

of Ontario, Hon. Oliver Mowat, was among the worshippers. After the Assembly had been constituted, Dr. Laing having expressed his thanks for the honour conferred upon him and the kindness and forbearance extended him, called upon the members to appoint his successor. The names of Rev. Thomas Sedgwick, Principal Caven and Dr. Wardrope were submitted, but at his request that of Dr. Caven was withdrawn and the appointment of Dr. Wardrope was made unanimous. On taking the chair Dr. Wardrope thanked the Assembly for the honour they had conferred on appointing him to the chair, and stated that the venerable clerks and the members, by their kindness and forbearance, would aid him in the discharge of his duties.

A committee consisting of Principals Grant and Caven, T. Sedgwick, Messrs. Campbell and W. B. McMurrich were appointed to draft a resolution relating to the death of Sir John Macdonald, and sympathy with Lady Macdonald and the bereaved family.

#### SECOND DAY.

The first hour of the morning was spent in devotional exercises, Dr. Wardrope, the Moderator, leading, and Dr. McLaren, Rev. J. Carmichael, Dr. Thomson and J. B. Mullen taking part.

The following resolution was moved by Principal Grant:—  
“That the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada records its profound regret at the demise of the Right Hon. Sir John Macdonald, Premier of the Dominion, and prays that this dispensation may be blessed to those entrusted with the management of public affairs and to the people. The Assembly extends its sincere and respectful sympathy with Lady Macdonald and the bereaved family, and prays that the God of all consolation will comfort them in their sorrow. It is moved that the Assembly adjourn from noon till half past seven in the evening to enable its Moderator and Clerk and all members who so desire to attend the funeral of Sir John Macdonald.”

In proposing the acceptance of this motion Principal Grant said that it was desirable that it should be adopted without debate. The time had not come to estimate the life of the late Premier. Mr. Laurier had spoken of the loss sustained and the deep feeling occasioned by it. Other men may be silent, or express their views in his most fitting language.

Dr. Reid seconded the adoption of the resolution and referred to having been associated with Sir John Macdonald in the founding of Queen's University, and also the recent celebration of the jubilee of that institution in 1889.

Dr. Reid was the only survivor of those who took part at the meeting for the organization of Queen's University.

#### EVENING SESSION.

The chief business at the Assembly in the evening was the presentation of the Home Mission reports. Rev. John McMillan presented the report of the Eastern Section, which includes the Maritime Provinces. Out of 189 regularly-organized congregations 162 have settled pastors, and twenty-seven vacancies, nineteen mission charges, forty-two groups of mission stations. “We require,” says the report, “250 labourers fully to supply our fields.” There has been the utmost harmony between our labourers and those of other Churches. Special efforts have been made to supply all the mission stations with services every Sabbath to a large extent by elders. The mission to lumbermen has been continued, but not with the fulness desired. Efforts have been made to bring Home Mission work into closer relation with the Sunday schools, with very satisfactory results. The liberality of the people is yearly increasing. Last year \$11,528 were contributed for Home Missions.

Rev. P. Morrison then presented the report of the Augmentation branch of Home Missions, Eastern Section. The sum of \$9,000 was asked from the congregations, and the amount was nearly raised. Fifty-six congregations were aided last year, an increase arising from the growth and advancement of mission stations. The fund has had an excellent influence in improving the conditions of the ministers and congregations. Mr. Morrison concluded by moving a resolution covering the matters mentioned in the report, commending the scheme to the cordial support of the people, and proposing discretionary power to reduce grants whenever practicable.

Rev. T. T. Jack seconded the adoption of the motion. The Augmentation Fund, he said, has in no degree interfered with the prosperity of the other Schemes of the Church.

Rev. George Bruce thought it would be unwise to give exceptional power to this committee. It was desirable to have one basis of action for the whole Church. He suggested that the clause recommending the change be remitted to a small committee for consideration. Dr. Cochrane showed that the conditions in the North-West were so different that it would be unwise to adopt the recommendation of the Committee. It was resolved to permit the eastern brethren to use their discretion in deciding on cases as they arise.

#### HOME MISSIONS.

Rev. Dr. Cochrane then presented the report of the Home Mission Committee, Western Section. In the west the success had not been quite so satisfactory as the eastern reports indicated. He recommended specially the reading of the reports of the work in the North-West and in British Columbia. The people ought to be more fully informed as to the conditions of the Home Mission work.

