

Dominion Presbyterian

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONTINUED.

FOREIGN MISSION WORK.

The report of the committee for the Eastern Section was presented by Mr. T. C. James, Charlottetown, who said the only depressing feature of the situation was the increase in the debt. Work in China, India, and Corea was being prosecuted with gratifying results. He commented very briefly on the work, and said that in spite of the most careful management, the committee last year went behind about \$4,000, making the total debt \$19,084.26. He also reported that the Woman's Foreign Mission Society, numbering 8,207, contributed \$18,723.32, and the rest of the congregations, numbering 35,978, gave only \$18,595.96. The total receipts from all sources amounted to \$52,070.20. Concluding, Mr. James moved a resolution expressing profound regret at the death of the Convener of the Eastern committee, Dr. E. D. Miller, and satisfaction with the progress in foreign fields.

Rev. A. E. Armstrong, assistant F. M. secretary, reported for the Western Section, in the absence of the convener, Rev. W. A. J. Martin, who was prevented from attending by illness.

The report, in part, was as follows:—

The reports from all our fields are hopeful, perhaps more optimistic than any in the past history of our missions. The number of baptisms is increasing, and it is a normal increase. In Honan 226 communicants were added to the communion roll and 443 enrolled as catechumens. In Central India 271 were baptised, and 141 communicants added on the profession of their faith. In Formosa 219 were baptised during the year, and in Macao they have two congregations of 100 members each. These figures, however, convey but a slight impression of the situation. There is a new spirit pervading the east. They are in daily touch with the west. The telegrams of Europe and America appear in the press of Asia the following day. They hate the nations they seek to imitate. Freedom from all foreign authority is the supreme ambition, especially of the student class. The danger is that this spirit will gain such momentum as to disturb the peace of the world. The only antidote is the spirit of Christianity. It is the simple truth to say that the times in both India and China are ripe for the largest possible effort on the part of all Christian churches. A supreme effort now would give direction to the future and evade disaster. If our church is to do her share and provide for 14,000,000 of the world's unevangelised, for which we have become responsible, it will be necessary to increase our staff of foreign missionaries five-fold, and it only requires an average of 10 cents a week per member to do it. This calculation has now become a platitude, but it ought to bring a blush. If it is so easily done it ought to have been done long ago, and the best moment for neglect is to do it now.

The report dealt fully with the work as carried on in Formosa, India, Central India, Honan, Shanghai, Macao, the Indians of the Northwest and British Columbia, and the Chinese and Jews in Canada.

With reference to the Northwest Indians, the report states that the whole tone of Indian life on the reserves has been changed for the better. Some reserves have been so far Christianized that, judged by attendance at the sanctuary and general hearing, they will compare favorably with ordinary communities of white people.

Chinese in Toronto and Montreal and Elsewhere.

In Toronto there are 1,300 Chinese, employed in 256 laundries, 20 stores, 8 restaurants, and one bakeshop. They are quiet, inoffensive, and exceedingly industrious citizens. Their vices are such as sometimes land them into police courts, but seldom disturb the peace. There are 19 Sabbath schools in which they are taught—9 of which are Presbyterian. In all these schools about 300 Chinese are enrolled, less than one-fourth the entire Chinese population. Mr. Ng Mon Hing gives diligent service on Sunday and week days and seeks to impress the truth. On Sunday evenings a Christian Endeavor Society meets, where the most of the men gather for instruction and worship. Their interest may be judged by the fact that these meetings last about three and one-half hours. They contributed to the Macao mission \$612.34. There are about 800 Chinese in Winnipeg, and about 1,000 in Montreal. "The detention of many Chinese, in quasi-imprisonment, who are passing through Montreal in bond, is a blot on our civilization. Whilst it is believed that authorities of the Canadian Pacific Railway are doing their best to ameliorate the indignity, yet it is regarded by the Chinese as an indignity and may lead to unhappy international relationships in the future.

Encouraging reports were also given of the Jewish missions in Toronto.

