

tinued, 'is in general receiving careful attention. It is noteworthy that nothing found in any presbytery report would suggest that higher criticism is having any 'unsettling effect' on the people, or would indicate that they had ever heard of it—unless it be hinted at in the suggestion that "we need to guard against discrediting divine revelation." This is certainly reassuring, as well as noteworthy.'

The Rev. Thurlow Fraser moved the reception of the report and the Rev. F. Morrison seconded and the resolution was passed. The committee's recommendations were agreed to.

The Special Committee re W.F.M.S. and W.H.M.S., presented through Rev. R. G. MacBeth the report of the Committee, which was unanimously adopted by the Assembly on motion of Sir Thomas Taylor and Prof. Dyde. The boards of these two societies are to remain for purpose of administration in the meantime, but large measures of co-operation are agreed upon as a result of Conference. These were commended to congregations. Sessions are to be consulted as to missionary organizations in the congregation and the boards of the Women's Societies are asked to consider farther the publication of one missionary magazine instead of two as at present.

Principal Scrimger took the platform to move the adoption of the report of the board of the Presbyterian College, Montreal. Before proceeding to this duty, however, the Principal tendered a graceful apology for having yesterday, in the heat of debate, used words which reflected on a senior member of the Assembly. This was a reference to Dr. Sedgwick, who immediately arose and said it was not necessary for Principal Scrimger to say anything more about it. He was, at the same time very glad his friend had spoken and thanked him for doing so.

The report of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, having been adopted, Principal Scrimger announced both Dr. R. E. Walsh and Rev. A. Gordon's acceptance (the latter by cable) of the appointments previously made.

Theological College for B.C.

Rev. Dr. T. W. Taylor moved the adoption of a report recommending the establishment of a Theological College in British Columbia, to be commenced in 1903 and carried on from April to October yearly. He asked for the appointment of a committee to consider details. Rev. Duncan Campbell, who seconded the resolution, said the district worked thirty-five points which were not touched by any other Protestant church. Rev. Dr. Bryce, Winnipeg, considered it important that there should be a college in British Columbia. It was an exceedingly hard mission field, and had suffered from a severe lack of supply. Dr. John Campbell, Victoria, B.C., said he felt that the population was not sufficient to warrant the establishment of a Theological College there at the present time.

Dr. E. D. Maclaren, Toronto, suggested it was incumbent on the church to take steps to support Dr. Taylor's motion.

Dr. Duval aroused merriment by stating that wise men sometimes make mistakes, and fools persevere in them. He desired to warn the Assembly not to arrange for any site until they knew at what city the government university would be built.

The report was adopted and a committee elected to consider details.

Rev. Dr. W. D. Armstrong, Ottawa, presented the report of the Ottawa Ladies' College, and announced a year of successful work.

Principal Scrimger moved the adoption of the resolution, which was seconded by Mr. John R. Reid, and carried.

The report of the committee of St. Andrew's College, Toronto, was also adopted.

A committee was appointed for the reconstruction of the boundaries of Western Presbyteries.

H. M. Recommendations.

Rev. Dr. Somerville read the report of the committee on Home Missions, which contained the following recommendations:

1. That if at the close of the year the state of the fund permits, the committee be granted power to add \$100 to the salaries of the ordained missionaries who have labored for the full year in their fields.

2. That the sum of \$1,000 from interest on Reserve Fund be placed annually at the disposal of the Home Mission Committee to assist mission fields in the building of manses.

The report was seconded by Dr. E. L. Maclaren and agreed to.

Overtures from the Presbyteries of Edmonton, Red Deer, Alberta and Kamloops were read, dealing with the appointment of another superintendent in addition to Rev. Dr. Herdman. The matter was referred to a committee to suggest a name for the appointment.

This committee subsequently reported the name of Rev. G. A. Wilson, of Vancouver, and he was appointed as mission superintendent for British Columbia, leaving Dr. Herdman to work the province of Alberta, and a vote of thanks for his devoted work was passed to Dr. Herdman. At a subsequent sederunt Mr. Wilson indicated his acceptance of the position, believing that it offered a field sufficient for the ambition of the most devoted minister. This announcement was received with applause.

Mr. Gandier Appointed.

