

THE METHODISTS.

Lively Discussion on the Report on the Course of Study.

Fort Lawrence Transferred to the Nova Scotia Conference.

Maritime Representatives on Committee—Mt. Allison Board of Regents.

London, Ont., Sept. 21.—The conference sat late last night and after the latest despatch took up the report on the course of study. As each clause passed some members would move an adjournment, only to have it defeated. At length the conference adjourned, with the report on the table.

On Friday morning the committee met at eight o'clock and conference at nine. The devotional services were conducted by Rev. Mr. Marshall, after which conference resumed the discussion of the report on the course of study. Henceforth the term of probation for the ministry is to be five years—three on circuit and two at a college. No man, unless under very exceptional circumstances, is hereafter to be received on trial without a matriculation certificate from a Canadian or British university. For these exceptional cases a course has been provided. On the clause which gives the conference board of examiners the power to decide what degrees shall be recognized in the minutes of conference, a warm discussion arose, the western men being specially earnest.

It would seem that some of the brethren in that part of the country have an undue hankering after the degree of D. D. that leads them to hunt for it in the United States, where it is to be obtained, if the aforesaid men are to be believed. Either the eastern men are not so eager in the pursuit or else their opportunities for obtaining the degree are not so good, for they pretty generally object to making the journey to the States for the purpose, however, held that the motion was too absurd for the conference to pass, as it is not possible to carry it out properly. The idea of a matriculation certificate for examination papers for the whole field, to be sent to the different conferences in time for the examinations, received its quietus by a decisive negative vote.

The report of the conference boundaries committee passed without much discussion, however, among the western men, and it was ordered that the transfer of Port Lawrence of the Point de Bute circuit to Nova Scotia conference should take place immediately after the second quarterly meeting.

At the noon hour the conference delegates met and elected the following New Brunswick and P. E. Island men on the following committees:

Eastern section, book committee—Rev. T. Marshall, Rev. Geo. E. E. Rev. J. A. Clark, A. M., and Joseph L. Black and W. E. Dawson.

On the Sunday school board—Rev. Dr. Chapman and Martin Lemont.

Epworth League committee—Rev. John Read of Moncton.

The afternoon session of the conference opened at 2:30 and was occupied with reports. That of the education committee took most of the session.

The recommendation of the report that in every Sunday school a branch of the education society shall be formed and a collection taken up for the society was amended so as to make it a recommendation where practicable.

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The recommendation for the appointment of a general secretary to attend to Sunday School, Epworth League, and Young People's work generally, travelling throughout the world, editing the preliminary meetings of the Guardian and Wesleyan, holding institutes and attending conventions, was accepted. The Sunday school and Epworth League board are to nominate three names for the position of secretary. The election to be by the general conference special committee.

Provision was also made for the presidents of the various Young People's Societies to be members of the quarterly boards.

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The secretary of the business committee reported that there are still twenty-four reports to be dealt with, so that the hope of closing this evening has disappeared. It is doubtful if Monday night will see the end.

The missionary report was taken up

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This morning the missionary report is still under consideration and Dr. Eby is urging the conference to make a strenuous effort to advance both in the home and foreign. He wishes the fund to be divided in two, that the foreign fields may be somewhat adequately sustained, which he thinks is not at all the case at present.

Although the conference warmly approved many of the points urged by Dr. Eby, it declined at present to adopt them.

With the request of the Newfoundland conference for the appointment of a superintendent of missions in that field, the general conference declined to comply, not because it did not recognize the needs of the country, but because of the inadequacy of the resources at its command. On the other hand, however, it continues the superintendent of missions in the Manitoba and Northwest and British Columbia conferences.

While the conference could not see its way clear to order that there should be a joint board to manage the funds of the general missionary society, it ordered that so far as possible there should be frequent communications and continued co-operation between the two societies.

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On the question of the constitution of the Methodist council in Japan there was a long debate.

In the discussion it was urged that the council should have powers equivalent to those of a district meeting and be solely responsible for the direction of the Japanese work.

Mr. Sano, the Japanese delegate, addressed the conference in an address of very great ability, showing a knowledge of English and an eloquence such as are seldom found in foreigners. He spoke the highest terms of Dr. Eby's work, and Rev. Dr. Donald, of Rev. F. Cassidy, and of all the missionaries in Japan.

