

ties, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man—unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that our labour is not in vain in the Lord.

The Assembly was duly constituted by the retiring Moderator, who, after the calling of the roll, desired to convey his heartfelt thanks for the honour conferred in his appointment. Dr. Cochrane nominated Principal Grant for the Moderatorship, seconded by Dr. Ure. Rev. George Benson proposed Dr. Laing, Rev. George Chrystal seconded Dr. Laing's nomination.

Principal Grant was elected Moderator, and at the suggestion of Mr. Benson the appointment was made unanimous.

Principal MacVicar moved the vote of thanks to Dr. McMullen for the admirable manner in which he discharged the duties of his office and for the excellent sermon delivered. The motion was seconded by Dr. Laing, and carried unanimously. After routine business the first Session of the Assembly closed.

## SECOND DAY.

The meeting on Thursday morning was occupied with devotional exercises after which the Moderator and Rev. Dr. Laing presented the report of the committee on Book of Forms. The proposed changes have been discussed and reported upon by Presbyteries several times, and the matter has been before the various Courts of the Church for several years. The changes proposed by the committee to be embodied in the Book of Forms may be summarised as follows. The appointment of a commission of the Assembly to attend to emergent business arising between two Assemblies. Change in the regulation for licensing students, simplifying it, and adopting it to the present practice of the Church. Respecting the reception of ministers—providing for giving a call to professors of theology or men employed by special appointment in some department of the work of the Church in a Church of the same doctrine, government and discipline as this Church. Providing for the supervision of a minister who is removed from the Presbytery in which he had a charge, to reside within the bounds of another Presbytery. He is required to take a certificate of disjunction from the Presbytery he leaves and to lodge it with the Presbytery within whose bounds he is to be domiciled. Should an offence be alleged before such certificate has been lodged, the Presbytery within whose bounds he resides shall, after notifying the Presbytery within whose bounds he removes, have power to deal with the case. Other ministers without charge and licentiates are amenable to the Presbyteries within whose bounds the offence is alleged to have been committed. Providing for sending notices to all Presbyteries in case of suspension and deposition from the ministry. The recommendations of the Committee are as follows.

That the Book of Forms be approved and adopted as a useful guide for members, office bearers and the courts of the Church in the transaction of ecclesiastical business.

That the book be printed, and that Rev. Dr. Laing, Rev. Dr. Reid and Mr. W. B. McMurrich be a committee with power to add to their numbers, instructed to consider and determine all matters of detail, to secure the copyright and make all necessary arrangements for publishing the book.

As to the appointment of a commission, he said that under the rule proposed it would be largely on the lines of similar bodies in the Old Country. The regulations for licensing students had been wholly rewritten. It showed some particulars in which it would simplify and shorten the practice.

The afternoon session was taken up with business of a preliminary nature. The names of applicants for license, and status in theological study were read; the names of those requesting leave to retire from the active duties of the ministry, and also the names of those who from other Churches are applying to be received into the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

It was announced that President Forest of Dalhousie College was appointed to preach before the Assembly in the morning, and the Rev. James Ross, B.D. in the evening. The Lord's Supper was to be observed in Sabbath afternoon at four o'clock, at which the Moderator, Clerks of Assembly and the Pastor of St. Andrew's Church are to assist.

The various overtures relating to Romish aggression, the Jesuit Incorporation and endowment were read and Dr. Campbell of Montreal spoke in support of that from his Presbytery and Synod when the hour agreed on for adjournment arrived.

The members and their friends then repaired to the grounds of Government House where they were received by Lieut. Governor Campbell and the Hon. Oliver Mowat.

In the evening Rev. D. J. Macdonnell moved that a deputation be appointed to convey the fraternal regards of the Assembly to the Church of England Synod and the Methodist Conference both in session at this time in Toronto. The deputies appointed were: Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, Principal Caven; President Forrest, Halifax; Dr. Mowat, Kingston; Prof. Scrimger, Montreal; Rev. P. McF. McLeod, Victoria, B.C.; Hon. Chief Justice Taylor, Manitoba; Hon. Justice McLennan, Hon. David Laird, James Croil, Montreal, W. E. Ro-burgh and W. G. McMurrich.

## HOME MISSIONS.

The Rev. Mr. McMillan presented the report for the eastern section in a brief but pointed address. He said that they had had a very successful year. They had been enabled to overtake the work much more effectually than ever before. The number of congregations had been increased by four during the year. One of the catechists under the care of the Presbytery of Halifax, Mr. J. W. McKenzie, had continued his work on the Labrador Coast through the winter. He is supported by the missionary society of the Presbyterian College, Halifax. He found much destitution prevailing on the coast and desired to be left at his work for the winter and coming summer. He writes of success attending his labours—of instruction received with joy and fruits meet for repentance borne by converts. For many years a society of the Congregationalist Church had missionaries stationed on this coast, but of late they have been withdrawn. The Society desired your committee to purchase their mission premises and take up their work. After careful consideration, however, the answer was returned that this committee does not see its way clear to pursue the mission in that locality. In view of the great need of our field, particularly in New Brunswick, where the cause has begun to feel the reviving touch of better methods and more constant supply which demands the outlay of much money, and especially in view of the immense territory of the great North-West, which appeals to us as well as to the western portion of the Church for evangelization, the Committee felt shut up to a declination of the proposal. There had been a considerable increase in the contributions for Home Mission work, and they had been aided by donations from the Irish Presbyterian Church and the Free Church of Scotland. The report says:

