

first epistle general of Peter, 5th chapter, and 2nd, 3rd and 4th verses. In concluding he referred in pathetic terms to the death of their late Clerk, Rev. Dr. Watson.

THE NEW MODERATOR.

The election of Moderator was then proceeded with, and resulted in Rev. A. A. Scott, of Carleton Place, being elected to that position by a small majority over Rev. James Fleck, of Montreal. The other candidate, Rev. J. A. G. Calder, of Lancaster, was not present and his candidature was thrown out.

Previous to taking the vote, Rev. Mr. Fleck expressed his desire of withdrawing his name, as he did not wish to divide the Synod upon such a matter. Several of his friends, however, objected to his retirement.

The Synod then adjourned until to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

TUESDAY MORNING.

The second sederunt of the Synod opened this morning in Knox Church at 10 o'clock, the Rev. A. A. Scott, Moderator, in the chair.

The first hour was spent in praise, reading of Scripture and prayer.

The Clerk, pro tem., then read the minutes of last night's sederunt.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures presented its programme for the business of the day. One item caused a little breeze. A committee of Synod had arranged for a conference this evening upon "Church and State." This brought the Rev. James M. Crombie to his feet with a vigorous protest and a motion to strike out this theme, on the ground that we have nothing to do with it in this country, and that where it was a live question, it had been a source of untold trouble.

The Rev. C. Doudiet at once seconded Mr. Crombie's motion and emphasized his remarks. Some sharp retorts followed and in a few minutes the motion of the Committee passed and became the order of the House.

The Rev. W. Burns, of Toronto, and the agent of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, appeared before the Synod to urge it to take greater interest in the scheme which he represents. His first point was that the fund has a deficit for the year. This arose from the fact that some 250 congregations in the western section of the Church had sent no contributions to it. He urged every minister of the Church to connect himself with this fund. Next he spoke of the efforts which have been and are now being made towards the establishment of the \$200,000 endowment fund. Of this amount \$113,000 had already been promised, and \$86,000 of this had been paid in. To encourage the weaker churches in this matter, he stated that there were two such churches in the Presbytery of Hamilton, which had contributed respectively \$500 and \$600. Mr. Burns was thanked for his address, and the Synod then re-appointed the Committee to co-operate in the work.

The Presbyteries of Quebec, Montreal and Brockville applied for permission to take a number of students on trial for license to preach the Gospel. The applications were all granted.

The Rev. James Hastie, in the absence of Dr. Scribner (Convener) read the report of the Synod's Committee upon Ecclesiastical Co-operation. The report spoke of a few instances in which a little labor and expense had been saved by inviting a few scattered families, belonging to different churches, into one church. From the discussion it appeared that in one instance a certain body which had no families in a certain small village, had gone there and added another society to the too many already there. It was felt that there was but little hope of the body referred to ever co-operating with the other bodies, in a movement of this kind.

The Rev. J. K. McLeod spoke of instances in the Province of Quebec where societies belonging to different churches had existed for many years. One society had six members and another had thirty; but there was little prospect of these uniting. Our object should be to prevent the multiplication of such cases, in this was our best hope.

The report was received and the Committee re-appointed.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Synod resumed at 2.30, the Rev. A. A. Scott, Moderator, presiding.

The devotions were followed by the reading of the minutes of the morning sederunt.

The report upon Public Education in Ontario and Quebec was read, in the absence of the Convener, by the Rev. James Hastie. It stated that in Ontario the salaries of teachers were advancing, and that the qualifications were of a higher grade. There was, however, a large decrease of pupils in Ontario. The large subscriptions which several gentlemen in Montreal had made to educational purposes were dwelt upon in terms of admiration and gratitude. The Quebec Government came in for some castigation for the manner in which the claims of the Presbyterian Church had been overlooked in the appoint-

ments made to the Protestant Board of the Council of Education. The report further asked that a strong resolution upon the injustice complained of be formulated and forwarded to the members of the Government. This recommendation was sent to a committee for consideration, to be reported upon at a future sederunt.

