

ively, and by Prof. Baird on Indian work, constituted the principal business disposed of by the Foreign Mission Committee on Tuesday.

THE ALLIANCE MEETINGS.

THERE is much to be thankful for in last week's meetings of the Lord's Day Alliance. We believe the outspoken utterances then given expression to will find a friendly echo in the hearts of many of the best people in this wide Dominion. We agree with Mr. A. F. Wood's opinion as to the crisis which we have reached in which "Ontario and Toronto especially, have lost in their status on this continent to an extent that but few really comprehend," by the innovation of street railways in Toronto and by the late decisions of the courts.

The situation is fraught with danger and the convention met none too soon. It was preceded by a business meeting on the day before at which the Executive Committee presented a comprehensive report, describing the situation. On the Hamilton case the report contained the following suggestions :

The Government having refused to obtain an authoritative interpretation of the Lord's Day act by means of an appeal from the judgment in the Hamilton case, three courses appear to be open to the Alliance, viz :—

(1) To appeal to the Privy Council before March 2nd, 1898.

(2) To proceed under statute of 1890 for referring to the court's constitution and other Provincial questions, for which an order in Council would be necessary.

(3) Accepting the adverse judgment of the Court of Appeal as final to endeavor by means of legislation alone to bring within the Lord's Day act both local passenger traffic and all other classes of business now held to be exempted.

The manner in which the Government's attitude was viewed may be gathered from Mr. S. H. Blake's statement that "the invasion of God's law would be visited upon any Government when it came to an election. The question of Sabbath Observance would," he said, "surely be made an issue in the next political campaign, and the power that would go out from the convention would be a powerful factor. Shame upon us, he continue, that we have to hand down to our children a birthright shorn of so much of its glory."

These words will infuse hope into hearts well-nigh despairing, for if the legislature is to be honestly and energetically taken to task, better laws may be hoped for. The trouble in the past has been that too great a deference has been paid to party or individual interests. A bold fight and no compromise of principle will win the day. The Alliance endorsed the report and remitted it for execution to the executive.

The Executive, therefore, has an exceedingly grave duty assigned to it. Which of the three courses outlined, it may follow is not yet known, but its decision will involve an active campaign in any case. It is not likely that the Sabbath-breakers will yield any advantage they may have lately gained, without a hard struggle and the friends of the Sabbath must be prepared for a prolonged fight. Whatever plan may be decided upon will involve self-sacrifice and toil, and the outlook is by no means upon a sunny, clear, horizon.

The 200 delegates present heard many good things. The president, Mr. J. K. Macdonald, went to the core of

the Toronto trouble when he referred to the want of unanimity in the ranks of the clergy. Those who look to the pulpit for guidance in such matters could not help being impressed and influenced by the conflicting views given expression to by several gentlemen of the cloth. Were the clergymen united in opinion, and in the expression of it, many believe the small majority in favor of the cars would not have been possible, for many refrained from voting after having arrived at the conclusion that the running of the cars would not be a violation of the Fourth Commandment. It is well to keep this fact in remembrance, for the causes as well as the results must be removed.

Principal Caven's address was on the "Divine Foundation of the Lord's Day." He contended with force that the Sabbath was a part of the moral law, and advised clergymen to make use, as a rule, of the theological, rather than the social and labor, arguments against Sunday labor. The Sabbath was given not for the Jews only but for the human race; and was a permanent institution. It was commemorative not only of the creation but of the redemption and resurrection. The Lord's Day was the heir-at-law of the old dispensation Sabbath, substantially and essentially the same institution. Coming to present duty the veteran Principal appealed for united, effective action. It was for the people of the Province, not of certain cities in the Province, to declare what the law of the Province should be on Sabbath observance and he had the hope that there were those who loved the Lord's Day who would push back the hosts that would rob us of that day—who though beaten a hundred times would stand up in God's strength to maintain its integrity.

In the discussion that followed there was but one opinion as to the importance of the utterances of Dr. Caven. It was considered important that more intensive educational work on the Divine authority of Sabbath observance, be the rule for preachers. "The Bible and the ballot should go together" was the advice of Rev. W. F. Wilson, and we trust it will not be forgotten in Municipal, Provincial and Dominion elections.

The reports from districts showed that there exists a decided need for the Alliance, and that the extension of its work ought to be undertaken at once. In this connection the remarks of Mr. G. M. Macdonnell, were opportune. They were to the effect that no narrow platform should prevent the co-operation of every man and organization in the Province who desired to preserve the Sabbath as a day of rest. We agree with him also that much still remains to be done by pulpit and press. The pulpit will influence the people and the press, and we hope ministers will stir up their congregations. There ought to be a committee in each congregation to keep the claims of the Sabbath always to the front.

At the meeting of the Assembly's Committee on Young People's Societies held last week it was agreed that the denominational topics for next year be on the same lines as last year, but that more attention shall be given to the biographies of our pioneer missionaries. The work of organization will be pushed in the mission fields.

The Ewart Missionary Training Home, although established primarily and chiefly for the training of Foreign Mission candidates, will receive as boarders other Christian workers desiring to avail themselves of its advantages, subject to the approval of the Board of Managers, W.F.M.S. Applicants are directed to Mrs. Shortreed, Foreign Secretary W.F.M.S., 224 Jarvis Street, Toronto.