PRESBYTERY OF VICTORIA.

The Charge Against Rev. P. McF. Macleod Taken Up and Discussed at Length.

Finding of the Court—Another Matter to Come Up This Morning.

A special meeting of the Presbytery of Victoria was held yesterday afternoon at the First Presbyterian church, there being present Rev. D. A. Macrae, of Nanaimo, moderator; Rev. D. MacRae, Rev. A. B. Winchester, and Rev. Dr. Campbell, of Victoria, and Messrs. A. Shaw and J. T. Bethune, elders. Besides the members of the Presbytery, there were a very large number of spectators present, and a keen interest was taken in the proceedings.

After the Presbytery had been duly opened, Rev. D. MacRae, the clerk, read the circular by which the meeting had been called, in which it was set forth that Rev. P. McF. Macleod had preached at the old Methodist church, corner Pandora and Broad streets, on Sunday, Sept. 10, to a congregation that had been advertised as the "Central Presbyterian church," but which had, in fact, no existence to the knowledge of the Presbytery, and that Mr. Macleod by so preaching had violated the laws of the Presbyterian church. In other documents presented it was shown that, on Saturday last, when it was made known by an advertisement in the COLONIST that Rev. Mr. Macleod was to preach as stated, a document was drawn up, signed by Rev. Dr. Campbell, Rev. A. B. Winchester and Rev. D. MacRae, setting forth that to carry out this intention would be to violate the rules of the church, and further stating that if the course were persisted in the signers would petition the Moderator to call a special meeting of the Presbytery to deal with the matter. This document was handed to Rev. Mr. Macleod last Saturday by Rev. D. MacRae, and on Monday Mr. Macleod sent a lengthy reply, in which he defended his position and objected to the unauthorized interference of three clergymen whose action he characterized as tyranny.

These documents having been read, the Moderator formally cited Mr. Macleod to appear at the bar and answer to the charges made against him in the court.

At the outset Mr. Macleod called the attention of the Moderator to the fact that there was only one ministerial member of the court who was not personally involved in the charges as they had been made. Under these circumstances he did not think it would be to the credit of the Presbytery to consider the case now, and wishing to make an amicable suggestion he proposed that the matter should be laid over until the meeting of the Presbytery in October, stating at the same time that in view of the facts he could protest or appeal to the Synod from what he considered unjust treatment.

The Moderator did not think it was in his power to stop the proceedings.

Rev. Mr. Macleod said he had made his suggestion in the interest of a peaceable and just settlement, although he was well aware that he could appeal to a superior court at any stage of the proceedings.

Rev. D. MacRae thought this was an extraordinary position for Mr. Macleod to take. The Presbytery had as yet taken no action and it would be time enough to appeal to a superior court when there was something to appeal against. This statement of Mr. Macleod's was a grave and serious reflection upon the integrity and good faith of a properly constituted Presbytery and unless Mr. Macleod could show that the Presbytery was not properly constituted there was no reason why the business should not be gone on with. If Mr. Macleod could show that the Presbytery was in any way incapacitated from exercising all its rights or privileges he ought to do so and not allege that the members would be influenced by any personal consideration, which was simply a gratuitous reflection. The Presbytery was assembled to carry out the government of the church and in doing so it was certainly not to be laid open to such a grave and serious charge as Mr. Macleod had seen fit to make.

Rev. Mr. Macleod claimed that Rev. Mr. MacRae had put sentiments into his mouth which he had never uttered. What he wanted to make clear was his knowledge that church law gave him the right at any stage of the proceedings against him to appeal to a higher court. In the present case three of his ministerial brethren who were the accusers were members of the court, and if the matter were laid over until the regular meeting of the Presbytery early in October it would enable more outside members to be present.

Rev. Dr. Robertson pointed out that the Presbytery in October would have no more members, as Revs. Young, Addison and Fraser were retiring before the next meeting.

Rev. A. B. Winchester was sorry that when the Presbytery met with unbiassed mind to deal with so important a matter, one for whom he had personally suffered so much (Mr. Macleod) should have seen fit to charge him with bias.

Mr. A. Shaw inquired if Mr. Macleod was under the control of the Presbytery of Victoria.

