

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY—(Continued.)

AUGMENTATION FUND—EAST.

An overture was read from Halifax Presbytery representing that at present the rules required that each communicant must pay \$4.50 in order that the congregation should get the benefit of the Augmentation Fund. This worked hardly in the case of some congregations, which, nevertheless, paid \$400 salary. The overture asked that the rule should provide for an average of \$1.50 per communicant, instead of \$4.50 each.

On motion of Dr. Burns the matter was referred to the Augmentation Committee, East and West, for consideration and report.

Rev. G. Bruce, St. John, moved, seconded by Rev. Mr. Miller.—"That the Assembly adopt the reports of the Home Mission Committee and the Augmentation Committee, Eastern section, and express its gratitude to God for the success attendant on their labours, thanks the committees, and especially the conveners, for their zeal; that the Assembly records its deep thankfulness for the promise of permanent success of the augmentation scheme, and commends it cordially to the liberality of the people and to their favourable consideration." The resolution was carried.

SUPPLY OF MISSION FIELDS.

An overture was read from the Presbytery of Owen Sound representing that the rule that each student should spend six months in the home mission fields had not secured the desired result of keeping the home mission stations supplied. The presbytery recommended that the rule should be that each student should give twelve months in the winter season, under direction of the Home Mission Committee, the certificate of the committee being necessary to a settlement in a charge, the remuneration of students to be \$8 a week and support while in the field. Provided that if a student gave the six winter months to the work that should be deemed sufficient.

Rev. John Somerville, Owen Sound, supported the overture in an able speech, in which he dwelt especially upon the fact that many of the mission fields were unsupplied during the winter, the students being engaged in college. This was especially disadvantageous, as in many of these places lumbering was carried on, and the population was larger during the winter than during the summer. If the remuneration were fixed higher than \$8 a week the Presbytery of Owen Sound would be well pleased.

Rev. D. Wardrop suggested that the stationed ministers should be enjoined to leave their comfortable charges before they got their D.D.'s, and became too fat—(laughter)—and take one Sunday in each month in the mission field. He had heard it said that when a stationed minister went out the people felt that the presbyteries took an interest in them. He did not mean that they would do the work better than the students, in fact he believed the students generally did the work better. If necessary he would move accordingly.

Rev. Dr. Torrance said there were three parties to be considered, the students, the vacant congregations, and the missionary fields. The interest of vacant congregations would be very seriously impaired by the passage of the overture. A statement had been made that students had left charges when winter came on, allowing them to be filled by students of other denominations. He had never seen a case where a student, who left his charge, was not welcomed back. He moved, seconded by Mr. Macdonald, that it would not be advisable in the interests of the Church or the interests of vacant congregations that the request of this overture be granted.

Rev. Principal Caven moved, in amendment to the amendment, that the General Assembly necessarily desires to secure the best possible method of having continuous supply of the home mission field, sends these overtures to the Home Mission Committees east and west, with instructions to consider them carefully, as well as the whole question, and report to the next General Assembly.

Speaking to his motion he referred to the statement made by Dr. Wardrop in regard to the D.D.'s. He knew some D.D.'s who were not so very corpulent—(loud laughter and applause)—and who went over a great many fields in the course of a year. A friend had written him, asking him to come out and do a little work in the country, saying that it would do him good. He looked over his modest little record, and found that he had made 72 visits to different charges during the year. (Loud applause.) In the Free Church in Scotland, after the Disruption, they had a regular system by which every station in the country should be visited by stationed ministers. He believed that the ministers would willingly go, as well as the professors from the colleges.

Rev. Dr. Reid asked if it was not a deplorable state of affairs that there were so many unfilled fields, and yet so many probationers and others seeking employment. He suggested that Dr. Caven's motion should include a provision that the existing law should suspend the present law in the meantime.

Rev. Dr. Burns, Halifax, supported Dr. Caven's resolution, as it did not involve a change, and he disliked frequent changes.

Rev. Principal Grant expressed the hope that Dr. Caven's motion would not be pressed, because it involved the statement that there was a *prima facie* case to be considered. He urged especially consideration for the students. The assembly had fixed a seven years' course for students, and a year ago added six months to it. Now it was proposed to add another six months. Across the line were colleges which offered to put the students through in three, four or five years. There also presbyteries could license men, while here only synods could license. There was a strong feeling among the students on this subject, for they said they sympathized with the mission stations as much as the ordained ministers, but the missions wanted men who could baptize and administer the sacrament, which the students had no power to do. If the students thought the proposal to add to the time were being sent down, a serious blow would have been struck at the attendance at the college. Let them send down the general question but not this overture.