The Convener then gave a rapid but clear summary of the contents of the published reports. The financial report was the best that has ever been submitted. There was a deficit, it is true, but there was a splendid work to show for the expenditure. He spoke of the large growth of Presbyterian congregations in Toronto and Montreal. Fifty-three thousand dollars had been raised in the Western Section for Home Missions. There are 250 missions and 150 ordained ministers, 880 preaching stations, 611 of them in the North-West and in British Columbia. There has been great progress in the North-West. There is a large emigration to the North-West than for years, and the needs of these fields will also be regretted. The contributions to the Augmentation Fund have not been so liberal as the actual need of the case requires. He commended the careful reading of the report. He referred to the fact that the father of Sir John Macdonald and the father of Hon. Oliver Mowat were both elders in former days of the Church in which the Assembly is now meeting.

Professor Bryce seconded the adoption of the report. He spoke of the present urgent needs of the North-West. The success attending the work there is due to the fact that it is the Church of the people. He urged the formation of Young Men's Home Missionary Societies. He paid a high tribute to Dr. Robertson for his able and well-directed efforts in promotion of the best interests of the people in the North-West.

Dr. Warden moved a resolution concerning the matters contained in the report. He spoke of the deficit in the Augmentation Fund. To present a clean balance sheet to the next Assembly we would now need to raise \$32,000. There is, however, an encouraging side. During the seven years the scheme has been in operation 176 assisted Churches have by its aid become self-sustaining. At present there are 145 congregations receiving help from the fund. \$12,000 out of the \$22,000 had been raised by thirteen cities. The farmers are not now so able to contribute as they had been hitherto.

Dr. Robertson seconded the motion, stating that we had ground for a large faith in the future of the North-West. Its vast and varied resources encouraged our hopes. It is of the utmost importance that the people be provided with the Gospel. In the west the average giving is higher per member than in the east. Ten years ago there were only two Churches west of Lake Superior, now there are thirty-

three; ten years ago there were 161 places where the Gospel was preached, now 611; then there were 1,152 members, now 11,000; then \$15,000 were raised, now \$194,000. He concluded with an eloquent appeal in behalf of the vigorous prosecution of mission work in the North-West.

#### THIRD DAY.

After the opening exercises the discussion of the motion disposing of the Home Mission report was resumed. Dr. Campbell, of Renfrew, called attention to the deficit in the Augmentation Fund, and proposed an amendment with a view to a graduated reduction of the grants made to supplemented congregations.

Dr. Reid stated that the Augmentation Fund was the only one that had shown a decrease. In all others there had been an increase. He thought that Presbyteries had not urged this scheme as they might have done.

Rev. William Bennett spoke of the reluctance of some congregations to contribute to this fund, and referred to several of the reasons that led them to this course.

Dr. Cochrane gave same explanations concerning the fund and its working. He urged that some definite action be taken in the matter.

Dr. King made some remarks on the motion proposed by Dr. Campbell. He referred to the fact that there were large congregations who contributed very inadequately to the Augmentation Fund. The failure was more congregational than presbyterial. He also spoke of the great importance of the Augmentation Scheme, and how much the prosperity of the Church is dependent upon it. He thought the only way to avoid a reduction in the grants was for the entire Church to rise up to the occasion, and that all collectively and individually do their duty. Rev. P. McF. McLeod, Mr. Northrop, Rev. G. M. Milligan, Dr. McMullen, who referred to occasional irregularities in the administration of the Scheme; Rev. G. Bruce, R. N. Grant, who thought that the responsibility for the proper administration of the Scheme rested with the Presbyteries; Rev. John Somerville seconded the motion proposed by Dr. Campbell. Rev. D. D. McLeod, and Rev. J. C. Herdman, of Calgary, spoke of the work in relation to the North-West. Dr. Laidlaw, Mr. Sutherland and Dr. Warden thought that the Home Mission and Augmentation Funds should be made one. The work is one. Mr. Paul and Mr. Houston also spoke. The vote having been taken, Dr. Warden's motion was carried by a large majority over the amendment of Dr. Campbell.

Principal Grant conveyed an invitation in the name of the authorities of Queen's University to the members of Assembly and their friends to attend a garden party on Saturday afternoon.

Principal Caven moved that the Moderator be requested to issue an address in support of the Augmentation Fund, to be widely circulated throughout the congregations. The proposal was seconded by Principal Grant and carried.