The Moderator replied yes, while he was within the bounds of the jurisdiction of the Presbytery.

After some general discussion it was decided to go on with the charges as contained in the circular calling the meeting.

Rev. A. B. Winchester having taken the chair for the time being, Rev. D. A. Macrae, the moderator, opened the discussion by declaring that the whole affair which had resulted in the breach of the church law had been, from the beginning up to the present moment, a great trouble and annoyance, not only to himself but also to the rest of the brethren, entailing as it did a loss of considerable energy, much precious time and not a little money, so that all must admit that they sincerely wished such things had never been brought to pass. But now that the trouble was before them they must deal with it to the best of their ability. Mr. Macleod was now charged with violating the laws of the church in having held regular services in a church in this city in the name of the Presbyterian church without having any authority to do so. He read section 6 of the rules of the General Assembly, showing how congregations were to be formed, stating that these rules had not been complied with, yet services had been held by Mr. Macleod without the consent of the Presbytery, which alone had power to call a church organization into existence. He claimed that no loyal member of the Presbyterian church would proceed in this way, and recalled the fact that Mr. Macleod had apologized at the meeting of the Presbytery in Nanaimo for holding services in the theatre, thus conceding the law.

Rev. Dr. Campbell assured the Presbytery that it had given him great pain to have to sign the remonstrance which he and two brethren had sent to Mr. Macleod, asking him to desist from violating church law, as he would be doing by conducting the service on Sunday as advertised, but he had, nevertheless, been compelled to do so by the vows he had taken at ordination that he would see that the laws of the church were carried out. If any Presbyterian minister found that another was violating the laws of the church it was due to the community, to the Presbytery, and to the church as a whole that he should take whatever steps were necessary to put a stop to it. It was a well known fact that he had taken no part in what was referred to as the trouble in St. Andrew's church, for he had wished above all things to have it distinctly understood that he had no reason for anything but the most friendly feeling toward Mr. Macleod. If he were living outside of Victoria he would have felt at liberty to deal with the matter much easier, but being also a resident and coming so frequently into contact with Mr. Macleod it was a very painful thing to have to take up, yet having once taken his stand by the laws of the church, he for one would see that those laws were carried out, or else he would tender his resignation and leave the church altogether. Reviewing the defence as laid down in Mr. Macleod's letre, he claimed that no undue haste had been shown in sending the remonstrance and the whole action in the matter had been the only one possible. The Presbytery must not be placed at defiance and no matter how weak it was, it must see that the church laws were carried out.

Rev. D. MacRae joined Dr. Campbell in the statement that the signing of the remonstrance was one of the most painful things he had ever had to do. He would say most positively that, so far as he was concerned, he had removed every vestige of personal feeling in the matter, and was free now, as at all times, from the slightest antagonism towards Mr. Macleod. The element of difficulty caused by the prominent position Mr. Macleod had occupied in the church increased the responsibility; yet, though the Presbytery was weak in numbers, in age and in experience, under no circumstances should it fail to do its duty in preserving the church law from violation. There were many considerations involved in this case. St. Andrew's church had passed through a terrible crisis, which had menaced its very existence, and while the matter of creating a new church was *sub judice*, here a congregation was formed and organized, with everything except the fundamental necessity—the consent of the Presbytery—and the church law thus violated must be vindicated.

Rev. A. B. Winchester thought if there was any man in the world who ought to be free from the groundless, baseless, unjust accusation of being biassed against Mr. Macleod he was the one, for his course of conduct had been such as would show any one that he had always in the past favored Mr. Macleod and had endeavored to get for him from the St. Andrew's church, not only justice, but what was more—liberality. He reviewed the facts in connection with Mr. Macleod's offence and emphatically declared that the laws of the church must be held supreme and obeyed.

Rev. Dr. Robertson held that the Presbytery, which was the custodian of the rights, privileges and interests of the church, was bound to see the church law carried out. If it were true as stated that Mr. Macleod had a right to preach for what was called the Central Presbyterian church, then the work of the Presbytery was superfluous. Such an organization as had been attempted was against the laws of the church; and the Presbytery, in the interests of the peace, order and welfare of the church, must take cognizance of it.