The presence of such a man in the conference is a tribute to the character of the work in that country, and of the converts gained there. The question itself was referred to a joint committee of the conference and the general board of missions, and on the years and may be called the vote 50 to 40, yeas 75; nays 61.

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London, Ont., Sept. 24.—At the session on Saturday evening a report from the committee on the discipline was read and many items were passed. As a great many members have already been excused from further attendance on the conference, the committee took most of the session.

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THE FARM.

How to Successfully Fight Parasitic Pests.

By Prof. Harvey, of the Maine State Agricultural College.

Truth is truth wherever it comes from. The farmer comes in contact with what he has to deal with. It is the same with the scientific man. In the formation comes from observation and experience. We are all benefited by a division of labor. The farmer grows his crops by physical labor, the scientific man takes them and gives them the work of his brain and hands. His subject is divided into two great divisions, the flowering and non-flowering plants. Reproduction is caused by seeds and spores. Fungi belong to the latter class. Flowering plants are propagated from seeds, which contain the parent plant. Take the common turnip, break it, and the dust will fill the air. Examine the dust under a microscope, and you will find it composed of minute, round bodies called spores. Rust on wheat is a fungus which originates elsewhere, and is carried by the wind to the wheat. It finds a lodging place in the green coloring plants can take care of their living, other plants get their living from the air principally, others still live on dead and decaying matters, while another class live on plants, parasites upon parasites.

Parasites may be of two kinds. They may attack plants and animals externally and internally. Smut on wheat gets into the stalk when the seed germinates, and follows up the stalk and forms in the head. Under the microscope this smut is full of spores. If the pest is internal it is more difficult to get rid of. It is not much use in trying to exterminate it. In the round of life history of the fungi, attack them in the weakest point. The potato disease exists in two ways; it may be in the ground, and it may be in the seed. The spores are wafted from the plant by millions in one day, and light on other plants. The spores do their work very rapidly. If, and when they have done their work on the vines they go down into the ground and attack the tubers.

Now, by attacking them at their weakest point, they can be exterminated. It is better to anticipate the disease than to wait till after it has appeared. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and more too. It is better not to plant the second time on the same ground, as the danger from the disease is greatly increased.

There is another disease known as the potato scab. This is a low fungus, and exists in the soil. Moulds are always one of the favorable conditions for producing fungi. Hoed beans in wet weather makes the leaves drop. The dust adhering to the leaves deposits fungi, and they being so near the disease rapidly spreads. The great remedy for exterminating fungi is some kind of copper compound. In the apple scab the fungi gets into the leaves and decays the fallen leaves and on the trunk and limbs of the trees. The only way to destroy fungi is to burn the leaves and rubbish. Clean culture and burning rubbish will lessen the danger. The remedy is early spraying.

The subject of combating fungi is of recent date, and much has been learned about them, and some remedies have been used with good effect. The loss to the products of the country from the depredations of fungi amounts to many millions of dollars. By the application of Bordeaux mixture, ten, twenty, or fifty per cent, may be added to the sound crops. The amount of money expended to maintain a corps of experimenters will not be one-tenth of the loss that would result from the parasites destroyed.

Farmers cannot investigate the fungi, but they find out what is the matter with their crops, and if they think it is necessary to destroy them, they can consult somebody who does, and then apply it at once. Do not wait till the disease has ruined your crops.

To prevent smut in wheat and oats, put the seed into water at a temperature of 135 to 140 degrees, and let it remain twenty minutes, and the fungi will be destroyed.

Fungi have properties of keeping up an equilibrium in nature by checking an excessive growth. Black-knot is a perennial fungi and the only way to destroy them is to cut the limbs and burn them. Sometimes it is necessary to destroy the entire tree. Spraying with Bordeaux mixture is a remedy for the pear blight.

The different subjects treated in the lecture may be summed up as follows: 1. Flowering and non-flowering plants. Reproduction by seeds and spores. 2. Methods of growth of different groups of flowers, parasites, etc. 3. Internal and external parasites and the character of each. 4. The condition and growth of fungi—natural and forced by cultivation.