Principal King made some remarks on the proposed constitution for Young Men's Home Mission Societies. Dr. Warden, Rev. J. B. Millan and Rev. A. Sutherland also spoke. The recommendation of Young Men's Mission Societies in Dr. Warden's motion was adopted. Special thanks were given to Drs. Cochrane and Warden, Convener and Secretary of the Home Mission Committee. The proposal to increase Rev. A. Findlay's salary to \$1,600 was supported by Dr. Warden, R. N. Grant and D. D. McLeod. Dr. Laing criticized the proposal. He agreed with all that had been said in admiration of Mr. Findlay's fitness and great success in his work, but did not think it was in the interest of the fund to grant the increase. A vote having been taken, the increase was voted against.

Arrangements for the Sabbath services were St. Andrew's Church, Dr. A. B. Mackay in the morning and in the evening at half-past seven. Rev. G. M. Milligan Lord's Supper to be observed in the afternoon, Dr. Wardrope, Moderator, to preside, and that addresses be delivered by Drs. Laing and McMullen.

At the Friday afternoon meeting, after preliminary discussion of points of order, Rev. R. N. Grant proposed that Mr. Findlay's salary be \$1,400, and spoke at some length, using cogent arguments in support of his motion.

Mr. W. B. McMurrich seconded the motion. From his intimate knowledge of the extensive field over which Mr. Findlay's labour extends, he was satisfied that he was inadequately paid, and that the Church at large would see that the Home Mission Funds did not suffer for doing a right, just and proper thing.

Rev. George Grant spoke in support of the motion, and from his own knowledge of the field testified to the good work he is doing. Dr. Laing thought that while there were proposals to reduce the salaries of supplemented congregations, it would be injudicious to augment the salary of the Mission Superintendent.

Dr. Campbell supported the motion for the proposed increase.

Rev. A. B. Baird also spoke in support of the motion. Principal Caven spoke a few words in favour of the increase. Dr. A. B. Mackay was the last speaker in support of the motion before the vote was taken, which resulted in a majority for the proposal.

Dr. Torrance presented the report of the Committee on the Distribution of Probationers. There were eighty-eight vacancies reported during the year, thirty-one names of probationers placed on the list. There were thirty-nine settlements. Of these eleven were from the list. Dr. Torrance concluded his report by a request that the Committee be discharged from further service, and moved the reception of the report.

Dr. Laidlaw, Convener of the Committee, seconded the motion, and urged the discharge of the Committee for the reason that at the present Scheme did not seem to have the approval of the Presbyteries and preachers.

Dr. Reid referred to the anomalous condition of the working of the Scheme, and spoke of several of the wrongs apparently inseparable from the present working of the Scheme.

Rev. J. B. Mullan thought the Assembly should pause before discharging the Committee. He moved that the report be received and the Convener thanked, but that the request of the Committee to be discharged be refused.

Rev. John Gray, of Windsor, seconded Mr. Mullen's motion. He had attended the American Assembly, and they had adopted a Scheme similar to ours.

Dr. Cochrane read the proposal made in the Home Mission Committee, which, in substance, is that a bureau shall be established for the collection and distribution of all information respecting vacancies and preachers. It shall consist of three members appointed by the Assembly, one of whom shall be secretary, and shall regularly correspond with Presbytery Conveners. Monthly lists of vacancies and probationers shall be issued. On these lists the names of all vacant congregations and of all probationers shall appear. Conveners of Presbyterial Home Mission Committees should employ no one in vacant charges whose name does not appear on the list.

Rev. Mr. Beatt spoke of the difficulties attending the working of the present Scheme, but he was not prepared to abandon it. He moved that it be continued, only that it should be under stricter supervision of Presbyteries, that none should be settled unless they come through the distribution.

Rev. Hugh McKellar spoke in support of the Home Mission Committee's proposal.

Rev. Dr. Warden moved that the proposal of the Home Mission Committee be remitted to a small committee, to be considered and reported on at a subsequent sederunt.

At the evening session the subject for consideration was the report of the Foreign Mission Committee. Dr. Wardrope, Convener of the Committee, requested Dr. McMullen to take the chair while he presented the report, which he did in a few words.

Rev. E. Scott began by specifying several matters that will come up for subsequent consideration. He then referred to the progress made in the Foreign Mission field. The New Hebrides is the oldest of our mission fields, where we have three of our missionaries who have been labouring there for the last eighteen years. A new steamer has taken the place of the *Dayspring*. An Australian company runs the steamer. Mr. Robertson has taken back to Eromanga the Gospels and Acts. The sons of the murderer of John Williams have embraced Christianity. He has in his church a roll of 300 members, and the Christian population of the island numbers 1,200. In Efate Mr. Mackenzie has a membership of 170. The Church in Victoria has taken charge of the mission in Santo begun by Mr. Annand. Rev. Kenneth Grant having been successful in raising the funds for an institution for the training of a native ministry, is prosecuting his Christian educational work with much energy and encouraging success. As illustrative of the progress of missions he indicated that ten years ago \$40,000 was raised for the Foreign Mission Scheme, now the amount is \$120,000. Ten years ago the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society raised \$4,600, this year they have raised \$34,000. Other indications of progress in Foreign Mission work are the rise of the Students' Volunteer Movement, the recent vote in the British House of Commons condemning the opium traffic, and the meeting of the Evangelical Alliance in Florence.