Rev. Mr. Macleod, in his reply, disclaimed any intention of imputing prejudice to the members of the Presbytery. If he had said anything of the kind he must be forgiven, but it was, nevertheless, an unfortunate fact that three of his brethren who were his accusers should sit in judgment upon his action. His apology made in Nanaimo was, he claimed, only for having held services in the theatre while he was pastor of St. Andrew's church here; but he did not understand it to cover his holding any service after he was relieved of the charge, for then, as he understood church law, he was competent to hold any service he wished. He urged that it was impossible to deal with his case by itself, as it was necessary to go into the organization of the new church. The rules of the Presbyterian church had been carried out so far as the organization was concerned and, pending the decision of the Presbytery, it was, in his opinion, quite competent for the congregation to go ahead and hold meetings for worship. The case was under advisement, and this being so he did not know of any law of any country under British rule or the law of nations which would prevent such worship being held. Suppose the Presbytery had refused to allow the congregation to be formed and an appeal was then taken to the higher court, why could not the congregation go on and hold worship until the final decision was given? Suppose the Presbytery said the congregation had no rights could they not then go to the Synod and the General Assembly? No man under British rule could be declared guilty until he was tried. When he was accused of preaching to these people, how could they separate the charge against him from that against the petitioners? The charge had been made against him, and he had heard on the street that he was to be kicked out of the ministry of the church.

The Moderator—It is not right, Mr. Macleod, to bring such gossip into the Presbytery. Let us have facts.

Rev. Mr. Macleod continuing, claimed that as a resident minister without a charge he must have some rights, though he hoped his brethren would never have to go through the experience he had in order to ascertain what those rights were. What he had done was in obedience to the bidding of God, in whose good providence he hoped for results from his ministry, for since he had been thrust out of St. Andrew's church he had no congregation.

The Moderator—You were not thrust out of St. Andrew's?

Rev. Mr. Macleod—Well then I will say I resigned for good reasons. (Laughter.) He could say that he was now as loyal to the church as he had ever been in the 21 years he had worked, and this was the first time he had ever had to defend himself against a charge of lawlessness. In acting as he did he based his conduct on his best judgment, which no man had to give up when he entered the church. If these people, whose kindness he would never forget, wanted him to preach the gospel to them why should he not do so without being censured for carrying on evangelistic work?

Rev. D. A. Macrae earnestly wished to remove the impression which seemed to have been created in the public mind that Mr. Macleod was being persecuted, and wished Mr. Macleod to state whether or not he himself believed the members of the Presbytery were prejudiced against him.

Rev. Mr. Macleod declared he had never said so.

Rev. A. B. Winchester said the word used was biassed.

Rev. D. A. Macrae—Do you let that word biassed stand?

Rev. Mr. Macleod—Not in that way.

Rev. D. A. Macrae—Then put it in your own way.

Rev. Mr. Macleod—You are my accusers and my judges.

Rev. D. A. Macrae wanted to hear Mr. Macleod express his consciousness that the members of the Presbytery were not biassed, for he was sure the feeling was of brotherhood, if of sorrow. He wanted the members of the new congregation to know that their application would receive due consideration at the hands of the Presbytery.

Mr. J. H. Falconer asked the right to speak but was not allowed, as the case of the petitioners was not before the court.

Rev. Mr. Macleod contended that the petitioners should be heard, as Mr. Macrae was referring to them.

The Moderator ruled against them.

Rev. Mr. Macleod (to Rev. D. A. Macrae)—Then you must not make false statements.

Rev. D. A. Macrae—What is that you say?

Rev. Mr. Macleod—I don't charge you with falsehood. I withdraw that; but I do say it is a falsehood to say the congregation have not acted legally.

Rev. D. A. Macrae accepted Mr. Macleod's withdrawal, and after more remarks moved an extended resolution, seconded by Mr. Bethune, which in its preamble set forth the facts of the case and concluded by enjoining Rev. Mr. Macleod from continuing the services.

It being 6 o'clock the motion was laid on the table, and at Dr. Campbell's suggestion, a committee consisting of Rev. Dr. Robertson, Mr. Alexander Shaw and the Moderator, was appointed to draw up a resolution to be presented at the evening session, covering the question.