The time for the order of the day had now arrived for

THE APPOINTMENT OF A CLERK OF SYNOD

to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Dr. Watson.

The Rev. Messrs. Scott and James Patterson nominated the Rev. K. McLennan, M. A., of Point Lévis.

The Rev. Messrs. Beatt and McLeod nominated the Rev. J. R. McLeod, of Three Rivers.

The latter gentleman, however, declined to allow his name before the Synod, and the former gentleman, the Rev. Kenneth McLennan, was, therefore, unanimously elected to the position.

In this connection a committee was appointed to draft a resolution of condolence with the family of Dr. Watson, and expressive of the Synod's appreciation of his services.

Dr. Armstrong presented the report of the Mission to Lumbermen. This gave details of the literature which had been distributed among the workmen. Bible colporteurs and missionaries were the bearers of this, and had been received with gladness by those for whom it was intended. The total vols. were 1,120 and parts, and 22,318 tracts and numbers—these among 124 camps. It is proposed to send two missionaries into this work next winter. One to the Upper Ottawa and the other to the Gatineau region. The report was received and adopted and the Convener of the Committee was specially thanked for his services.

The Rev. James Hastie presented the report on The State of Religion. The document was a very lengthy one, covering the religious life of five Presbyteries. Recommendations were as follows:

1. That sessions be exhorted to continue their watchful care of the flock by systematic visitation of the congregation, and to give such assistance in the Sunday School as they may be able.
2. That the young people of our congregations be encouraged to form themselves into religious associations for Christian culture, and for missionary objects; and that the session exercise due supervision over them by having a representative present at their meeting, whenever possible.
3. That ministers give due prominence in their pulpit ministrations to the subject of family religion, reminding parents of their duties to their children, and children of their duties to their parents.
4. That this Synod hereby recommends the Assembly to appoint the first Sabbath of each year, as the time to have sermons preached on this subject in all our churches.
5. Sessions are recommended to meet, at least once each month, for devotion and conference.
6. The General Assembly's Committee on The State of Religion, is humbly asked to send its schedule to the convener of the Presbytery's Committee, or to clerk of Presbytery, for distribution to sessions.
7. That if possible the Questions on The State of Religion, be printed for the ensuing year in the Assembly's minutes, as is now done in the case of several others of our reports.

EVENING SESSION.

It wanted but six minutes to eight o'clock, when the Moderator called the court to order in the evening.

After devotions, and the reading of the minutes, the Synod proceeded to hold the Conference upon Church and State, as previously arranged for. The Rev. Mr. Crombie, however, endeavoured again to prevent this matter coming up, but the Moderator ruled that he was out of order, and so the subject was launched.

The Rev. Dr. Moore, of Ottawa, led with an able paper. The Church, he said, was a visible society, and entitled to hold visible property. This, of itself, allied it to the state. He proposed to examine the moral character of the state, in its relation to the religion of Christ. The state protects the person and his possessions. It determines crime and its punishment; what constitutes marriage and the obligations arising out of it. It is sovereign. It is absolute. It is omnipotent within its own realm. This is a case in which the whole is more than its parts; it is greater than its parts. Is it founded upon pure brute force? The answer is that the Government has to begin with the weak, and not with the strongest of the people. The mass of the people must reign. It has control of the education of the population. He spoke of the introduction of the Bible, and of the recognition of God by prayer and worship in the common schools. Instances were given where these had been bitterly opposed, but he held that no religion was irreligious. The Sabbath School, one hour per week of religious teaching is not sufficient to counteract the six days of possible atheistic teaching. For the life of

him he did not see why we should not teach religion as easily as infidelity. The State must, without any hesitation, not only protect, but teach religion. Men object to dogmas, but we cannot do without it. Concluding, he drew a contrast between the moral grandeur of religion, and the temporary, and secular corporation of the State; how the latter uses the sword as a last resort and will ultimately vanish away, while, on the other hand, religion is not of this world, and is eternal in its duration. Religion, therefore, should dominate in the State and all its enactments.

