

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

(Continued from page 391)

2. Montreal Section—Mr. R. H. Warden, Convener; D. Morrice, J. Stirling, W. Yule, W. Darling, jr.
3. Halifax Section—Mr. J. S. McLean, Convener; Messrs J. J. Bremner, J. W. Carmichael, and Isaac S. Murray.

XVII.—STATISTICS.

Mr. R. Torrance, Convener; Messrs. R. H. Warden, S. Houston, A. McL. Sinclair, G. Chrysal, R. Pettigrew, J. McMillan (Mour. Foret), J. Gray (Oulha), S. C. Fraser, R. J. Ludaa, J. A. G. Calder, J. R. Gemmell, G. W. Underwood, W. Robb, W. S. Ball, A. A. Drummond.

XVIII.—PROTECTION OF CHURCH PROPERTY.

Mr. Jas. McLennan, Convener; Dr. Bell, Dr. Reid, Dr. Kemp, Messrs. A. W. Wilson, T. McPherson, D. McGilivray, Hon. A. Morris, G. M. Macdonnell, D. B. McLennan, W. M. Clark, J. L. Morris, John Macdonnell (Winnipeg), J. S. Archibald.

The report in reference to those who shall form the committees on French Evangelization and Temperance was sent back to be recast and reported on at a subsequent sederunt.

The report of Committee on "Record" was given in by the Convener, and the following motion aient it adopted:

"That the report be received and its recommendations adopted; that the thanks of this Assembly be accorded to the Committee, and especially to the Convener and to the editors of the 'Record,' for the efficient conduct of the paper for the past year, and that the Assembly anew commend the paper to congregations and families in the Church as a valuable organ on ecclesiastical and missionary information."

The Committee on Supplemental Fund, consisting of fourteen ministers and eight elders, was appointed, Mr. King Convener.

AFTERNOON SEDERUNT.

The report on obituary notices was given in and adopted.

The report on the applications of students who have not been able to take a regular course for some remission of the rules in their cases was handed in by Rev. Mr. Wright, Stratford, and its suggestions adopted. The following is the result:

Mr. Robert C. Quinn, of St. John, N.B., and Mr. Wm. Dawson, Halifax, are recognized as Divinity students in their second year, and Mr. Archibald Lee, of Ottawa, in his first year; Guelph Presbytery is permitted to take Mr. Jas. Reid, B.A., on trial for license, and the Presbytery of Chatham is authorized to continue the superintendence of the studies of Mr. John Cairns, and to license him when they see fit.

On the report of Committee on the reception of ministers from other denominations a considerable number were recognized as licentates or ministers of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The Committee

ON COLLEGES

reported through its Convener, Mr. W. B. McMurch, to the effect that it recommended the establishment of a common fund for all the Colleges in Quebec and Ontario to be called the College Fund, and that this fund should be distributed *pro rata* in the following proportions, viz.: Knox, \$10,000; Theological Faculty of Queen's, \$4,000; and Montreal, \$5,000; the same proportions being maintained whether the Fund were in any one year larger or smaller. It was also recommended that the Rev. R. H. Warden be appointed to bring the matter before the churches and to act with Dr. Reid as joint Treasurer of the Fund. It was also urged that the endowment scheme for all the Colleges should be proceeded with without delay.

The report was on motion duly seconded, received, and its recommendations adopted.

Several members of the court expressed their great satisfaction at the result and at the suggestion of Dr. Burns. Dr. Jenkins briefly led the Assembly in thanksgiving to God for the satisfactory issue to all the deliberations on the subject.

EVENING SEDERUNT.

The report of the Committee on Temperance was presented by the Rev. Donald Fraser, Mount Forest. It set forth that returns of Presbyteries show that intemperance is still rampant except in a few favoured localities; but that on the whole it is on the decrease. Among the reasons for the prevalent intemperance are the trading custom, hereditary predisposition, idleness, and ignorance. Every phase of evil and unhappiness is ascribed to intemperance. In view of these returns the Committee consider it necessary that the Church should take definite action. The reports show that but few liquor-sellers are in the membership of the Church. From the reports it is believed that about half of the members of the Church are total abstainers, and that the majority of the ministers are such. Referring to temperance legislation, the Committee report that restrictive laws have on the whole a good effect. In some places in the Maritime Provinces the traffic has become thoroughly disreputable. The Committee believe that to speak of total abstinence as one of the commandments and not as a matter of Christian expediency, was likely to do harm. It was most desirable to avoid all extremes in dealing with this subject. The Committee recommend that the Assembly resolve to renew their testimony that the evil of intemperance is a great hindrance to the Church's work, and resolve to do all possible to suppress it; to recommend total abstinence as the best principle for the guidance of individuals; to recommend the congregations by means of pledge books, etc., to endeavour to promote total abstinence, particularly among the young; and that the Assembly resolve that total abstinence is correct in principle; and that Presbyteries and sessions be directed to hold conferences upon this subject, and express the view that the Scott Act is correct in principle, and that any changes made should be in the direction of further restriction and more effective working of the Act.