An adjournment was then taken until 8 o'clock in the evening.

Upon reassembling at 8:30, at the suggestion of the Moderator, it was decided that fifteen minutes shall be allowed Rev. Mr. Macleod and each of the three petitioners to make whatever remarks they had to offer. When this decision was arrived at the four persons concerned were having a private conference in an adjoining room.

Pending their return, the Presbytery proceeded to consider the second matter awaiting action, this being the granting of the necessary authority to the congregation of St. Andrew's to moderate upon a call when they so desired.

By request, Rev. A. B. Winchester took the chair and Moderator Macrae taking the floor announced that the committee having been unable to come to any definite conclusion in the recess, the matter now stood in its original form before the court.

Rev. Mr. Macleod asked that the petitioners present be heard in confirmation of the statements he had made. This was agreed to, Clerk MacRae holding, however, that the position of these gentlemen was simply that of witnesses to answer any questions asked by the court or Rev. Mr. Macleod.

Clerk D. MacRae moved, seconded by Dr. Campbell, that the delegates from the new congregation be allowed to make statements as to fact.

Rev. Dr. Robertson and Rev. Dr. Campbell spoke in favor of this "license" being allowed.

Dr. Crompton, who was first called upon, suggested that he did not look upon the opportunity allowed to him to speak as a privilege, as he thought it was a right he had to speak on behalf of Mr. Macleod and the petitioners.

The Moderator stopped Dr. Crompton for a moment to again have it distinctly understood that the petitioners were not before the court.

Clerk MacRae—The fact has been pointed out over and over again that the petitioners are not before us at all at present.

The Moderator—We cannot spend the time of the court in taking up a matter which does not concern us in this case before us.

Dr. Crompton under this ruling declined to speak as the scope of his remarks would be too limited.

Mr. Lockhart stated that Rev. Mr. Macleod had not received any money for preaching in the Methodist church, and had only preached when requested to do so by the new congregation.

Mr. J. H. Falconer claimed the liberty to speak not as a privilege, but as a right; but the Moderator called him to order, telling him plainly that he should not in any way reflect upon the Presbytery.

Mr. Falconer then claimed as a representative of the new congregation that the remonstrance before the service had been held was addressed to the congregation, but it was at once shown that such was not the case.

Mr. Falconer next stated that Rev. Mr. Macleod had nothing to do with the movement to start the new congregation, and nothing to do with the circulars which were issued.

Rev. D. A. Macrae—Who was the chairman of the meeting on September 4, when that circular was issued—the circular with which you say Mr. Macleod had nothing to do?

Mr. Falconer, after consultation with Dr. Crompton, declined to answer.

Rev. D. A. Macrae—You denied this afternoon that he had any connection with it?

Mr. Falconer—Nothing to do with the printing of it.

Rev. D. A. Macrae—"What a quibble!" He continued that Mr. Falconer had made this statement before a committee yesterday.

Mr. Falconer—No, no.

Rev. D. A. Macrae—But I say yes.

Mr. Bethune rose to a point of order. Mr. Falconer had no status before the Presbytery.

Rev. D. A. Macrae asked Mr. Falconer to retract his denial, and Mr. Falconer did so at the request of the Moderator.

Rev. Mr. Macleod stated that he had been chairman of the meeting.

Rev. D. A. Macrae—Were you not behind that motion?

Rev. Mr. Macleod—No, I was not behind it. I am never behind anything. I was before it—in front of it.

The resolution was read and carried unanimously. In it the Presbytery declares that the action of Rev. Mr. Macleod was irregular and calculated to bring the laws of the church into disrepute and impair the interests of the church in the city, and Mr. Macleod is enjoined to discontinue all public services in connection with the movement of the petitioners until the Presbytery has issued the case.

Rev. Mr. Macleod announced that he would appeal to the Synod, and a committee consisting of Rev. D. A. Macrae, Alexander Shaw and Young, was appointed to prepare an answer to the appeal.

The question was asked, "What effect will Mr. Macleod's appeal have on the matter?"

Rev. Dr. Robertson replied that the case of the petitioners would be on its own merits. But as to Mr. Macleod, if he appealed, and the Presbytery was sustained, then the Presbytery could deal out what punishment it saw fit. If Mr. Macleod appealed, and the new congregation were formed, other supply would have to be obtained, as no minister under censure could perform the functions of the church.