Rev. Dr. Torrance added to his motion a clause referring the question of supplying mission stations to the committee for consideration.

Rev. Prof. McLaren supported Dr. Torrance's resolution. The Home Mission Committee, he thought, should have the question referred to them in a form involving the interests of the students, or other interests than those of Home Missions.

Rev. Principal Forest also supported the amendment. After some discussion Dr. Caven agreed to have his resolution apply only to the overture from the Presbytery of Owen Sound.

Rev. Mr. Somerville, in replying, strongly urged the claims of the destitute stations. He did not forget the interests of the students, but the families left all winter without ministers should surely be considered. In reply to Dr. Torrance he gave the case of Tobermory, near his own place, which "froze up" when the student left it in the fall, and the Church was not able to thaw it out again in the spring, notwithstanding that the promise of a student to take charge was made. The Methodists had offered a man all the year round. The amendment of Dr. Torrance was carried.

FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.

The report of the French Evangelization Board was presented by Rev. Principal MacVicar, Montreal. The following is a summary of the report.

The work is carried on in three directions—by colporteurs, mission schools, and preaching stations. Respecting colportage, the report shows that seventeen picked men—more than double the number previously at work—have been engaged during the year in this work. During the year 2,652 copies of complete Bibles or parts, 500 French pamphlets, and about 22,700 tracts were distributed by the colporteurs and other missionaries of the Board. In the past month (April) alone the colporteurs visited 6,223 families, of whom 6,039 were French Roman Catholics, and distributed 272 copies of the Scriptures and 2,450 tracts. To give facilities for the education of Protestant youth, the board seeks wherever there are missions of the Church to send teachers whose salaries are paid in part by the Board and in part by the people whose children attend the school. In three schools the people pay the whole amount of the salary. Four new schools were opened during the year. The number of schools reported last year was 21, with 26 teachers and 707 scholars. The number this year is 26, with 29 teachers and 803 scholars. There are 230 pupils from Roman Catholic homes. The great majority of the others are the children of recent converts. The chief preaching station is L'Église du Sauveur, Canning-street, Montreal, the pastor of which is Rev. A. B. Cruchet, in which the average attendance is between seventy and eighty people. The number of communicants was 49. There are in all, 78 stations with 26 churches, about 2,550 in attendance, and 1,198 members. The number of members received during the year was 222, the number of meetings held, 906. During the year, 2,652 Bibles and 22,700 tracts were distributed. The amount of money raised in the field was \$3,985, the amount paid by the Board \$14,021. Special mention is made of the work of the Montreal Woman's Mission Society, formed about eleven years ago for the purpose of aiding in French evangelization. Last year, \$415 was devoted to the French work. Respecting finances, the report showed a balance on hand of \$849 on account of ordinary fund, and \$1,421 on account of Pointe aux Trembles schools. The report states that at its March meeting the Board decided to ask authority from the General Assembly to engage in mission work among other nationalities than French as opportunity may offer.

Rev. Professor Campbell moved the adoption of the report. He described the origin of the work, the Chiniquy riots, and the growth of evangelistic efforts. He pleaded for sympathy for this work, sympathy for the converts who were ostracized and forced out of the country because of the change of their religious faith, and for the missionary who went forth into a spiritual wilderness and often a loneliness, a yearning for sympathy, that they could hardly realize. He knew some would not agree with him, but he still believed, though there were errors in the Church of Rome, salvation was to be found within its pale. But this was no argument against evangelization. Some years ago there was social communion between the English and French, but this caused to issue a mandement from the Bishops, which changed all that. The French ceased their social intercourse with the English Protestants. It was a movement intended for strength, but it was a sign of weakness. They determined to make a national party, and they did. They took the St. Jean Baptiste Societies and arranged that none should be members but those in communion with Rome. Then came the rebellion in the North-West, and the Church of Rome sold Riel to the Government, because they knew very well if he remained upon their hands he would be more likely to bring them trouble than good. Some day we shall learn how much the Church was paid for selling him to the State. It was the worst card Rome ever played, because the National party refused to acquiesce and stands against it to-day. This divided state never existed before. What was intended as an engine of Romanism will, he believed, be an engine of its own destruction. He contended that light was spreading, and even though the number of converts was not large, the number of those who refused to be held by the Roman Catholic Church, especially in the intelligent and leading classes, was increasing, and other changes, though not apparent on the surface, were rapidly going on.

