

This brought out speeches from Rev. Dr. Laidlaw who thought the amendment would prevent the publication of hymns in separate books; Rev. D. J. Macdonnell who thought the amendment should be reserved till a later stage; Rev. Dr. Seringer, who held that the Committee had not dealt fairly with the Assembly; from Dr. MacRae, Collingwood, who thought the book would be too large for children and prayer meeting.

Dr. Cavan stated that he had tried to understand the seven recommendations of the Committee and had been more puzzled by them than he had ever been by the Epistle to the Romans. (Laughter.) It was preposterous for the Committee to publish one large book containing the whole psalter and the whole of the hymns, etc., then to publish a second book, a smaller one, containing only selections and then call them one book. What he wanted was that the book of praise sanctioned by the Assembly should contain the whole psalter and that no book should be sanctioned by this Assembly which did not contain this. If anything was to be cut out let the hymns suffer in this, but do not cut out the psalms.

Dr. MacVicar called attention to the fact that the Committee proposed to publish three books and he ventured to prophesy that the one with the hymns and only selections from the psalms would displace the one with the whole psalms.

Rev. Mr. Herridge do ended the action of the Committee from the imputation of unfairness. The Committee really desired to promote and conserve the use of the psalms throughout the Church. Still the Committee was anxious to give the people a choice, viz., that those who wish to have the whole of the psalter with the hymns may have an opportunity to do so, and that those who prefer only selections of the psalms may have the same liberty and so the debate goes on, amid periodic attempts to stop it.

Rev. R. Johnston contended that the Church cannot afford to put out any of the psalms nor can we afford to allow the Church to think that we are attempting to improve upon the spirit of David.

Rev. E. Scott said: We have to-day a separate Hymnal from the psalter, but the fact is that people buy and use the hymns while the psalms are ignored. He would prefer that selections of the psalms be printed with the Hymnals so that the people cannot ignore them.

The second recommendation of the Committee carried by 150 to 80.

Dr. Gregg then moved the third recommendation of the Committee, which was to the effect that certain selections and new versions of the psalms form the first part of the new Hymnal.

Dr. Cavan opposed this in a very serious manner. He asked why certain selections of the psalms should be made in addition to a book which contains the whole psalter. Are we not going in a wrong direction? We virtually send forth a disparagement of the psalms. He moved in amendment: "The General Assembly favors the introduction into the new book of praise now and improved versions of the psalms, but in view of the fact that said book includes the whole psalter it is unnecessary and undesirable that selections from the psalms should also be comprised."

The Assembly resumed the discussion upon the third recommendation of the Hymnal Committee in the afternoon. One of the members delivered a speech a half an hour in length, during the manifest impatience of the Assembly. At its close one brother moved, "Seeing that there are two hundred members wishing to speak, each one be limited to three minutes." The Moderator ruled that the debate must go on.

Rev. D. J. Macdonnell contended that the Committee aimed at conserving the use of the psalms in public worship, while Dr. Cavan's amendment would tend to end their use for ever. A debate took place between Dr. Cavan and Mr. Macdonnell as to the meaning of the former's amendment. Question and answer, and cross-question between the two giants continued for five minutes; then Mr. Macdonnell continued his address, holding that his position had not been shaken. Several others wanted to speak, but on vote it was decided to take the vote.

The Committee's recommendation was sustained by 126 to 94 votes.

The fourth recommendation of the report was unanimously adopted.

In the fifth recommendation the following amendment was moved by Mr. W. B. McMurich, Toronto: "That the Committee be empowered to proceed with the publishing of the book of praise, having regard to the provisions of this report, and to any suggestions that may be received from Presbyteries up to the first day of December next." It was after some discussion, withdrawn, and the recommendation adopted with the addition of the following words: "With a view of its publication for submission to the next General Assembly."

The sixth recommendation was adopted unanimously.

The following was substituted for the seventh recommendation on motion of the Rev. D. J. Macdonnell: "That no book containing any portion of the materials included in the book of praise shall receive the imprimature of the General Assembly unless it contains either the whole psalter or the selections from the psalms which shall be approved by the Assembly."

The remaining recommendations of the report were unanimously adopted.

The following are the conclusions to which the Assembly has now come: "That the complete collection should be called 'Book of Praise,' and should include (1) the whole of the psalms in the metrical version, now in use; (2) selections from the prose version of the psalms and other portions of the Scripture for chanting; (3) selections from the psalms in the ordinary metrical version and in other versions; (4) hymns approved and adopted by the Assembly; (5) Scripture sentences; (6) that Presbyteries report their views upon it to the next General Assembly through the Committee.