Rev. Mr. Macleod—You are not dealing with my case, but the consequences of it.

The next matter taken up was the issuance by Mr. Macleod of certificates of demission to members of St. Andrew's church after he had sent in his resignation, and had ceased to conduct the public services of the church.

This was, however, laid over until 10 o'clock this morning.

The Presbytery of Victoria met again yesterday morning, at 10 o'clock, and proceeded at once to business, the session having been opened with Bible reading and prayer. The same members were present as on Thursday.

Rev. D. A. Macrae, rising to a question of privilege, referred to a statement he had made on Thursday that Rev. Mr. Macleod was endeavoring to create the impression that he was being persecuted in Victoria. He (Mr. Macrae) had then stated that Mr. Macleod had written a letter in which he made the accusation, and Mr. Macleod denied having done so. He had now in his hands one of the letters he had referred to, and would read it to the court, in order to show that he had stated exactly what was correct.

Rev. Mr. Macleod—To whom is that letter addressed?

Rev. D. A. Macrae—To Mr. Alexander Shaw.

Rev. Mr. Macleod did not think this letter should be read, as it was a private communication written in confidence to a man he thought was his friend.

Rev. D. A. Macrae—When the question came up I was expressing regret that the impression should have gone abroad that you thought you were being persecuted, and you claimed you had never given that impression to the public, and were not responsible for it.

Rev. Mr. Macleod—Have I not a right to express my opinion in a private letter? That does not reflect on the court!

Rev. D. A. Macrae—You know what the facts is, Mr. Macleod. You wrote to every member of the Presbytery resident outside the city, and claimed that the Victoria members were prejudiced against you.

Rev. Mr. Macleod protested against this use being made of his private letters. He said: "It shows that there is not a man that one can trust in the whole Presbytery to treat him like an honorable man."

Rev. Mr. Winchester—Will the clerk please take those words down.

Rev. D. A. Macrae—Will you repeat those words.

Rev. Mr. Macleod—I retract what I said, but I must declare it is a most dishonorable thing for any member of this court to produce private letters without my permission.

Rev. Dr. Robertson—This is a letter that must be considered as privileged. It is addressed to a member of this court, and can be properly produced.

Rev. Mr. Macleod—I wrote that letter to Mr. Shaw, thinking he was a friend of mine, and I cannot be called into question for any private opinion I may express to a friend. If I can it is a new lesson for me. The statements in that letter are such as I would never have made in public—they are private and addressed to a friend.

Clerk MacRae—Mr. Macleod at the outset claimed the court was not competent, but I would like to know who are the members most likely to be prejudiced, those who are here in the city or those to whom Mr. Macleod wrote saying that it could be proven that the local members were prejudiced against him. He continued, "And will you say Mr. Macleod that you did not declare after you read our remonstance from the pulpit on Sunday at the old Methodist church that 'they cannot drive me out of Victoria'?"

Rev. Mr. Macleod claimed he had qualified this statement very much. He then apologized for his previous remark, which he said had been made in a burst of burning indignation at so great a liberty being taken as to read at the Presbytery a letter which was private.

Rev. Mr. Winchester—Before you make such a baseless, groundless accusation, such a foul, unwarrantable slander, I hurl back at you your words about burning indignation, for who has cause of complaint greater than ours that you should read from a public pulpit a private remonstrance which we sent to you to endeavor to prevent what would be clearly a violation of church law? Could anything be more outrageous than that you should make such a use of a brotherly, kindly but dignified remonstrance we made to seek to prevent your doing what must injure our cause and our church? And more than that, I have a letter in my hand which you wrote to me from which I quote your words: "This is, of course, a persecution to prevent the formation of the new congregation." Dare you deny that?

Rev. Mr. Macleod—Have I no rights? If Mr. Winchester has any charges to make against me, why should he not formulate them and give me an opportunity of replying to them? It seems that under this question of privilege an attempt is being made to make a further attack on me.

Rev. Mr. Winchester claimed he was at perfect liberty to read this letter to substantiate the statement made by Rev. D. A. Macrae and denied by Rev. Mr. Macleod.

Rev. D. A. Macrae—I want it understood before this Presbytery that any statement I may make and can't prove, I will retract like a man.

The charge against Mr. Macleod that he had issued dismissals from St. Andrew's church after his resignation was in the hands of the Presbytery, and he had ceased to conduct the public services, was then taken up.

Rev. D. A. Macrae stated the case. A number of letters of dismissal were granted to members of St. Andrew's church during the late trouble. Before he had left there he (Mr. Macleod) issued a circular asking those who sympathized with him to come out. Mr. Macleod then preached a farewell sermon and left the church, but for one month more he preached at the theatre and supplied the pulpit of St. Andrew's by another clergyman, and demanded salary for that month and was paid. While preaching at the theatre Mr. Macleod issued fifty-nine dismissals, of which the names of forty-six were on the petition for the new church. This was not Presbyterianism, for the session was given the supervision of these matters and the Presbytery should not tolerate such an assumption of authority by any minister. He would make a motion later on.

Rev. Mr. Macleod—Does the court draw up the resolution before the accused parties are heard? If that is the way you are going to go on it makes no difference what I say.

Rev. D. A. Macrae—This is only a resolution I have drawn up on my own account.

Rev. Dr. Campbell—The court has not moved any resolution.

Rev. Mr. Winchester—When we give you no opportunity of speaking in defence it is time to complain.

After some discussion as to procedure it was decided to hear the motion, which was then presented.

Rev. Mr. Macleod wished leave to speak and was allowed. He claimed that legally he was responsible to the Presbytery for the pastorate of St. Andrew's until September 6, and between August and that time had held two meetings of the session. He acknowledged issuing the certificates which he had then taken down to the session clerk, Mr. Bethune, for signature, but Mr. Bethune refused to sign them. He had nothing to hide in the matter but on the contrary wished to have everything in connection with his conduct made known, so that if any certificates were wrongly issued they could be returned. He could not have brought the matter before the session himself as he had not issued them until the 31st of August. Legally and technically he considered he was pastor of the church when the certificates were issued. He objected to the circular which Mr. Macrae read being referred to, as it was a private matter, and declared he had made no attempt to divide the congregation. The strife was not between himself and the congregation but between certain elements in the congregation who were for and against him. The result of the trouble was that a resolution was passed asking him to resign at once, this step being declared necessary in order to preserve the existence of the church. He recalled the fact that after his return from the East he had offered to remain as pastor of St. Andrew's for whatever salary the revenue would produce after the interest on the debt was paid, but he had then been told that nothing but his immediate resignation would do. The St. Andrew's church people had no doubt expected that he would get out of the city, but he had not gone, as there were a large number of people who wanted to enjoy, and were now enjoying, his ministry. If the certificates, however, were wrongfully granted, they could be recalled, and fresh application would have to be made. But as to his legal, technical position, there was no doubt, no matter what might be said of the unwise course in granting the dismissals.

Rev. Dr. Campbell—We all admit it is the duty of the session to grant certificates to members leaving the congregation. It is provided that, between meetings of the session, the Moderator may grant certificates to members in good standing, but I don't think anyone can say that this was intended to authorize the issuance, in this way, of certificates by the wholesale. If this procedure were tolerated it would be possible to deplete and ruin any congregation. A principle is here at stake, and if the Presbytery does not take cognizance of it a blow will be struck at the very foundation of our church organization.

Clerk MacRae advised the session of St. Andrew's church to refer the matter of the certificates to the Presbytery for a decision.

Rev. Dr. Robertson suggested that while the Presbytery should condemn the conduct of Mr. Macleod, steps should at the same time be taken to ratify the certificates so that they might be valid. He thought that after Mr. Macleod had sent in his resignation he should have done nothing but the most formal matters, for he was the custodian of the interests of the congregation, and by committing such an error of judgment was likely to create a very bad impression. The whole matter was painful in the extreme, but at the same time the interests of the congregations and of Presbyterianism must be conserved.

Clerk MacRae—What can we do with these certificates? I do not say that it is so, but it has been mooted that some of the parties who received these certificates never asked for them.