Mr. Fraser moved that the report be received and its recommendations considered *serialim*.

Rev. Prof. McLaren in seconding the resolution showed he had never come across a church member engaged in the liquor traffic who when spoken to in a friendly way did not acknowledge that the traffic was such that a Christian man ought not to engage in it.

Rev. McKee supported the report, except in one or two minor points, where a member, on behalf of the Committee, showed could be changed.

Rev. D. J. Macdonnell could not support what was contained in the report about church membership and liquor-selling. If they were to take this stand they should be logical, and speak in the same way of liquor-buying. A man who sold good wine was in no way worse than the man who bought it.

Rev. Mr. King objected to the clause relative to the Scott Act on the ground that that was a matter for them to deal with as citizens, and not as members or ministers of the Church.

Further consideration of the subject was delayed. The report on

LADIES' COLLEGES

was then taken up.

Rev. Dr. Kemp, Principal of the Ottawa College, reported that the total number of scholars was 131; boarders, 61; a considerable gain on former years. The attendance had been steady throughout the year, and the health of the students remarkably good. The examinations of the year had shown good progress on the part of the pupils.

Rev. Principal Grant, as one of the visitors, spoke in favourable terms of the College and the manner in which it was conducted. He moved that the report be received, and that the Assembly express gratification at the success of the College, and commend it to the patronage of members and office-bearers of the Church, and appoint as visitors for next year himself and Rev. Mr. Crombie. He strongly urged Dr. Kemp's recommendation that the Church should pay great attention to this question of ladies' colleges.

This was agreed to.

Rev. Dr. Cochrane presented the report of the Brantford College. Eight students presented themselves for the matriculation examinations for the Toronto University College, all of whom passed, five with honours. The College is in a most flourishing condition, and the continued support of the Assembly is requested for it. He heartily assented to the views presented by former speakers upon the importance of these ladies' colleges.

Rev. Mr. Laing spoke in eulogistic terms of the College and the manner in which it was conducted. He moved a resolution to receive and adopt the report, and expressing satisfaction with the institution, particularly with regard to the result of the recent local examinations for the University College; and nominating members from whom are to be chosen the Assembly's representatives on the Board of Directors.

Rev. Mr. Wright seconded the resolution, which was adopted.

The Rev. Mr. McMullen, of Woodstock, presented the report of the Committee on

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

In this allusion was made to the second International Conference last year at Berne, Switzerland, of the Lord's Day Defence Societies, at which nearly all the civilized nations and many of the European sovereigns were represented. The first attempt to introduce Sunday concerts into Canada was promptly put down, greatly to the satisfaction of the religious people of the country. Last summer an excursion from Kingston to Picton, avowedly for religious purposes, was stopped by the collector of customs. The attempt to throw open the Welland Canal for twelve hours on the Sabbath was stopped by public opinion, largely through meetings at Merriton and St. Catharines; but while these and other instances were calculated to cheer, it was still lamentably true that there was much Sabbath desecration by running steamboats and railway trains, unnecessary funerals and social visiting. But with regard to the second, ministers had the matter largely in their own hands. People should be encouraged to keep holy the Sabbath Day. He showed it had been urged that the Committee should be empowered to speak on behalf of the Assembly with contractors and employers of labour against Sabbath desecration. The great offenders in this respect were the railway companies, who were becoming dangerous not only in a political sense but to the moral welfare of the people as well.

Rev. Mr. Bruce, of St. Catharines, spoke particularly of the attempt to open the Welland Canal, and said the Government had sent word to rescind the order even before a deputation waited upon the superintendent of the canal. This lesson proved that if Christian sentiment could be evoked and clearly expressed upon this subject of Sabbath desecration, the effect must be felt. He moved the adoption of the report.

Rev. Mr. Fraser, of St. Thomas, spoke of the difficulty felt in that town on account of the number of trains running through on Sunday, and asked the assistance of the Assembly in preventing a continuance of the present state of affairs.

Rev. J. M. Cameron, of Toronto, said that near the scene of his labours were the works of a large gas company, whose employes were paid to work on Sunday. In answer to his objections the manager replied that the churches required an extra supply of gas, and therefore the men had to work. He would ask were the Churches right in encouraging such a practice.

Rev. D. J. Macdonnell said he thought also ministers and members as well should do what they could to prevent another phase of Sunday work, that of the newspaper reporters in taking sermons to be published on Monday morning.