Following the presentation of the reports, Rev. Dr. Morton was called on for a few remarks, and as he took the platform was accorded a hearty reception. Rev. Dr. Morton, who has labored in the mission fields of Trinidad and British Guiana, gave an interesting report of the progress of the work in these fields. He told of the products of the countries, and then described the beginning of what proved a most successful work. He said the missionaries, on going to these countries, received all manner of advice, and it was well, at times, to take a little of this. They had, however, acted as they saw fit, and availed themselves of every opportunity for work with the best results. He would not tell of the faults and failures of the converts, no more than he would tell his converts of the failings of the church here.

Rev. Mr. Fraser, one of Rev. Dr. Morton's assistants in Trinidad, reported briefly on the result of the work there. He said the church had now about 60 day schools and 76 Sunday schools in Trinidad, and that last year about 13,000 pupils were enrolled. The teachers were, for the most part, East Indians, holding government certificates, and are paid by the government, although the church must supply the buildings. Rev. Mr. Fraser gave an outline of the way the schools were conducted, and told of the progress made in the teacher-training classes and the colleges. He said that \$68,000 was spent on this work in the island, and of this amount \$47,000 was raised there. The men who come to work on the rice plantations get only their rice for the first year, and after that only 25 cents per day for a period of five years, and it could hardly be expected that the work would be self-supporting under these conditions.

Rev. S. B. Rohold, who is doing mission work among the Jews of Toronto, told a most interesting story of that work. He told of the establishment of the reading room and the night classes, in which there were now 50 helpers at work. The trouble, he said with the Jews was that they did not know. They could not distinguish between Christians here and the so-called Chris-

tians in Russia. The Jews were fast leaving Rabbism, and were as easy to work among as any other race. He told of the work among the children as well as the adults, and made a strong plea for support and a deeper interest on the part of the church in this work.

Rev. Jonathan Goforth, the veteran missionary to China, was the next speaker, and gave a short account of the work in that country, dealing with it in the most general way, and making a strong plea for a higher life among the workers in the mission fields of that country.

Mrs. Morton spoke on the work among the women of Trinidad, and Mrs. Goforth told of a similar work in China.

Mrs. Morton is a tall lady, the equal in a most excellent spirit and efficiency with her husband. Dr. Morton during his speech said, "I have a wife," and in all that long service they have shared the hours of success. She said: "Trinidad is only ten degrees from the equator. There beautiful things are to be seen on every side. But the good and true have to struggle for life. My morning Bible class has brought unspeakable joy. Then she told of one young Mohammedan lad, who recited one day how he had seen a vision, in the sky, of a triangle with the letter "a" inside. She "interpreted the vision." The triangle is three in one, that is the Trinity, and the letter stands for your name, Abbe. Now you wait and see if something will not come out of this. And the interpretation was true. The lad is a young man, and is serving the Trinity as a teacher and religious worker.

Mrs. Goforth is well known to the people of Ontario, and the women of the Church. She has been for some time in Canada, owing to the education of the children. She was only called upon at a late hour to say a few words, and they were both touching and the keystone to the whole utterance of the night. Prayer, she said, is our great power. In hunger, want, danger, sorrow, it was prayer that sustained. The prayer of others, also, for as I go speaking in the congregations, I have felt the grasp of warm hands, and heard these words, "Dear Mrs. Goforth, we have prayed for you every day since you went out first to China."

Nuggets from F. M. Speeches.

"Regarding finances in the east, the report shows rigorous cutting down."
—Mr. T. C. James.

"The western report has not simply the virtue of brevity; it has that of encouragement."
—Rev. A. E. Armstrong.

"We are going back to the field; our lives are a trust for the Master, a trust for the church."
—Dr. John Morton.

"Our future native ministry will come from the school teachers we have educated."
—Rev. S. A. Fraser.

"I am to plead for the Jew. One of the nation is to plead for the wandering sheep."
—Rev. S. B. Rohold.

"After the Welsh revival, God went to India, then to Corea, and now to China. In Canada only to be revived through the reflex of missions?"
—Rev. Jonathan Goforth.

"The wives of missionaries are ahead of their husbands. That is, our work is voluntary and therefore so sweet."
—Mrs. Morton.

"The movements which are convulsing the east are the counterpart of that in the west, known as the Layman's Missionary Movement."
—Mr. J. M. Waters, M.D.

"The power above all others in our work has been the power of prayer."
—Mrs. Goforth.