

# PALM \* BRANCH.

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St. John, N. B., NOVEMBER, 1900.

The 15th annual meeting of the N. B. and P. E. I. Branch was held in Woodstock, N. B., beginning on the morning of Sept. 26th with a consecration service, led by Mrs. S. Howard of Baie Verte. This service gave the keynote to the whole convention, joy in service, and all felt a hallowed, divine influence and realized that it was the best preparation for the work to be done. Indeed, all the devotional services were of this high order.

The roll call was responded to by 62 delegates. Then Miss Scott, superintendent of the Deaconess Home, Toronto, and Miss Burpee, of Woodstock, a candidate for the foreign field, were introduced, and received the Chatauqua salute. Greetings were telegraphed from the N. S. and Nfld. Branch then in session, and responded to. Organizers' work was taken up and satisfactory reports given, showing that good work had been done. Mrs. W. B. Coulthard led in a discussion on "The Model Member." A paper, "The Silent Member," written by Miss Durant of P. E. Island, was read. (Points brought out and emphasized on these two subjects will be found in "Echoes," etc., on page 6.) Corresponding secretary's report showed: Auxiliaries, 85; increase, 3; annual members, 1,661; life members, 91; total, 1,752. Mission Band Corresponding Secretary's report showed 19 new Circles and Bands; total, 69; increase, 11; members, 1,702; increase, 315; raised, \$1,429; increase \$110.10. Treasurer's report: Total amount raised by Auxiliary Circles and Bands, \$5,476.44; increase, \$82.75.

Afternoon session closed early, to allow of a drive tendered the visiting delegates by Mrs. Jas. T. Smith, of Woodstock, a kindness much appreciated. The drive was a delightful one, through the beautiful town, whose river, with its wonderful reflections, lay placidly smiling in the sunshine, and whose foliage was just beginning to take on all the glory of the autumnal tints. Afterward Mrs. Smith, in acknowledgment, received the

Chatauqua salute. The public anniversary meeting in the evening was a success. A fine address of welcome from Mr. Marr, the pastor; greetings from the W. C. T. U., responded to by Mrs. Cliff, of Fredericton; Mrs. C. Fisher, of Fredericton, sang in her own beautiful manner; the president's address was admirable, showing the needs and progress of the work; Rev. Mr. Thomas contributed a solo; the Corresponding Secretary gave her own and Treasurer's report, and showed the small beginning of the work in Woodstock. A male quartet gave great pleasure. Miss Scott's address was much appreciated; she told of the purpose of the Deaconess' Home, of the good done there, and made an appeal to the young women of the church to take up this noble work for God and humanity.

Thursday morning Mrs. Munroe of Tay Auxiliary, a very successful leader, gave a graphic account of the way in which she had educated her Band. This gave rise to an animated discussion of ways and means, in which many took part. (It is hoped that Mrs. Munroe will some day yield to our request and give Palm Branch the benefit of her excellent methods.) We may here say that the Chatham Band was the happy winner of the beautiful Branch Banner. Miss J. Veasey, of St. Stephen, gave an account of our work and workers in China, advocating the use of maps. Other papers read were: One by Miss Perley, of Fredericton, on "The Advantages of a Missionary Education;" one by Miss Trueman, of Sackville, "The Best Possible Use to Make of the Missionary Review," and one by Mrs. R. Morton Smith, of St. John, "The Origin and Progress of the Woman's Missionary Society." It was voted that this paper be published, in some way. Mrs. Bogart, of St. John, was called on for a solo, and sang "Scatter Seeds of Kindness," and all joined in the chorus, a pleasant break in the monotony of work. Miss Scott gave a most delightful talk to the delegates on the Training School in connection with the Home and the Fresh Air Outings for the children. A delicious repast was served in the schoolroom, in which not only guests but hosts and hostesses participated, and a very pleasant social hour was spent. Afterward, Miss Palmer gave an instructive talk on Our Missions and Missionaries, illustrated with lime light views, to a very large and appreciative audience.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Mrs. J. D. Chipman; 1st Vice-President, Mrs. T. D. Hart; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. H. Sprague; 3rd Vice-President, Mrs. Dr. Johnson; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Palmer; Mission Band Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. W. B. Coulthard; Recording Secretary, Miss H. Stewart; Treasurer, Mrs. S. E. Reid; Auditor, Mrs. Strong; Delegates to Board, Mrs. Reid and Mrs. Coulthard; Alternates, Mrs. W. Lawson and Mrs. Sherard; Representative to Conference, Mrs. Lawson. Too much cannot be said of the hospitality of the good people of Woodstock, who were so cordial in the welcome to their homes, and who did so much in various ways to make our short stay among them one long to be remembered with genuine pleasure and gratitude.