The report was received and adopted.

THURSDAY, 16TH JUNE.

The Foreign Mission reports were considered and the following findings unanimously came to, viz.: in reference to the Eastern Section; that:

"The General Assembly, in receiving the report of the

work conducted under the eastern section of the Committee, would record their gratification that the Anchiutese possess and are now reading the whole Bible in their own tongue; and that the missionaries on the other islands are making progress in translating and printing portions of the Holy Scriptures and teaching the natives to meet the needful expense. The Assembly rejoices in the progress of the Gospel in Erromanga, and sympathizes with Mr. McKenzie, of Esate, in his illness, and welcomes him home to rest for a season, and prays that he may soon recover his strength and reoccupy his field. The Assembly learns with satisfaction of the extinction of the debt, by the liberal contributions of the people of the Maritime Provinces and of the entrance of the fourth missionary to Trinidad on his work; and commends that expanding mission, as well as the older mission, to the New Hebrides, to the protection of the Great Master."

And in reference to the Western Section:
"That the report of the Foreign Missions Committee (Western Section) be adopted, and satisfaction expressed with the marked increase of the revenue which the Committee has been able to report, and with the success which has attended the labours of the missionaries in the various fields occupied."

The Rev. Mr. Middlemiss read the report of the Committee in charge of the

AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS' FUND

(western section). From this it appears:

That twenty-seven ministers had received annuities during the year amounting in all to \$5,760, an increase of \$420 over the previous year. Five ministers received payments for the first time last year. The largest amount paid to any one was \$220, which is \$30 less than the recognized maximum. The expenses, other than in the direction of payments to ministers, is \$301, leaving a balance in favour of the fund of \$1,001. Congregational contributions increased \$200 during the year. The amount invested, or held for investment, is now \$5,518, being a considerable increase on last year. Certain changes in the rule governing the administration of the fund are recommended by the Committee.

Rev. Dr. Wardrope, Guelph, moved the following resolution:

"The General Assembly, having heard the report of the Committee on the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund of the Western Section of the Church, receive and adopt the same, and thank the Committee, and especially the Convener, for their diligence; and express their gratification that there has been such an increase in the revenue of the year as to enable the Committee to make a large addition to the capital; but regret that while there is an increase more or less for every service of income, the increase of income available for current expenditure has, owing to additions to the list of beneficiaries, been insufficient to enable the Committee to reach the maximum payment of \$250. The Assembly remits to Presbyteries for their consideration the modifications of the present regulations, prepared by the Committee, in accordance with the instructions of last Assembly."

This, after some discussion, was adopted.

Rev. Mr. Sinclair presented the report of the eastern section of the Committee on the Infirm Ministers' Fund, showing that the receipts, with the balance over from the previous year, were \$1,605. The number of annuitants was 6 each receiving \$200, or \$1,200 in all. The expenses were \$80.

On motion the report was adopted, with thanks to the Committee, and especially to the Convener, for their management of the fund.

Mr. Sinclair moved that the Committee of the eastern section in the meantime be allowed to manage the fund for that section, under any regulation agreed upon by the Synod of the Maritime Provinces, subject to the approval of the Assembly. Carried.

Mr. T. W. Taylor read the report of the committee appointed to consider the subject of amalgamating the several sections of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, recommending that though they would have liked to see the funds amalgamated, yet owing to the opposition to the present carrying out of the scheme in the Maritime Provinces, further action be postponed.

The report was received and adopted.

Rev. R. Campbell read the report of the Committee on the Widows' and Orphans' Fund in connection with the Church of Scotland, showing that there were forty annuitants on the fund, receiving an average of \$147.50—a total of \$5,903. The assets in all are \$100,052, invested in various securities.

After some discussion the report was, on motion, received and adopted.

Mr. T. W. Taylor presented the report of the Widows and Orphans' Fund of the late Canada Presbyterian Church, showing that the total assets are \$92,226.

The report was, on motion, received and adopted.

Mr. McMurch presented a final report from the special committee on

COLLEGES.

The application of Morris College to have a certain territory set apart for it is recommended to be laid on the table until next session. With regard to Winnipeg College, it is recommended that Prof. Bryce be granted leave of absence for at least six months, and be authorized to present the claims of the College before the British Churches, with a view to raising an endowment. That the arrangements for the support of the College in force last year be confirmed; and that the first Sabbath of September be set apart as a day for taking a special collection for the benefit of the College. The Assembly is recommended to express satisfaction at the considerable number of young men appearing to study for the ministry; but deem it unnecessary to alter the arrangements for the conduct of theological education already sanctioned.

After considerable discussion, the report was, on motion, received, and its recommendations adopted.

In reference to the report on

STATISTICS,

the following motion was proposed and adopted: