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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

DR. A. F. FALCONER, OF PICTON,
ELECTED MODERATOR.

INTERESTING REPORTS OF THE YEAR'S WORK.

In last issue we gave our readers in full the excellent and practical sermon preached by Rev. Dr. Armstrong. In taking leave of the chair the retiring moderator said:

"The time has arrived when I am called upon to retire from this position of honor. It is not for me to say how I have discharged the duties of that position—with what success or with what failure. I have attempted to carry them out in such a way that the Church should not lose anything, and, in doing so, I have been supported by the conviction that I have possessed the good-will and confidence of my brethren. Besides, I have frequently been helped by your words of appreciation and affection."

After a brief reference to various phases of the work that devolved upon him, Dr. Armstrong continued:

"During the year very many have been called from our ranks. We are called upon to mourn the loss of our great treasurer, Dr. Warden Sinclair, of Regina; Hutchison of Huntingdon; Prof. Morrison, Dr. W. A. MacKay, Dr. James, of Hamilton; Wilson, of Lanark, these among many. They have been called to their reward and we march on.

"If I might be permitted to make a modest suggestion, it would be this: That the Church afford to its future moderator, whoever he may be, a little relief from his regular pastoral duties in order that he may be at liberty to devote himself more unsparingly to the work of the Church at large. Some such method is in vogue in Scotland, and it might be adopted to advantage on this side the water."

The election of the new moderator was then taken up, the name of the Rev. Dr. Falconer being proposed by Dr. Scott, of Montreal, seconded by Principal Forrest, and that of Rev. Dr. Somerville, of Owen Sound, seconded by Rev. J. B. Fraser, of Leith.

Praise for Falconer.

Dr. Scott said that the qualifications of Dr. Falconer for the position were well known. He was eminently fitted to fill it with dignity and ability. A consideration which should also be taken into account was the fact that ever since the union, the eastern section of the Church had been represented once in four years. It was seven years now since the moderatorship had gone east.

While he felt that an eastern man should not be elected just because he was an eastern man, yet he felt that when it was the turn of the east, and a fitting candidate offered, some regard should be had to the old arrangement. Moreover, Dr. Falconer was one of the oldest among all the active ministers of the Church, but, notwithstanding, his eye was not dimmed nor his natural force abated.

Rev. Principal Forrest, in seconding the nomination, deprecated the mentioning of East and West. The chief thing was to secure a suitable man, and that they had in Dr. Falconer.

Dr. J. B. Fraser, of Anan, hoped he would not be considered presumptuous if he placed another name before the assembly. He wanted to suggest one whose long, varied and valued services to the Church should particularly commend him to the consideration of those present. He felt that it was about time the Church was dropping the rights of a dividing line. His nominee had given the Church unique service in connection with the preparation of the Book of Praise. For many years he had been secretary of the home and augmentation committees, and, without disparaging any other man, the speaker felt his nominee was more conversant with these branches than anyone else who might be mentioned. If there was any difficult and delicate and important work to be done Rev. Dr. Somerville, of Owen Sound, was the man to do it. Upright and faithful, he would conduct the business with dispatch.

Principal Merchant, of the London Normal school, who seconded Dr. Somerville's nomination, said that he had a warm personal appreciation of that gentleman's abilities, and, if it were necessary, he could emphasize and amplify all that had been said in this connection. His insight and sound judgment, his courage and practical power well fitted him to perform the duties of the office in question. Dr. Somerville's abilities and service should be recognized.

Dr. Somerville remarked that if there was anything he valued it was the good will of his brethren, but at the risk of appealing imitations he desired that his name should be withdrawn and Dr. Falconer elected by acclamation. The assembly concurred.

Dr. Falconer then retired, was invested with the robes of office, and, returning, assumed the chair.

"I think if I know my own mind I never had an ambition to occupy the seat," observed the new moderator. "Every man should have ambitions, but certainly this was not one of mine. I am an average man, and, I ought to shrink from the honor you have done me. However that may be, all I can say is that I shall strive to discharge these duties to the best of my ability. I must cast myself upon your confidence and trust."

Message From Earl Grey.

Dr. Armstrong read a message from the Governor-General conveying the thanks of the King for the assembly's expression of loyalty.

On motion of Walter Paul of Montreal a resolution of thanks to the retiring moderator was unanimously adopted.

Dr. McMullen, of Woodstock, gave notice of motion to bring before the assembly for discussion at tomorrow morning's session the subject of the Lord's Day bill.

SECOND DAY.

An hour was spent in devotional exercises, led by the Moderator, Rev. Dr. Falconer, and a number of representative ministers and elders. The first order of

business was the unanimous adoption of Dr. McMullen's motion against the class exemptions in the Lord's Day Act. A committee was appointed to consider the whole question of the office of Church Agent, made vacant by the death of Dr. Warden, to report on any advisable re-arrangement and reorganization of the work of the office, and to submit a name for appointment. The corporation of Knox College was granted leave to sell the present property on Spadina avenue, and to erect new buildings on another site in closer proximity to the University of Toronto. The work of Queen's University and of the theological colleges at Montreal, Halifax and Winnipeg was reported on, and various schemes for their enlargement were approved. Home missions and Canada's growing time, in all the Presbyteries from Labrador to the Yukon, held the attention and stirred the enthusiasm of the public meeting in the evening, which had many of the features of a Parliamentary discussion of the Department of the Interior, the estimates, Trade and Commerce and Public Works. The discussion of the movements of population, education, immigration and the Canadianizing of the new Canada was frank, intelligent and purposeful.

Reception of Ministers.

At the afternoon session the reception of ministers was taken up, and the names of Rev. R. Gibson Fisher, Rev. George McLennan of Montreal, Rev. Mr. Sland of Kingston, Rev. J. A. Mustard, R. E. Welsh, R. McClenahan, Dr. Herbert C. Ross of Toronto, Rev. W. H. Anderson of London, Rev. W. Percy Spooner of Yorkton, Rev. A. B. Thompson and Rev. J. Milson of Red Deer were referred to a committee to report.

Knox College.

In the absence of his Honor Lieutenant-Governor Mortimer Clark, chairman of the Board of Management, Principal MacLaren presented the report on Knox College. He referred generally to the condition of the college work. The two new professors had added greatly to the strength of the staff. It was for the whole Church to consider getting a larger supply of students for the ministry.

The sixty-second annual report of the college showed sixty-four students enrolled in the theological classes during the past session, of whom fifteen received their diplomas at the close of the academic year, twelve of these holding university degrees.

The net receipts for the ordinary fund amounted to \$26,969.90, and expenditure \$26,512.71, leaving a balance in hand of \$448.19. Under the head of the ordinary fund is included a gift of \$10,000 from the late Dr. Warden, which he directed should be applied in the first instance in this way, but as this fund does not call for such a special addition the amount had been passed on to the endowment fund.

Mr. J. K. Macdonald, in moving a resolution regarding the change of site of Knox College, stated that the present building was not convenient and needed extensive repairs, which would cost \$75,000 or \$80,000. It would be easier to raise a much larger sum for a new building. A fairly liberal response was already indicated, and on the adoption of the motion steps would be taken to approach the alumni.

Rev. W. J. Clark seconded the resolution in a speech of hearty endorsement. Some might be frightened at the sum asked, but the millionaire and multi-millionaire, new words to the men who built Knox thirty years ago, are not rare today, and the Church should claim a share of the rapidly increasing wealth of its membership for this great educational purpose.