Rev. D. A. Macrae—What we want to do is to strongly disapprove the conduct of Mr. Macleod, but we don't want to affect the validity of those certificates which have been issued.

The resolution was then amended as follows and was carried unanimously:

Moved by Rev. D. A. Macrae, seconded by Mr. A. Shaw, "That inasmuch as Mr. Macleod ceased to conduct the public services in connection with St. Andrew's church, Victoria, on and after the last Sabbath of July last, although his resignation of the pastorate was not dealt with or accepted by Presbytery till the 6th of September current, and was conducting public services in other buildings in this city during August and on the first Sabbath in September; that inasmuch as St. Andrew's congregation was struggling with a heavy debt, contracted in building a church during the pastorate of Mr. Macleod, and needed every encouragement to enable it to meet pressing financial obligations; that inasmuch as Mr. Macleod issued certificates of dispensation to the number of 59, or about one-sixth of the members in full communion with St. Andrew's congregation between the 1st day of August and the 4th day of September without consulting the session or receiving its sanction afterwards; that inasmuch as the disjunction of so large a number of communicants was calculated to diminish the ability of the congregation to meet its indebtedness and otherwise impair its usefulness; that inasmuch as about forty-six of the persons so disjoined have their names appended to a petition now lying on the table of the Presbytery asking the Presbytery to organize the petitioners into a congregation, with Mr. Macleod as pastor—the Presbytery is constrained to record its decided disapproval of Mr. Macleod's conduct in the premises in issuing these certificates without consulting the session and securing its approval at the time or at some subsequent date. The Presbytery would recommend the session, however, to confirm these certificates, unless it should appear that any of them were issued in error."

Rev. Mr. Macleod announced that he would appeal against this decision to the Synod.

A committee, consisting of Rev. Dr. Campbell, Rev. D. A. Macrae, Mr. J. T. Bethune and Clerk MacRae was appointed to reply to the appeal.

The meeting was then brought to a close with prayer.

The following is the full text of the motion passed on Thursday. It is published by request of members of the Presbytery:

Moved by Rev. D. A. Macrae, seconded by Rev. Dr. Campbell, "Whereas a petition was presented to the Presbytery of Victoria at its meeting at Nanaimo on the 6th ultimo, signed by W. A. Lorimer and others, asking for the organization of a new congregation in Victoria; whereas the Presbytery after receiving the petition, appointed a committee to meet with the petitioners on the 20th day of September, prox., and obtain all the necessary information and also agreed to cite and did cite the congregations of St. Andrew's, First church and St. Paul's church, Victoria, to appear for their interests at such meeting, as the laws of the church provide; whereas the Presbytery in order that the case might be issued as speedily as possible agreed to hold an adjourned meeting in Victoria on the first Wednesday of October to receive the report of the committee, hear all parties, and dispose of the petition; whereas it is evidently contrary to the law of the church as laid down in section 6, page 10, of the Rules and Forms of Procedure adopted by the General Assembly of 1889 to conduct any regular religious services in such cases till the Presbytery has decided to grant organization and has provided for such services; whereas Mr. P. McF. Macleod did hold services on the 10th and 17th of September, forenoon and evening, in the old Methodist church, corner of Broad street and Pandora avenue, before the committee had reported, before parties had been afforded any opportunity of being heard and before the Presbytery had determined to grant or refuse the organization solicited. The Presbytery hereby declares said action of Mr. Macleod irregular, calculated to bring the laws of the Church into disrepute and impair the interests of the churches in the city, and the Presbytery hereby enjoins Mr. Macleod to discontinue all public service in connection with the movement of the petitioners until the Presbytery has issued the case."

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The New York Stock Exchange Again Dull, Speculation Closing Weak.

Bradstreet's and Dun's Weekly Review on General Business Matters.