Rev. Dr. Moore, Ottawa, seconded the motion. He gave an interesting account of the work of colportage, describing the heroic efforts of the colporteurs.

Rev. W. S. Ball, spoke of the difference which had arisen between the views of himself and some who had the management of the French evangelization, but he bowed to the opinion of the majority. The smallness of the contributions in Montreal—the city showed about \$1,000—was, he thought, a source of doubt and a bad example to Upper Canada.

Rev. Mr. Warden explained that the amounts contributed by Montreal were given in different parts of the report, and made a total of about \$2,500.

Rev. C. Chiniquy was called and came forward amid applause, and spoke at some length. After preliminary remarks he expressed regret at the statement by Mr. Campbell that the Church of Rome was a means of salvation. If that were so, better let the Church alone. He contended that Catholicism was not a branch of the Christian Church and should be fought as they should fight idolatry in any heathen land. He gave instances of Roman Catholics who had changed their faith, and he assured them that in the United States and Canada there were 35,000 French Canadians who had become Protestants through the instrumentality of such organizations as the French Canadian Evangelization Board of this Church. He closed with a strong and eloquent plea for this work. Before resuming his seat he presented a copy of his latest work to the Moderator, a work which he said had ruined him financially, but which he was determined to publish.

NEXT MEETING.

Rev. D. S. McCrae, Cobourg, gave notice that he would move the reconsideration of the resolution carried at the previous sederunt to fix Winnipeg as the next place of meeting.

TUESDAY.

AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS' FUND.

The report of the Committee on Aged and Infirm Ministers' Funds, Western Section Committee, was presented by Rev. Dr. Jas. Middlemiss, of Elora. The total payments last year were \$8,649, made to 49 annuitants. Six of these are since deceased. The income has shown a gratifying increase. Last year there was a balance of \$334 against the fund. The increased income is made up of greater payments by congregations, of \$2,832; increase in ministers' payments, \$795, and \$30 interest on investments. The total income of the year was \$13,002, being \$190 more than the largest annual income hitherto—that of 1884, which included a bequest of \$1,000 and a donation of \$1,000. Requests and donations last year amounted to only \$2,320. The capital invested is now \$15,000. A tendency to discriminate against ministers who belonged to the Church of Scotland before the union is noticed, and it is hinted that a regulation discriminates against beneficiaries who have other sources of income, which was disapproved by a majority of Presbyterians. As the Assembly had decided that beyond \$200 preference would be given to those whose circumstances required it, the committee recommend no further action be taken. The committee report against the proposal to reduce by ten per cent. annuities of over \$200.

Rev. R. Wallace in moving the adoption of the report said that many ministers might have made money had they not sacrificed their worldly interests for the cause of Christ. Were they on this account to be allowed to suffer in their old age? He would suggest that they endeavour to secure the services of an able minister who would devote his whole attention to placing the state of the fund before the Church.

Rev. Robert Campbell in seconding the motion suggested that the able convener of the committee should receive some remuneration for the sacrifice of time and labour in its interest.

The motion for the reception of the report was carried, and on the suggestion of Rev. Prof. McLaren the clauses containing any recommendations were considered *seriatim*.

Rev. Prof. McLaren said two regulations had been sent down to the presbyteries. What was the recommendation of the committee in regard to them?

Dr. Middlemiss said there had been two regulations in question. The first proposed that in the case of a minister allowed to retire by the Assembly, if his income from other sources exceed \$600, he should only receive one-half of the annuity to which the others were entitled. This regulation had been rejected by 13 presbyteries and accepted by 12. The committee recommended that this regulation be allowed to drop. The other regulation proposed that ministers who had an income of \$200 should have their annuities reduced to per cent. on all over that amount.

On motion of Rev. Mr. Warden, seconded by Dr. Matthews, the matter was referred to a committee to be chosen for the purpose, the committee to report to an early sederunt of the Assembly.

NEXT MEETING—RECONSIDERATION.

