

organic union between our Missions and those of the Canadian Methodists in Japan. Among the reasons which influence them are the following:

1. The proposed union is not a common union of all the Methodist bodies of Japan, but of two only, leaving three other bodies outside of the movement. Under such circumstances there is great danger of making permanent existing divisions instead of healing them.

2. The proposal is very immature in its terms, and leaves many important questions in doubt. No attempt has been made to form a Church Constitution, and the slight description contained in the word "Episcopal" is believed to be understood in more than one sense by some of the parties interested in the case.

3. A very grave responsibility will rest upon the General Conference in thus authorizing a separation between our Japanese brethren and ourselves, and no such step should be taken until better evidence is furnished of the ability of the infant Church in Japan to construct the framework of such an organization as will be needed.

4. A similar question, at least in some of its phases, will soon confront us in other counties, and a failure, or even a grave error, in Japan at the present time may embarrass, and perhaps seriously delay, the settlement of similar issues in other Mission fields.

5. The proposal for a double membership of the missionaries, as well as the details of the plan for maintaining an organization in Japan in the interest of the Missionary Society, will, it is believed, prove impracticable.

Believing that the General Conference and the Church at large ought to have more light on this very important question, and being profoundly convinced that a premature and imperfect plan like that proposed may defeat the end sought and hinder rather than foster Christian union, the undersigned beg leave to recommend that a Commission of seven persons be appointed to carefully examine the whole subject, and report thereon to the next General Conference.

GEO. S. CHADBOURNE,

W. A. STEPHENS,

W. S. HARRINGTON,

HENRY W. KNIGHT,

G. A. C. ARCHARD,

JOHN B. GREEN,

D. W. THOMAS,

H. J. TALBOTT.

VII.

ACTION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON THE FOREGOING REPORTS.

On the 31st of May, the Reports of the Committee on Missions respecting Union in Japan were taken up. Rev. Dr. Maclay and Rev. J. O. Spencer, of the Japan Mission, were heard in support of the majority report. On motion the minority report was laid on the table, and on further motion the report of the majority was adopted.

After a short debate, it was decided to refer the matter to the Committee on Consultation and Finance of the General Conference.

GENERAL BOARD OF MISSIONS.

BY REV. J. DYKE, WINNIPEG.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the General Board of Missions is, for the Methodism of Canada, an assembly of great interest. This year the interest has been intensified by circumstances of a special

character. The Methodist people have gladdened the hearts of the missionaries and members of the Board by taking a twenty thousand dollar leap towards the line of a quarter of a million for missionary contributions, set by the indefatigable General Secretary two or three years ago.

In addition to this inspiring fact, several new questions, of vital interest to the Church and its wide field of missionary operations, were up for consideration and adjudication; among which, Methodist union in Japan, and the unsatisfactory condition of the Indians on the Pacific Coast, occupied a prominent place. A third feature of interest lay in the fact that Winnipeg, the place where the Board assembled, while one of the youngest cities of the Dominion, is, nevertheless, a city where the fruits of missionary labor have matured more rapidly than in some other parts of the mission field. Its five Methodist churches are all self-sustaining, one of which, Wesley Church, was never on the mission fund, and another of its stations received aid for only one year. To these things must be added the fact that many of the delegates from the east were anxious to see the wonderful province and territories, whose chief cities and towns grow into huge proportions in less than one decade, and whose prairie wheat-fields, rolling ranches, widely-stretching waters, and towering mountains, are just now objects of special interest to the whole Church, and almost for the entire civilized world.

The greater part of the delegates reached Winnipeg on Saturday morning, September the 8th, being met at the depot by the city pastors and a large number of the laity of the churches, who escorted them to homes where genial kindness and liberal hospitality could not easily be surpassed. The services of the Sabbath were attended by large congregations, who listened with intense interest to the grand old story of redemption through our Lord Jesus Christ. All the pulpits of our own churches were occupied by the delegates, supplies being also furnished to several others; besides which a number of the brethren went out to the prominent points along the lines of railway, and ministered to delighted audiences.

The space of the OUTLOOK will not permit anything more than a brief notice of these inspiring services. The Revs. A. Carman, D.D., and George Douglas, LL.D., officiated in Grace Church; the Revs. George Webber, and J. Potts, D.D., of Toronto, preached in Zion Church; the Revs. W. H. Heartz, of Amherst, N.S., and T. G. Williams, of Montreal, officiated in Wesley Church; while the Revs. T. W. Jolliffe, and J. Gundy, Dr. Sutherland, and W. J. Maxwell, ministered to the people in the McDougall and Fort Rouge Churches. On Monday the delegates and visitors busied them-