Principal Scrimger then presented the report of the Special Committee appointed to consider the appointment of a Church agent. The committee recommended that Rev. Alfred Gandier of St. James' church, Toronto, be appointed agent of the Church for the western section to forward missionary and other work of the Church, to promote the organization of synods, presbyteries and congregations. Also to advise and co-operate with the various committees and boards, etc., and to address the students of theological colleges or organizations, etc., his salary to be \$3,500, with all travelling expenses paid, the money to be raised pro rata from all funds within the sphere of his jurisdiction. In explanation of the salary offered, Dr. Scrimger said that it had been fixed with the express object of securing Mr. Gandier's services, and they had therefore settled it at an equal amount to his present stipend.

In view of this report, Dr. Somerville then stated that any difficulty he had found in the way of accepting the trusteeship had been dissipated, and he would therefore accept it. The decision was received with cheers.

Rev. Alfred Gandier, in reply, said this offer came as a complete surprise to him, it being only a few minutes since he was informed of the purpose of the committee. There was a great work to be done and he realized to the full the grave obligation imposed upon him. It seemed to him the most momentous decision he had ever been called upon to make. Under these circumstances he felt that he could not give an immediate reply. He had his home and his congregation, where his work suited him well. He, therefore, asked for time in which to consult his congregation before giving his answer.

Principal Scrimger moved that Mr. Gandier's request be granted and that a special committee be appointed to receive his reply and arrange, in case he accepted, for his freedom from his congregation. Of course, if Mr. Gandier declines, the whole matter would drop.

Church Statistics.

The report of the committee on statistics was presented by Dr. Somerville. He called the attention of the Assembly to the new form of the tables of figures. The tables showed 133,567 families in the church, an increase of 7,958; 253,392 communicants, an increase of 11,881; those added on profession of faith numbered 16,170, an increase of 1,770. Financially the report showed total contributions for stipend of \$1,219,658, an increase of \$53,622; contributions for missions, \$592,117, an increase of \$101,120; for schemes of the church, \$357,479, not including donations, and a grand total for all purposes of \$3,351,284, an increase of \$271,111. He proposed that the report be adopted. The recommendations of the committee were then submitted and agreed to.

Financial reports were then presented. For the eastern section the receipts at the Presbyterian offices, Halifax, were \$102,021 for this year, an increase of \$1,757 over last year. The western section reported receipts of \$162,376, and a balance of \$1,908 to be carried over to the current year.

Dr. Shearer Appointed.

The report of the committee on temperance and moral reform was then presented by Dr. D. M. Ramsay, in which the name of Dr. J. G. Shearer, of Toronto, was recommended for appointment as special agent to study the social problems referred to in the resolution previously submitted, and the recommendation was adopted.

Dr. Shearer expressed his deep sense of the honor done him by the offer of the appointment, and was very conscious of the importance of the work to be done. At the same time, and still holding, as he did, the office of secretary of the Lord's Day Alliance, he felt he was not free to say yes or no at this stage without consulting the Alliance. The time for consideration was granted by the Assembly.

At a late hour (10.30) Rev. A. Miller, of Lochalsh, Ont., brought up a grievance which was peculiar to Gaelic speaking congregations. The law of the church, he said, was that baptism could not be administered to children unless at least one parent was in visible communion with the church. But many of the Gaelic-speaking descendants of cautious Highlanders feared to enter into full communion with the church by the sacrament, but still professed a credible profession of faith when the question of baptism of their children came up. He asked that the law under present conditions be relaxed to meet this case, so that the Gaelic children could be baptized.

This started a discussion which lasted for some time. Finally, Principal Scrimger moved that "the Assembly declare that the overture be received and that in its opinion the present law is sufficient to grant the favor craved."

The business was now concluded to everyone's relief.

Votes of thanks were passed to the pastor (Dr. Mowatt) and congregation of Erskine Church for the use of that church; to the host and hostesses of the delegates while in the city; to the authorities of McGill, the American Presbyterian Church for their courtesies, to the railways and steamship lines for their special rates, and to the press for its ample reports of the proceedings.

The business being finished shortly before midnight the moderator addressed the Assembly, briefly reviewing the proceedings, after which a prayer was offered. The moderator then closed the Assembly in the solemn, historic fashion, by calling upon the delegates to sing the 122nd Psalm.

The moderator then pronounced the benediction, and after a few moments of silent prayer the General Assembly adjourned for another year.