NEW YORK, Sept. 22.—The stock market was extremely dull again to-day, and the dealings were of a purely professional character. In the early business Louisville and Nashville attracted attention because of the wide difference between cash and regular sales. The stock opened at 56⅝ cash, while the first sale in the regular way was at 55. Later the stock rose to 56¼ regular, and reached to 55. The general market opened firm; but the rise was checked by a heavy selling movement in National Lead, which dropped 4 for common, to 75½, and 2⅝ for preferred, to 68⅝. The other industrials yielded to some extent in sympathy with lead, but subsequently improved. Speculation left off rather weak in tone. The transactions aggregated 131,731 shares. Closing bids: Canada Southern, 47½; Canadian Pacific, 75; Central Pacific, 20; C. C. & St. L., 24; Wells Fargo, 130; Great Northern, preferred, 110; Lake Shore, 121; Missouri Pacific, 26; New York Central, 102; North American, 5½; Northern Pacific, 7⅞; Northern Pacific, preferred, 23¾; Northwestern, 99½; Oregon Navigation, 43; Pacific Mail, 14; Southern Pacific, 18; Union Pacific, 22¾; Western Union Telegraph, 81⅞; Bar Silver, 73¾. Money on call, 3 @ 4.

Bradstreet's to-morrow will say the exports of wheat (flour included as wheat) continue very heavy, being 40,727,000 bushels for the week ending September 21, against an average of 5,000,000 bushels weekly since July 1 last; 3,700,000 bushels in the third week of September, 1892. The bank clearings continue to emphasize the restricted volume of general trade, being an increase of less than one per cent. over the week before, but a decrease of 33 per cent. as compared with the like week a year ago. A special examination of the records of all the banks suspended in the United States (South Dakota excluded, because of the State law preventing the gathering of such data) from January to August 31, 1893, shows a total of 149 suspended banks (some of which have resumed) owing $166,000,000 and having $175,000,000 assets. Toronto advices report trade less active but fair, with leading staples in firm demand. At Montreal, dry goods, hardware and sugar were exceptionally active. Nova Scotia reports are favorable, and Halifax advices are that trade is about normal. The bank clearings at Hamilton, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax aggregate $18,069,000 this week, being 1 per cent less than last week and 2 per cent. less than in the same week a year ago. There are 47 business failures reported from the Canadian Dominion this week against 36 last week, 27 in the same week a year ago and 34 two years ago.

R. G. Dun & Co. in their weekly review say: The industries are giving strong proof that the consumption of goods was not as much arrested as many feared when the collapse of trade and manufactures came. While manufacturers show extreme caution and decline to start work without orders, piling up goods at their own risk, the improved financial conditions enable them to accept many orders which would have been refused weeks ago, and actual orders are rendered frequent by the exhaustion of retail supplies in many directions. The number of works resuming this week has been at least fifty-eight wholly and twenty-four in part, against only fifteen concerns mentioned as having closed and eight reducing their force. The gain has been greatest in cotton where some goods touch the lowest prices ever known. The failures for the week number only 319 in the United States, against 188 last year. Only five failures were for over $100,000 each. The liabilities in the failures for the second week in September were but $3,043,129, against $5,319,094 the first week

MR. HOLMES EXPLAINS.

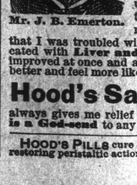
TO THE EDITOR.—I see a paragraph in Tuesday's issue of your paper, in which it is stated that I have acknowledged to having ridden in freight trains. This is a mistake as the only lifts that I took during my journey across the continent were on head cars. EDWARD HOLMES.

Harrison Hot Springs, Sept. 21.

THE W. C. T. U. regular weekly meeting was held as usual yesterday, when among other things the standing committee's report on the proposed sale of work was read, stating that the business in connection therewith was progressing very satisfactorily. A report from the Y. W. C. T. U. was also read, stating that they had already enrolled twenty members in their new organization.

That Tired Feeling

The marked benefit which people overcome by That Tired Feeling derive from Hood's Sarsaparilla, conclusively proves that this medicine "makes the weak strong." J. B. Emerton, a well known merchant of Auburn, Maine, says: "About five years ago I began to suffer with very severe **pain in my Stomach**, gradually growing worse. I took Hood's Sarsaparilla, being convinced that I was troubled with **Dyspepsia** complicated with **Liver and Kidney** troubles. I improved at once and am certainly very much better and feel more like working.



Mr. J. B. Emerton.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

always gives me relief and great comfort. **It is a God-send** to any one suffering as I did."

HOOD'S PILLS cure Habitual Constipation by restoring peristaltic action of the alimentary canal.