During the sederunt, on order of the day, Rev. Mr. McCrae, Cobourg, moved reconsideration of the resolution fixing Winnipeg as the next place of meeting. A vote was taken, resulting in 86 in favour of reconsideration and 105 against it. The motion was declared lost.

COMMON COLLEGE FUND.

Mr. W. Mortimer Clark said that Mr. James MacLennan had requested him to present the report of the Committee on the Common College Fund. He said that the contributions for the year had been \$10,380, which had been distributed as follows:—Knox College, \$5,343; Montreal College, \$2,226; Queen's College, \$2,740; expenses, \$69; total, \$10,380. This showed a deficiency of \$4,669 from the estimate of last year. The estimate for next year's requirements were as follows:—Knox College, \$9,400; Montreal, \$3,200; Queen's, \$4,000; total, \$16,600. Provided that a new professor be not obtained for Knox College its expenses would be reduced to \$6,900, which would make a total of \$14,200. Mr. Clark moved, seconded by Dr. Macdonald:—"That it be optional with congregations whether they should contribute to the Common College Fund, or to it and such one or more of the colleges as they may desire specially to benefit by their liberality." It was not proposed that the common fund should be abolished, but simply to leave the matter in the hands of the congregations themselves, and he expected that the liberality of the people would be greatly increased. A vote was taken without discussion, and the motion was agreed to.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.—WESTERN SECTION.

Rev. Prof. McLaren moved two resolutions relating to some unfinished business connected with the Foreign Mission report. The first resolution, seconded by Rev. John Smith, provided that the Foreign Mission Committee should have power to grant to the Dominion Government the land in Prince Albert known as Victoria-square, for \$20,000. Agreed.

The next resolution referred to the recommendation of the committee for the erection of a presbytery at Indore, in Central India. The motion as it was put and voted on was as follows:—"The Assembly authorizes and instructs the missionaries of this Church in Central India to form themselves into a presbytery to be known as the Presbytery of Indore, and order that the names of the missionaries aforesaid, after the formation of the Presbytery of Indore, shall be no longer on the rolls of the presbyteries in Canada. Also that the membership of this presbytery shall consist of ordained missionaries, pastors of congregations, and one elder for each charge within the bounds. Also that the missionaries are hereby instructed to meet at Indore on the 26th of October to constitute as a presbytery. Rev. J. Fraser Campbell is hereby appointed to preach the opening sermon and preside till a moderator be appointed. Also that the presbytery have synodical powers." The resolution was put as a whole and agreed to.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.—EASTERN SECTION.

Rev. E. Scott moved, seconded by Mr. George McMillan, that the Assembly having received the report of the Foreign Mission Committee, Eastern Section, expresses its gratitude to God for the success of its work. That they express their appreciation of the labours of Mr. McLeod, their thankfulness that a man of much promise had been secured to take up his work in Princetown, and that Mr. and Mrs. Annand had received such a hearty welcome; and that they commend the work to the sympathy of the Church. The resolution was unanimously agreed to.

CHURCH AND MANSE BUILDING FUND

Rev. D. M. Gordon presented the report of the Church and Manse Building Fund.

The general abstract of receipts and expenditure shows that last year the receipts were as follows: Balance on hand at beginning of the year, \$8,315; subscriptions, \$5,279; repayment of loans, \$332; interest on bank account, \$222 or a total of \$14,150. The payments were, loans and grants, \$8,959, leaving a balance in the Commercial Bank of Manitoba of \$5,179. The total amount subscribed to the fund up to the present date from its inception is \$110,150.04, of which \$44,209.62 has been paid.

It was moved by Principal Caven, seconded by Rev. R. H. Warden, and unanimously agreed to that the Assembly receive and adopt the report, express its appreciation of the labours of the Board, especially those of the Superintendent of Missions and of the Treasurer of the fund, J. B. McKillgar, Esq., and its great satisfaction at the work of church erection in Manitoba and the North-west Territories, and commend the fund to the sympathy and liberality of the Church.

AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS' FUND (EAST).

Rev. Mr. McLean Sinclair presented the report of the Committee on Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund in the eastern section of the church. It shows receipts of \$2,989, of which \$1,078 was from collections, \$1,005 from interest on investments, and \$468 from ministers' rates. The total expenses were only \$183, the sum of \$2,200 being divided among thirteen annuitants. The greatest annuity paid is \$200 and the smallest \$50. The capital invested is \$26,324.