Principal Grant moved the reception of the report. The progress indicated is very noteworthy. Contributions and the number of converts do not necessarily indicate spiritual prosperity. There is no need to antagonize Home and Foreign Missions. In all our four Foreign fields there has been marked increase. We are now prepared to take a forward step in the establishment of a mission to the Indians of British Columbia. In concluding he paid a high compliment to Dr. Wardrope, who has now resigned the Convener'ship of the Committee.

Mr. Macdonald, the newly-appointed missionary to the Indians in British Columbia, gave a brief account of the steps that had led him to devote his energies to the advancement of the Gospel among the heathen. He had considered the needs of these Indians, and felt constrained to offer his services for this work.

Rev. Hugh McKay, of Broadview, spoke of the work among the North-West Indians. He held that every man and woman ought to be made to understand that they must rely on themselves for their bread and butter. The Roman Catholics draw away the children from the Protestant schools. They are thus trained to be subservient to a foreign power. We have also much encouragement in our work. It would be well if the Indians should be more detached from each other. There have been many cheering examples of the power of the Gospel on the Indians. There are still many pagans among them. They have still their heathen dancing. Some of these he described.

Rev. D. L. McCrae, of Trinidad, was the next speaker. There the work is carried on with great vigour and with most encouraging prospects. Fifty schools, with 2,884 on the rolls and an average daily attendance of 1,876, are in operation. The children are taught to read the Bible in their own language. They read and sing the Gospel in their various homes. Great hopes are entertained of raising up a native Church ministered to by a native ministry. There has been a number of promising conversions. There are, including the baptized children, 344 professing Christian converts.

Rev. Mr. Barclay, missionary of the English Presbyterian Church in Formosa, delivered a brief address. Missions by some are considered commonplace. Yet that is no reason for diminished support. There is now a native Church in China though small, yet this is the nucleus of the power by which China will be evangelized. He told some of the peculiar difficulties of missionary work in Formosa.

(To be continued.)

#### THE INHABITANTS OF GALILEE.

It is a noticeable fact that in the days of our Lord Jesus, while the Jews would “have no dealings with the Samaritans,” yet with the people of Galilee, they had frequent and pleasant intercourse. Also, it appears that the Galileans refused to attend the worship at Samaria, though Samaria was much nearer to them than Jerusalem, and that they went up in large numbers to the feasts at Jerusalem. And the impression received from commentaries is that the Galileans, instead of taking a straight course from Nazareth through Samaria to Jerusalem, would ordinarily cross near Bethsaida to the east bank of the Jordan, thence go southwardly through Perea, cross back again at Jericho, and by the long, steep ascent proceed westwardly to Jerusalem. Whatever was the reason for this route, it avoided Samaria.

Who were these Galileans that possessed this attachment for the true worship of God, and this abhorrence for the improper worship at Samaria? Were they descendants of the two tribes? Probably not. For all the records that we have of the return of the two tribes from Babylon would locate them at Jerusalem, not in Galilee. And we have no account of any migration from Jerusalem to this northern province. It is probable that they were not of the tribe of Judah.

In a recent number of the *Sunday School Times*, Dr. Geikie starts a train of thought about these Galileans. He makes the suggestion that after the destruction of Nineveh such of the members of the ten tribes as were faithful to their God made their way back to the land of their fathers.

If so, these returning exiles would have found the country around Samaria occupied by colonists who had been placed there by the Assyrian king. Unable to settle near their capital, they would naturally locate in some other part of the former territory of the ten tribes, and necessarily to the north—in Galilee.

Granted that this is a surmise, yet it is a surmise that arouses interest. If it were so, it would give a beautiful significance to the expression which Christ used of Himself, that He was sent “to the lost sheep of the House of Israel,” and it would illustrate His care for the remnants of the one branch as well as for the other branch of His chosen people.

If it be so—the “if” is all that we can say. At the judgment day we shall know. And what a world of wonderful surprises there is in store for Christ's faithful people, at that day, when He shall explain to us all of His wondrous dealings on earth.