Fraternal Greetings.

During the debate on the Hymnal the proceedings were suspended for the introduction of a deputation from the Methodist Conference of Canada, consisting of Revs. Dr. Stewart, Douglas, Chapman and David Allison. They were presented to the Moderator by Rev. Dr. Cochrane. The deputation then presented an address of greeting. The address was couched in beautiful language, expressing good feeling toward the Presbyterian body. The members of the delegation each made a brief speech, expressive of the unity and fellowship existing between the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches in Canada; spoke of the excellent work of the churches under the Assembly towards the betterment of Canada, both from religious and educational standpoints. It was the desire of each church to see the Canadian nationality characterized by that righteousness which exalteth a nation, and each was giving its best efforts towards that end. Intemperance and the difficulties between capital and labor were spoken of as lines along which the efforts of churches should be directed. The practice as well as the principles of justice should be upheld, and the practical working of benevolence sought for in the maintenance of the equal obligations between man and man.

Rev. Principal Grant moved, seconded by the Rev. Dr. Forrest, a resolution, "That the General Assembly has heard with profound gratification the greetings of the Syncretic Court of the Methodist Church in Canada, and would assure the highly-respected representatives who have conveyed these greetings that there is no body that has a larger share of affection that we feel for the Catholic Church than has the Methodist Church of our own Dominion, and that the General Assembly thanks them for their presence and the generous and eloquent words in which they have expressed their sentiments." The resolution passed, and the Moderator tendered the thanks in an eloquent speech.

FRASER RIVER FLOODS.

Rev. Dr. Robertson read a telegram from J. M. Browning, Vancouver, as follows:—"Reports as to floods in British Columbia much exaggerated. So far as yet known outside aid not required." Rev. Mr. McLaren said he would like the Assembly to know that probably half the mission fields will be unable to contribute much this year.

Assembly Preachers.

Rev. R. Johnston, of Lindsay, Ont., and Rev. J. Fraser Campbell, of India, were appointed to preach in St. David's church next Sabbath.

Home Missions.

The report of the Western Section was published in last week's REVIEW.

EASTERN SECTION.

The report of the Eastern Section was presented by Rev. John McMillan, Halifax:—"Forty-nine ordained men and fifty-nine catechists have been at work during the whole or some portion of the year. Of the ordained, twenty-nine had appointments as missionaries for a year or more in particular fields. Some of these spent only a short part of the past year, completing a previous appointment, or after having received a recent one; but fourteen of them devoted the whole year to the work, and six more fully one-half the year. The other ordained workmen, twenty in number, received monthly appointments to vacant congregations; and twelve have been called and settled as pastors in these charges. Of the fifty-nine catechists, four were employed continuously throughout the year; two more were at work during the winter; and fifty-three during the summer of 1893. The good accomplished through the labors of these devoted men, no figures can set forth. They all report a readiness on the part of the people to receive them as messengers of God. They have toiled in many places where the people are widely scattered and difficult to reach, and frequently very poor in worldly circumstances. But they have had the satisfaction of ministering the bread of life to hungry hearts; and have found the partakers of their spiritual things ready to communicate to them of their temporal. If carefully fostered, all the fields where our agents worked will ultimately become self-sustaining charges, and in turn help to nourish their outlying stations, as mission districts, to grow into new congregations. This is, in substance, the conclusion expressed by the men who labored in many of even the least favored regions. They are deeply impressed with the importance of the work to the Church's growth in the days to come, and wish to arouse the whole Church to a sense of her obligation to provide her people now and fully with the teaching and preaching of the Gospel, so that none of them may become indifferent to Christian duty, or lukewarm in their attachment to the church of their fathers. God's blessing has been upon the work of our missionaries, and His hand has been over them for good during the year. Your Committee desire to record their gratitude to Him for the many tokens of His approbation which He has given; and to go forward in this great work realizing on the one hand the guilt of neglecting to reach any of our people with the word of God, and on the other the utter futility of our labor without the baptism of His Holy Spirit.

For the first time in the history of your Committee they are confronted with a heavy debt of \$2355.21. As the statement of the finances already given shows, this debt has arisen not from decreased liberality on the part of the people, but from an increased expenditure, particularly on additional ordained missionaries, and also on the supply given to weak congregations while vacant. The fact is,