5. Groups of fungi, rust, rot, scab, moulds, black-knots, mildew, blight, etc. 6. Methods of studying those diseases—First, the life history must be known, and then the disease must be attacked in its weakest point. The study requires great care and skill with the compound microscope. This work must be done by specialists. We should know the disease before attempting the remedy. 7. Remedies are preventive: Take advantage of any and every weakness in the life history of the fungus, in the selection of the seed, fertilization and methods of culture. Make all the conditions as unfavorable as possible and adopt such treatment with chemicals as best fits the case. 8. The condition of specific diseases and their treatment.

NOTES.

The calf and goat cannot live on the pasture alone, especially if the grass has been injured by the drought. Night and morning they should have a mess at the stable or barn.

Children's Castoria.

Every time a garden crop matures remove it. Peas, beans and early dwarf corn that have ceased to be useful should be removed and the ground cleared off. Leave no harboring places for insects.

In preparing for an apple orchard select a choice plot, one containing clover and preferred; turn the sod under, and set out the young trees in the spring.

A FINE TRIP TO MONTREAL.

To the Editor of The Sun:

Sir—Having just returned from Montreal after a most enjoyable trip via the River St. Lawrence by the steamer Montreal of the Richelieu & Ontario Navigation Company of Quebec and via the I. C. railway to St. John, I think perhaps some of your numerous readers in this part of the province might contemplate a trip in that direction and at the same time have an opportunity to see the city of Quebec, the Gibraltar of America, with its fortifications covering forty acres, and its lofty headlands 333 feet above the river.

I would suggest this as the most enjoyable route to be taken.

Passengers can leave Montreal any evening at 7 o'clock by steamer and arrive at Quebec the following morning about 8 and have from that time until 2:30 in Quebec; leaving Point Levi by the I. C. railway at 3 p. m. and arrive in St. John the following morning at 9:30. Or you can leave St. John any evening at 4:35, standard time, arrive in Quebec the following morning at 11, have about eight hours there and leave the same evening at 7, arriving in Montreal the following morning at 8:30. The Richelieu & Ontario Navigation company have two magnificent iron steamers, the Montreal and Quebec, running between Quebec and Montreal, leaving each city in the evening and arriving at destination the following morning. There is a fine orchestra on each of the steamers and passengers are favored with delightful music until about 10:30; the staterooms are all that can be desired for comfort, being large, airy and clean, and you can always depend on getting a good supper and breakfast on board at a very reasonable rate. In fact everything is done that can be for the accommodation and comfort of passengers.

On the steamers the captain and the captain's mate are most obliging. Your correspondent left Montreal by steamer Montreal at 7 p. m. The first stop was made at Sorel, at the mouth of the Richelieu river, the outlet of Lake Champlain. After passing Lake St. Peter we arrived at Three Rivers, half way between Montreal and Quebec, and one of the oldest settled towns in Canada, founded in 1618. No stop is made between here and Quebec, but the scenery is very fine and your correspondent was fortunate enough to have a moonlight night for his trip down the river. The journey from Quebec to St. John over the I. C. railway is a most delightful one and the scenery is all that could be desired. It is acknowledged, I think, that no railway on this continent has a better record for rapidity of equipment of the cars is not surpassed by any other railway in Canada; the first-class cars, as well as the Pullman, are furnished with electric lights and all modern improvements for the accommodation of travellers, and while the train travels at a very rapid rate of speed, one feels the motion very little. So much has been written in praise of the I. C. railway that I feel what I may say would add but little to the name it has already established for safety and comfort.

Thanking you for your kindness in giving me space for this long letter, I will sign myself,

ST. JOHN, EAST.

A JOB WAITING FOR HIS LORDSHIP.

(London Tid-Bits.)

It is said that there are few better amateur mechanical engineers in the country than Lord Rosse. There is a good story told of his visiting a large factory in the north of England some years ago, when one of the partners in the concern, passing through the works, was struck by the remarks being made to the foreman by the not particularly striking looking visitor.

Entering into conversation himself with the young man, he was so impressed by the intimate knowledge displayed of the mechanical details of the business that he exclaimed: "You are just the man I want. If you are out of a job, I will give you a first rate billet here, and at all events leave me your name and address in case of your being at liberty on some future occasion."

("Thank you—er. I am—the Earl of Rosse, and I am not—er—seeking employment—at present") was the characteristic reply