as amended, be sent down to sessions, and that a Committee be appointed to watch over the subject, send deputations to visit Presbyteries in important centres, &c. The scheme, as amended, places on fund congregations remitting a minimum of \$500. All self-sustaining congregations are expected to participate in the fund.

Rev. J. M. KING supported an overture, transmitted by the Presbytery of Toronto, in favour of a supplementing scheme. It is proposed that a separate fund be established, or that a definite proportion of the Home Mission receipts be assigned to this work. The discussion was not concluded at the hour of adjournment.

On Monday evening the Assembly met in St. Andrew's Church, the subject being

FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.

Rev. R. H. WARDEN gave an abstract of the

report and the operations of the year. In no country does the Church of Rome possess greater wealth and power and influence than in the Province of Quebec. Out of an entire population of less than 1,200,000 she claims fully 1,000,000 votaries, nearly all of whom are of French descent.

By royal edict she has the right to levy tithes upon the products of the soil for the support of her clergy, together with special assessments for the erection of ecclesiastical establishments. By means of these and the large grants of land made to the Jesuits and other religious orders in the early history of the Province the Church has amassed enormous wealth, and, virtually controlling the Legislature, she has established herself more firmly in this Province than ever she did in France or Italy, or even perhaps in Spain. With the most bitter and uncompromising hostility to the dissemination of God's truth she strives to keep the people in slavish ignorance and superstition. No one at all acquainted with her wealth and power and influence,—no one who has seen her magnificent churches and seminaries and convents (in marked contrast to the adjoining poverty-stricken huts of her votaries); no one who knows the number of her ecclesiastics who swarm in every section of the country; no one familiar with the hold she has on the vast bulk of the people, but is constrained to feel that it is not by human might nor by human power this Church is to be driven from her strongholds, but by the omnipotent Spirit of the living God. To the eye of sense it would seem utterly futile to cope with this giant system of error and superstition,—to the eye of faith it is far otherwise. The time is coming—is not far distant, we believe—when by the blessed Spirit Quebec will be disenthralled and her people rejoice in that liberty wherewith Christ makes His people free. But to bring about this happy era work is necessary,—faithful, self-deceiving, prayerful work,—for, to quote the words of the late Dr. Norman McLeod, "What may appear suddenly and unexpectedly, may nevertheless be the necessary results of long preparation; like the water or the gas, which suddenly enter a thousand city houses to refresh and illuminate them, but which are the results of years of labour in digging trenches, laying pipes and erecting reservoirs, during all which time no streams of water or of gas were ever present to the senses." To help on this work of preparation, to aid in bringing about the desired and longed-for time, and to give to the French-speaking people of the whole Dominion the glorious light of the Gospel of Christ is the great aim and object of the Board; and though it is as yet but early morn, but the dawn, the break of day, still progress has been made. Rays of light have penetrated into not a few districts of the country, cheering and gladdening darkened souls and enabling them to see behind the veil with which a corrupt faith had tried to hide the crucified One; and these rays, it is comforting to know, are but the first beams of that sun which is yet to stream into every corner of the Province now lying in darkness and steep in its glory the whole land.

Though Canada ceased to be a French colony