Discussion upon the paper was shut off by the introduction of the paper upon "The Ministry." Professor Ross could not remain until Wednesday night, when, according to arrangements it was to have been given. The full title of his paper was, "The Authority of the Christian Ministry;" and is reproduced in extenso in another portion of this issue.

Prof. Ross sat down amid a storm of applause.

A discussion then took place upon Dr. Moore's paper, in which a suggestion was made that this and Prof. Ross' paper be sent to the Church newspapers for publication. This was agreed to, and the two gentlemen who read them were warmly thanked.

The fourth sederunt then closed with the Benediction.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

At to-day's meeting the report on Sabbath Observance was presented by Rev. J. Nichols, of Montreal, convener of the Committee. The various forms of Sabbath desecration were very similar to those reported in other years, boating, hunting, driving, visiting, loafing and general pleasure seeking. One notable feature has been the work upon the new Wellington street bridge across the canal. This evil is aggravated by the fact that it has been perpetrated by the contractors under the Dominion Government. It is affirmed, however, that the railways are the greatest sinners in this Sabbath labour direction. While passenger trains may not have increased, freight trains have certainly done so. More of these are despatched upon the Sabbath than upon any other day of the week; but we have no law, federal or provincial, which prevents a greedy contractor or corporation from engaging in Sabbath labour. The exhaustive report closed with the following recommendations:—Parents are urged to impress upon their children the necessity of honouring the Lord's day. The Synod expresses surprise and regrets the action of the ladies' committee in Chicago in passing a resolution in favour of keeping the World's Fair open on Sunday, as the Synod cannot conceive any consideration or circumstance which can excuse a violation of the law of God. The Synod expresses its regret, through the press, at the action of the Dominion Parliament in again rejecting Mr. Charlton's bill for better observance of the Lord's day. The Synod expresses an emphatic protest, through the press, against all forms of unnecessary labour upon the Lord's day; also its gratification at the declared intention of locomotive engineers in this connection, and hopes that the time will soon come, when all workmen will unite in refusing to earn money by breaking the fourth commandment. The thanks of the Synod be tendered to Mr. John Charlton, M. P., for his valuable services both in the House of Commons and church pulpits, in the interests of Sabbath observance, and in conclusion, that the friends of the Sabbath, and our ministers be urged to make a constant use of the press in promoting sound views of the obligations of the Sabbath and in opposing all known and active attempts to violate these obligations.

The recommendation that Mr. Charlton be tendered the thanks of the Synod, was the cause of an animated discussion, several gentlemen being afraid that politics would be drawn into the matter. The concise statement of Mr. George Hay, brought the affair to an abrupt close amid the applause of the delegates. "It would be a cowardly thing," he said, "for this Synod to back out or flinch from giving Mr. Charlton at least a measure of the appreciation which is due him." The vote was unanimous.

The recommendation expressing surprise at the action of the Ladies' Committee in Chicago, regarding the World's Fair was, after a warm discussion, struck out.

The report as a whole was adopted and ordered to be transmitted to the General Assembly.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

The Report on Temperance was presented by Rev. Mr. McArthur, of Cardinal. Full reports received from each Presbytery are very decided in saying that total abstinence is on the increase among the congregations. Two sessions in the Quebec Presbytery reported every member as a total abstainer. In the bounds of one session in Quebec the last hotel has been closed. As to the increase or decrease in the sale of liquor, some of the answers are very discouraging, and only one session under the Synod states that there is a noticeable decrease in the amount of liquor consumed. In answer to the query as to whether the

sessions favor the enactment of a prohibitory liquor law at an early date, there is a wonderfully unanimous expression of opinion, only one session giving an emphatic negative. Glengarry states that thirteen sessions out of the fourteen are of the opinion that the country is ripe for prohibition. In the Ottawa Presbytery all favor prohibition. In short, the reports, as a whole, demand nothing short of the extinction of the traffic. The cry is, "tear it up, root and branch." The Committee expresses their surprise that so little was done during the year to promote the teaching of temperance in the public schools. The text book in Ontario is considered too advanced for children.