KNOX COLLEGE PROFESSORSHIP.

The question of the appointment of an additional professor to the teaching staff of Knox College was then taken up. The clerk read the remits from the presbyteries on the subject. The majority favored the appointment of an additional lecturer.

Rev. Robert Campbell suggested that the remits from the presbyteries be handed to the Board of Knox College for their guidance.

Principal Caven asked that the Assembly give the Board definite instructions.

Rev. Prof. McLaren moved, seconded by Rev. Robert Campbell, to the effect that in view of the sentiment expressed in the remits from the presbyteries, it is not advisable at present to appoint a fourth professor, but that an additional lecturer be appointed, his duties to be fixed by the Senate. Agreed.

ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY.

Rev. Mr. Ball, on behalf of the committee appointed to prepare an address to Her Majesty, read the address which was agreed to.

MINISTERS', WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUNDS.

The clerk read the report of Ministers', Widows' and Orphans' Fund, West. The receipts of the year was \$22,311, of which \$4,065 was contributions from congregations, and \$6,368 interest on investments. The annuities paid during the year were \$9,944, the running expenses being a little over \$1,000. Last year \$15,000 was added to the investments, which now amount to over \$110,316. There are now fifty-seven widows, and the children of four deceased clergymen receiving annuities.

In addition to this the Rev. Robert Campbell read the report of the fund in connection with the Church of Scotland, showing that the names of four widows had been added in the year.

The report of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund of Eastern Section was read by the clerk. The amounts received were as follows:—From ministers' rates, \$1,542; fines, \$54; congregations, \$290; legacies, \$261; dividends, interest, etc., \$3,128; total, \$5,277. The disbursements have been:—Annuities, \$2,610; salaries, \$441; leaving a balance of \$2,226 to be added to a capital account of \$65,350.

The reports were adopted.

"THE RECORD."

Rev. Robt. Campbell moved, seconded by Principal Forrest, the adoption of the report of *The Record*, which was carried. He said that in the last part of 1885 there had been a slight falling off in the circulation, but recently it had been enlarging. The largest number of copies taken by any church was 500 monthly subscriptions by Knox Church, Toronto. He expected that local publications, such as that in Kingston, would become an institution, and in this way the work would be greatly spread. The receipts for the year had been \$9,409, and the expenditures \$6,282, leaving a balance on hand of \$3,227.

THE STANDING COMMITTEES.

The report of the Committee to nominate the Standing Committees was considered. [This report will be published in the REVIEW in a future issue.—ED. REVIEW.]

STATE OF RELIGION.

Rev. H. Jordan, of Montreal, presented the report of the Committee on the State of Religion, of which the following is a summary:—There was a steady increase in public worship in Sabbath and week-day services. In regard to family worship, the reports sent in were not satisfactory. Statistics on this subject were wanting. There was a lack of regularity in attendance of members of the Church. In connection with baptism, the committee called attention to the fact that parents who undertook baptismal vows for their children should remember that there was little difference between it and the sacrament of the communion, and there should be almost the same preparation for the one as the other. In regard to the religious training of the young there appeared more activity at present than ever before, but it was due to public instruction rather than home training. In regard to Christiana liberality, he said that the people of the Presbyterian Church had been unprecedently liberal.

The committee recommended that questions be prepared on the state of religion for the current year, and the presbyteries enjoined to get from sessions replies, and to enjoin greater earnestness in regard to family worship and home instruction.

Rev. S. Lyle, Hamilton; Rev. H. M. Parsons, Toronto; and Rev. Principal Caven, spoke in support of the recommendations. A point strongly insisted on was that there should be greater energy and earnestness in the regular lines of church work.

Rev. Mr. Scott moved that there be added to the report a recommendation that the presbyteries be encouraged to prepare a scheme of special services. Carried.

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Rev. Peter Wright, Stratford, presented the report of the Committee on Temperance. The committee suggested the following deliberances:—

I. That this Assembly records its profound gratitude to God for the signal success of temperance principles during the past year, and its deep satisfaction with the unmistakable advance of temperance and prohibition sentiment throughout the land.

II. That this Assembly reaffirms the oft-repeated testimony of our Church to the effect that intemperance is a sin against God and a crime against society; its conviction that intemperance is a hindrance to the cause of

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