

METHODIST UNION.

FOURTH DAY.

The report of the Committee on General Superintendency was adopted as amended.

The report of the Committee on Educational Interests was read. The following extracts are made:—Two bodies here represented have a number of educational interests in successful operation. The Primitive Methodist and the Bible Christian Churches are not represented by such institutions. There are several institutions under the control of the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada. The University of Victoria College has a property worth \$244,000; annual income, \$15,000; annual expenditure, \$14,500; professors, 8. Mount Allison Wesleyan College—Amount of property, \$1,100,000; disbursements, \$150,000; male academy, \$40,000; ladies' academy, \$35,000; total income, \$17,500, and expenditure the same. Wesleyan Theological College, Montreal—property, \$64,000; annual income, \$3,500; expenditure the same. Of institutions under the patronage of the Annual Conference, for the finances of which the Church is not responsible, there are the Wesleyan Ladies' College, Hamilton; the Ontario Ladies' College, Whitby; the Standard Wesleyan College, Methodist Academy, St. John's, New Brunswick. Under the control of the Methodist Episcopal Church there is Albert College and University, Belleville; buildings and premises worth \$40,000; endowments, \$55,000; of the latter sum \$25,000 being cash in hand. Alexandra Ladies' College is located at Belleville. Alma has an endowment of \$60,000, which is so far provided for as to be virtually free from debt. The committee had that the institutions in the East present no difficulty to union, and they believe the Western institutions exercising university powers can be consolidated to the honor of their graduates and the advantage of their educational work. The committee recommends that we adhere as a united Church to the traditional policy of Methodism as to higher education, and that it should be in the hands of the Church. Report received.

The Committee on Annual Conferences gave report No 2:—1. "It shall be the duty of each Annual Conference, at its session next preceding the session of each General Conference, to divide into ministerial and lay electoral conferences, for the purpose of electing delegates to the General Conference, each body electing its own representatives. The delegates to be elected shall reside inside the bounds of their respective Conferences. 2. Each Annual Conference shall have a Stationing Committee composed as follows:—The General Superintendent, each Chairman of a District, and one representative elected from among the ministerial delegates, by a joint vote of both lay and clerical representatives. The laymen at the District Meeting shall form themselves into an electoral conference to elect delegates to attend the sessions of the Annual Conference. Report received.

The Committee on Church Property reported:—"From the partial investigation possible the committee found that a large amount of Church property now in use will, in the event of union, become useless for its present purpose. The committee recommended—(1) That the proceeds of surplus property shall be appropriated to liquidate the debts of local trust estates; (2) in aid of immediate improvements or erections necessarily arising out of amalgamation; (3) any sum still remaining shall constitute a fund to be under the control of the Annual Conference in such a way as the several Annual Conferences holding jurisdiction shall determine."

Rev. J. J. Rice said so far as the committee could trace, the properties coming in conflict (part of which would likely fall into disuse and become an estate for conical purposes) from Prince Edward Island to the eastern boundary of the Ontario Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada were 55 churches and 14 parsonages. At a very low estimate they had valued the property at \$57,000.

Mr. John Macdonald took it for granted that union was going to be established; and, therefore moved "That the basis of union found by this committee be prepared and signed by the Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the presiding officer of the committee, and the Secretary of the committee, and the Secretary of the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada, the Primitive Methodist Church, and the Bible Christian Church; that the said basis of union be affixed to the consideration, harmonious and united adoption of the membership of all the Churches; and that the said basis of union be published in the various Church organs as the findings of this committee on this all-important question." The resolution simply provided for the need of action when the basis was found. Mr. Macdonald asked leave for it to be given as a matter of motion.

Report No. 2 of the report on Annual Conferences was taken up, and clause 1 considered. The question of electing the delegates to the General Conference by a separate lay and ministerial vote was given at some length. Rev. Dr. Sutherland said:—If cranks, ministerial and lay, would

only let us alone we should do very well and work in harmony. As a matter of fact the laymen are usually helped by those who do not belong to their meeting. It seems to me that we had better leave these distinctions alone. I claim that when I am elected to the General Conference I represent laymen as well as ministers, and I believe that the same is true as regards the laymen. We had better leave the Conference to make their selection in the united Conference.

Rev. Dr. Rice entirely concurred with the report. He could not conceive a more revolutionary idea than throwing the Conference into one for that purpose.

Rev. Dr. Stewart moved that the election of the ministerial and lay representatives to the General Conference shall be made by the Annual Conference.

Rev. D. D. Wainwright moved that an election shall be by a ballot vote.

Rev. Dr. Peckard moved that in the election of representatives to the General Conference the vote shall be taken by the Conference, but if demanded by one-third of either order it shall be taken by orders.

Bishop Carman explained that the lay of the Methodist Episcopal Church had now a veto power with respect to matters affecting the laity as to the matters of raising supplies in connection with the temporal economy. He could see that the amendment of Rev. Dr. Peckard would provide a means of inducing the laity to give up the veto power.

Rev. Dr. Rice said that if an amendment were adopted the Quarterly Boards would certainly veto the resolution.

Mr. Milne moved, "On the last day of the session of the Annual Conference preceding each General Conference, a special session shall be held by the lay and clerical members separately, at which sitting each body shall elect its chairman and proceed to choose its representatives to the General Conference."

The amendments were all put and lost, the report of the Committee being adopted without alteration.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Clause two of the report on Annual Conferences was taken up.

Rev. Dr. Dewart moved that the clause relating to the General Superintendent being a member of the Stationing Committee be omitted.

Rev. Dr. Sutherland proposed that the General Superintendent should be present, but not take any part in the work of stationing.

Rev. Dr. Aylesworth moved as a substitute, that the Stationing Committee be composed of the General Superintendent, or General Superintendents, the President of the Annual Conference, and the Superintendent of District Conferences; who shall be left without pastoral charge and travel through the District. There being no seconder this fell through.

Rev. Dr. Dewart moved as a substitute to the motion and all the amendments, including his own, "That the Stationing Committee be composed of the President of the Annual Conference, the Chairman of Districts, and one minister elected from each district meeting, such election to be by joint vote of ministers and laymen."

Rev. Dr. Dewart's amendment was adopted.

Clause 3 was now taken up. Rev. Dr. Sutherland moved in amendment that in the election of lay representatives to the Annual Conference the laymen of the District Conference shall meet separately for the purpose, and the election shall be by ballot. The motion was adopted, and the report as amended was adopted.

The Committee on District Superintendents reported as follows:—(1) That each district shall be under the supervision of a presiding officer to be called the District Superintendent. (2) That he shall be elected in the Annual Conference by ballot among the superintendent ministers of the Conference stations on said district. (3) His duties shall be to preside in district meetings and in all district committees to oversee the business of the church, and, with the ministers and preachers, administer and enforce the discipline on his district, being responsible therefore to his Annual Conference.

The report was received and clause one was taken up. Dr. Allison opposed the term "District Superintendent." It would lead to embarrassment in reference to the General Superintendent. Was there no word in the 50,000 of the English language that would express the idea without the cumbersome phraseology in the report being used?

Rev. Dr. Sutherland thought the idea a happy one. He would go in for carrying the word Superintendent right through the connection. They had Superintendent of Districts, he would have Superintendent of Conference, and lastly General Superintendent. The clause was adopted.

Clause 3 was taken up. Dr. Allison said the report would not allow the present policy of the Methodist Church of Canada being continued. He had known cases when the chairman of the district was not the superintendent of a circuit.

Rev. S. F. Harris said he was glad the point had been raised. It would prevent an editor, a book-steward,

or any connexional officer from being chairman of the district. He had been, while book-steward, chairman of the district, and might be again.

Rev. James Gray said if they left the word "superintendent" out of the clause the difficulty would be met.

Rev. W. C. Brown moved that "He shall be elected in the Annual Conference, by ballot, from among the ministers of the Conference within the district." This amendment was adopted.

Clause 3 was taken up, and on motion by Rev. F. B. Stratton, "temporal and spiritual interests" was substituted for "business" in the clause, and adopted as thus amended. The report was adopted as amended.

The report of the Committee on Church Property was taken up. Some discussion ensued in general terms on the expediency of receiving the report.

Rev. Dr. Sutherland suggested that the report be sent back to the Committee, with the recommendation that the proceeds of the sale of the surplus property be applied to the Church and Parsonage Aid Society. This recommendation was condemned on all hands, and he withdrew the resolution.

Rev. Thomas Griffith said this was a difficult matter. No one liked to pay another people's debt, and those who had paid for the churches would be very jealous as to the manner in which the surplus was appropriated. He suggested that it should go for purely mission churches.

It was suggested that the first clause should be altered so as to read "now in use and not needed."

Rev. Dr. Sutherland proposed that the report go back to the committee with the following resolution:—"That the surplus property of the united Churches be vested in the united Church, and any portion not needed for connexional purposes be sold, and the proceeds, after paying all legitimate claims, be applied to such connexional purposes as the General Conference may direct."

The report and resolution were referred to the Committee for consideration.

FIFTH DAY

The report of the Committee on the General Conference was considered clause by clause.

The first clause was as follows:—"The first General Conference of the united body shall consist of one in every twelve of the ordained ministers in the united Churches, and an equal number of laymen."

Rev. Dr. Rice pointed out that this would bring the number on the General Conference up to 250, or about forty more than composed the last General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada.

Rev. Mr. Williamson moved that the proportion of representation be one in ten. There was room for a larger representation.

Dr. Sutherland pointed out that wherever the Conference was held there would be some difficulty in billeting the delegates. To increase the total number beyond the 250 would, he thought, be unwise. A small deliberative body was, more over, more manageable than a large one, and would be more expeditious in the transaction of business.

Rev. Dr. Gardiner suggested the following amendment:—"Nevertheless, when the several Churches arranging for the union shall have approved of the basis by their Annual Conference and Church courts, they may severally elect to the number of one in ten of their Annual Conferences and an equal number of laymen as delegates to the special General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada after they shall have decided to proceed with the assembling of such united Conference." The amendment of the Rev. Mr. Williamson was carried.

The second clause was as follows:—"No layman shall be eligible to election to the General Conference who is under twenty-five years of age, and who has not been a member of the Church for five consecutive years next preceding his election." Carried.

The third clause was as follows:—"That the united General Conference be convened on the first Wednesday in September, in the year 1894, in the Metropolitan Church, Toronto, the centennial year of the organization of Methodism on this continent."

Mr. Maclean did not see how the new Conference could be appointed except by a new election. Any other meeting must be an adjourned one. He made this remark in reply to the suggestion that the Conference meet in 1893.

It was pointed out that the expense of having the Conference of the various Churches as usual in 1893 and the united General Conference in 1894 would be considerable. The clause was re-committed, with a view of arranging for a meeting of the united Conference in 1893.

The fourth clause was:—"All probationers shall be eligible for ordination as ministers who have travelled four years, and have been received into full connexion by the vote of an Annual Conference." Carried without discussion.

The fifth clause was as follows:—"Provided always that an Annual Conference shall have power to elect and ordain probationers of less than four years' standing when the necessities of the work require it." This passed without opposition.

The sixth clause was:—"All preachers who have received ordination in any of the uniting bodies, and are in good standing at the time of the union, shall retain all the rights and privileges conferred by such ordination." Carried.

The committee on Publishing Interests gave a list of the journals published by the different denominations of the Methodist Church, and some statistics about the various book-rooms. They recommended the continuance of the Halifax book-room, and stated that they apprehended no difficulty in amalgamating the various interests.

After some discussion the word "consolidation" was put for "amalgamation."

The report was referred back to the committee to make some reference to the financial aspect of the question.

The Committee on Church Funds reported as follows:—1. We have found difficulties and complications arising from the various covenants and regulations of the different bodies, but do not think them incapable of solution; we have only thought it proper to adopt general principles, leaving it to the proper authorities of the united Church to deal with the details.

2. It appears that the members of the Methodist Church of Canada have a superannuation fund equal to \$153,557 for men engaged in the effective work, amounting in the aggregate to \$124,843. It is desirable that the members of the proposed new fund coming from other Churches should unite on equal terms, and they therefore recommend that each of the contracting parties shall pay into the new fund an amount that would be equal per capita with the amount for each effective man in hand in the Methodist Church of Canada.

3. In regard to the present claims on the superannuation funds of the several churches they shall be claimants on the new funds to the extent of the average amounts they shall have received during the past four years immediately preceding the said union.

4. The Primitive Methodist Church having paid their men about the same amount as the Methodist Church of Canada, they shall be claimants for the same amount out of the new fund.

5. The principles in the above resolutions shall be applied to adjust the case of the ministers of the Methodist Episcopal and Bible Christian Churches who may be included in the said Conferences.

The report was received. The Committee on Church Property reported, recommending (1) That such legislation be obtained in the various provinces, Newfoundland, and Bermuda, as shall be needed to vest the property of the Churches, now held in trusts for the several Churches, in the united Churches. (2) That a committee of five be appointed to assist the district superintendent to administer the surplus property. (3) In all cases where Church or parsonage property is sold the surplus proceeds, after providing for the indebtedness, shall be supplied to the Church and Parsonage Aid Society, in the bounds of such Annual Conference where the property may have been situated. The report was received.

BREVITIES.

Many a man owes his success in life to the hisses of his enemies instead of the plaudits of his friends.

Behind the snowy loaf is the mill-wheel, behind the mill the wheat-field, on the wheat-field falls the sunlight, above the sun is God.

A medical writer says children need more wraps than adults. An exchange responds, "They generally get more."

A Vermont debating society announces the following question: "Which is the most fun, to see a man try to thread a needle, or a woman try to drive a nail?"

It is a certain sign of an evil heart to be inclined to defamation, for it ever arises from the lack of what is commendable in one's self, and condones the presence of seeing it in others.—Addison.

"Do many children tumble over the pier?" we asked of a weather-beaten Boat-stairs boatman. "Now and again," was his reply; "but there's no more always some idle party standing about to fish em out."

A young missionary visiting Tibet for the first time, recently expressed his horror at finding the practices of Mormonism reversed under the protection of the King of Cashmere. The law allows women several living husbands, and a lad gave the names of five men when asked who his father was.

The French Academy is more than ever the subject of jokes because of its Dictionary which, begun two hundred years ago, has hardly made any progress yet. Charles Nodder, writing to a friend, says: "You ask me when the Dictionary of the French Academy will be finished? Nostradamus could not reply to the question. For myself I am firmly of opinion that the Academy will be finished before its Dictionary."

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