

coming four years. Dr. Cornish is authority for the statement that our church, during the past quadrennium, has opened a new church for each week of the four years.

The wheat fields were a great source of interest to visitors from the East. The excursion to Brandon afforded a fine opportunity of viewing the fertile plains of Manitoba at a most interesting time when they were covered with the splendid harvest of the past summer. Threshing was in progress in all directions, and on every hand there were evidences of the marvellous prosperity which the West is now enjoying.



REV. JOHN McDOUGALL.

The General Conference is a serious body of men, assembled for serious business, but now and then the strain was relieved by a good story intended to illustrate a point.

Rev. Dr. Reynar told of a man who appeared in the prisoner's box, at a court of justice, in a great state of trepidation. The Judge sought to reassure him by saying, "Do not be afraid, my man, you may depend upon it, you will receive justice here." "That's just what I am afraid of," was the reply.

Rev. C. W. Gordon ("Ralph Connor") spoke some strong words on the tendency of the people of the West to worship wheat, and referred to the prevailing worldliness of the people which prevented many of them from giving attention to spiritual matters. His illustration was this: A young man in charge of a domestic mission of the Presbyterian Church in Manitoba, was asked, in his examination before the Presbytery, what were the chief obstacles to his work. He wrote down, in reply, "*Wheat, and the Methodists.*" "I hope you passed him," remarked Dr. Potts.

The Conference enjoyed two very pleasant social functions. The first was an "At Home" given by Mr. and Mrs. J. A. M. Atkins at their beautiful residence on the bank of the Assiniboine river. A delightful time was spent by a large company who thoroughly appreciated the thoughtful hospitality extended. The second holiday event was an excursion to Brandon which was arranged by J. T. Gordon, M.P.P., in order to allow the delegates to see the famous wheat fields of the west. The ladies of

Brandon provided lunch at the Methodist church, and everybody had a good time.

The Manitoba *Free Press* distributed a large number of postal cards with small bags of "Manitoba No. 1 hard wheat" attached. The mails carried them to any part of Canada for two cents. The delegates sent large numbers to their friends.

One of the most important utterances at the General Conference was the address of Rev. Principal Patrick of Manitoba College, a member of the Presbyterian fraternal delegation. Without "beating round the bush" at all he declared himself in favor of organic union between the Methodist and Presbyterian churches. He said that he was proud to belong to the Presbyterian Church. It was a grand church, and the Methodist Church was a grand church, but in vision he saw something grander still, a united church. It may be some time before this union could be effected, and in the meantime he hoped



REV. J. S. ROSS, D.D.,  
Ex-Secretary of General Conference.

to see some working arrangement by which unseemly rivalry between the two churches might be avoided in small places.

Rev. J. B. Silcox, the popular pastor of the Winnipeg Congregational Church, appeared before the Conference as a fraternal representative and gave a racy and interesting address. He heartily seconded the suggestion of Principal Patrick in regard to the union of the churches. He told of a little town in California where the Presbyterians, Methodists and Congregationalists were about equally divided. They determined to have only one church, with the understanding that the majority should decide the denomination with which it would be connected. The Methodists carried the day, and that Methodist church, said the speaker, was better than the average.

The Committee on Sociological questions recommended compulsory arbitration of labor disputes, and the Conference adopted it.

#### CONFERENCE PERSONALS.

The General Superintendent was particularly happy in introducing visitors and fraternal delegations. He seemed to say just the right word in every case.

Rev. J. W. Graham, B.A., the young pastor of St. James Church, Montreal, made a very eloquent and earnest appeal on behalf of his church, and stated that the outlook was hopeful.

Rev. John McDougall, the veteran Indian missionary, was a visitor to the Conference. He had just returned from a long and perilous trip to the Indian missions of the far North.

Rev. Dr. Burwash, Chancellor of Victoria University, was a quiet and unobtrusive member of the Conference. He seldom spoke but was always listened to with respect. No man in the denomination is more highly esteemed by his brethren.

Rev. Dr. Sutherland was appointed fraternal representative to the British Wesleyan Conference, Rev. Wm. Dobson to the M. E. Church, and Rev. Dr. Sparling to the M. E. Church South. Our church will be worthily represented by these honored brethren.

Dr. Sutherland, in speaking of his visit to Japan, told of a number of native girls in one of the schools who were overheard discussing his appearance and age, shortly after he had spoken to them. "How old do you think he is?" said one. "Oh, I should think he was about a hundred." "Well," said the other, he is wonderfully active on his feet to be so old." The doctor thought that was carrying respect for age just a little too far.



REV. JAS. WOODSWORTH, D.D.,  
Corresponding Secretary of Missions.

Mr. Warring Kennedy presented his resignation as Treasurer of the Sunday School Aid and Extension Fund, and the Conference passed a strong resolution expressing appreciation of his faithful services for more than a quarter of a century. Mr. E. S. Caswell was appointed in his place.

Rev. Wolford Green, the English fraternal delegate, was indeed the "old man eloquent." It is said that he is nearly eighty years of age, but he spoke with all the force and inspiration of a young man. Nothing could have been more appropriate than his reference to the relations which exist between Canada and the Motherland.