The recommendations which were adopted were that the Synod express its gratitude to God that notwithstanding the terrible opposition there still is progress, and that very few of the members of the Church are now being contaminated therewith. Congregations are urged to avail themselves of the privilege of having authorized text books in schools, and that the plan approved and commended by the last General Assembly be especially considered by the sessions. The Assembly is asked to press upon the Minister of Education the necessity of examination among the public school scholars on the subject of temperance.

AFTERNOON MEETING.

At the afternoon sederunt resolutions were passed appropriate to the deaths of Rev. Dr. Watson, the late clerk of Synod, and Rev. Dr. Clark, of Quebec.

Rev. D. McLaren, of Alexandria, presented the report on Sabbath Schools. There are 25,000 scholars and 368 Sabbath schools under the Synod and 2,482 teachers. Last year the exact number of scholars was 23,406, or an increase of 1,160 during the year. The average attendance was 15,275, about 65 per cent. of the number enrolled, an apparent decrease of 2 per cent. Only 2 1-2 per cent. became communicants during the year, scarcely enough to compensate for the annual death rate. Eleven per cent., or 2,596 scholars, are communicants. The committee thought there should be a larger percentage. The total contributions from Sunday schools amounted to \$13,700. Forty per cent. of the sum raised was spent on the schools themselves and 46 per cent. was devoted to mission schemes. Twenty-five per cent. of the schools raised no money for any purpose, and 60 per cent. of those reporting gave nothing to missions. The schools of two Presbyteries gave \$5. towards colleges. Complaint was made by the Committee that certain of the Church's schemes were aided by the schools and certain other schemes neglected. What, however, could they expect from children whose parents, and in some cases whose pastors, set them an example of selfishness and partiality in the allocation of offerings? The Committee closed with the following recommendations—Sabbath schools should be urged to the regular use of class registers and to realize the importance of statistics; that as 60 per cent. gave nothing to missions, the Convener should write specially to such schools to try and secure contributions to missions this year; that greater efforts be made to secure the attendance of communicants in the Sabbath schools.

QUEBEC COUNCIL OF INSTRUCTION.

Rev. Mr. McLeod presented the report of the Committee appointed to draft a resolution on the alleged injustice to Presbyterians in the appointments to the Protestant Committee of the Quebec Council of Public Instruction. It recommended that the Synod take no action, as the end contemplated could be secured by joint action of the Montreal and Quebec Presbyteries. It appears there are three out of sixteen members of the committee who are Presbyterians, and that in accordance with their strength they are entitled to more.

In the discussion which followed Mr. Paul, of Montreal, said they had not been well treated. Their friends, the Anglicans and Methodists, had all the representation. They knew that the government of Quebec would not accept Rev. Prof. MacVicar, for instance. The answer of the provincial treasurer to a recent deputation stamped him as lacking in statesmanship and was hardly gentlemanly.

Rev. Mr. Crombie thought the Presbyterians did not assert themselves enough. At the opening of Parliament their Moderator was not taken notice of. They saw an English bishop and an archbishop in attendance, however.

The point was raised that as the Synod was an interprovincial one the matter was best left to the Quebec Presbyteries, and although this idea was opposed by some it was finally adopted, the statistics of the case to be laid before the Synod next year.

The conference on Church and State was dropped from the order of business.

The standing committees of last year were re-appointed with the vacancies filled.

After the usual votes of thanks the Synod, having concluded its business, adjourned to meet again at Carleton Place next year.