Your Committee, however, while urging to increased giving, have great pleasure in noting the steady advance in liberality to this scheme during the past years. In 1885-86 the receipts were \$4,350.54; in 1886-87, \$5,589.75; in 1887-8, \$6,679.92; and in 1888-9, \$8,113.85. A corresponding increase of labour was expended on our fields. In 1887-88 we employed forty-one catechists, last year we had forty-three, while this year we have forty-nine, as will be seen in the list appended. Year by year Presbyteries are striving to give more and more regular supply to their mission stations. This of course increases their demands on the fund, but at the same time it builds up the Church. Our people by their noble

response to our call for means show that this is what they desire, and we have every confidence that they will meet with pleasure all the demands that growing opportunities, in the different Presbyteries, make upon them.

Rev. George Bruce had also a favourable report to present from the Committee on Supplements, Eastern Section.

At the meeting of Synod in September, the committee made as usual a full statement of the conditions and needs of the Fund. That court cordially endorsed the proposal to raise \$8,000 for the year ending 31st March, and allocated this amount among the several Presbyteries, with instructions to congregations to endeavour to complete their collections at latest before the end of April.

The total receipts amounted to \$7,966.50. The Fund had stimulated the liberality of the various congregations, several of them formally requiring aid were now self-supporting, and they would by means of it be able to extend their operations. They had arrived at the conclusion that \$8,000 would be about the normal condition of their requirements in the Maritime Provinces.

The Rev. Mr. Morrison, seconded by Rev. Mr. Henry, moved that the General Assembly, having heard the reports of the Home Mission Committee and the Augmentation Committee of the eastern section, receives the same, records its gratitude to God for his abundant blessing on the labours of the committees, thanks the Presbyterian Church of Ireland and the Free Church of Scotland for their financial aid, appreciates the liberality of the people in meeting increased demands of the Home Mission Fund, and in continuing to sustain in efficiency the Augmentation Fund, and urges upon them a fuller consideration of the claims of the great Home Mission Fund in the North-West of the Dominion, to which they have begun to contribute. The Assembly also sanctions the grants passed by the Augmentation Committee, authorizes it to deal, in terms of the scheme with the deferred application; and, should the Synod of the Maritime Provinces give its consent, at its discretion, either to reduce the grants to congregations that have not for years made any increase in their contributions to the salaries of their ministers, or pay the surplus fund at the end of the year *pro rata*, according to the year's receipts. We enjoin Presbyteries to use the utmost diligence to stir up all supplemented congregations to increase, according to their ability, their proportion of ministerial salary, so as to relieve the fund as much as possible and prevent its being regarded as a perpetual endowment.

The Assembly further thanks the committee for their diligence in the discharge of their work; and especially tenders to Rev. E. A. McCurdy, the Convener of the Augmentation Committee, who is now retiring from that position, its grateful acknowledgements of the value of his wise and energetic services on behalf of the scheme, to which in a large measure is to be attributed its signal success.

The Rev. Dr. Cochrane in a graceful and eloquent speech presented the report for the Western Committee. The Home Mission Committee, in presenting the annual record of their labours in this important department of Church work, desire to acknowledge the goodness of God in the large measure of success that has attended their labours, and the support they continue to receive from many of the members and congregations of the Church. The financial statement again shows a deficit in both Funds. Had the committee granted all the applications made from necessitous fields, the deficit would have been greater. They regret that seeming lack of interest and small contributions from many wealthy churches, prevent them going forward as they desire in the prosecution of a scheme so largely blessed in bygone years. The health of the missionaries has been good, and they have been enabled to enter many districts, preaching and administering ordinances, where no missionary has ever been before. What the Church owes to her noble band of Home Missionaries in far distant fields, who labour under great difficulties, and suffer at times severe privation, cannot be understood. The mere record of their names and the stations occupied, and the miles traversed in going between, but feebly tells the story of their lives. In the North-West and British Columbia our work goes on prosperously, and its more rapid extension is urgently demanded, in view of the large increase of population that emigration from the Old World to the New is making month after month. In addition to the regular mission work, the Crofter settlements in the North-West, and the Icelandic Missions in Winnipeg and other places, have engaged the attention of the Committee, and received aid as far as the funds permitted. In the report submitted there will be found notes of the progress of Home Missions and Augmentation, in the different Presbyteries of the Church, certain charges recommended by the Committee, and a detailed statement of the state of both Funds. The reports of the Students' Missionary Societies and the Lumberman's Mission are also presented, in a condensed form. In the appendix, complete statistics of all the mission stations and augmented congregations are given, and the names of all the missionaries, Probationers and catechists employed under the direction of the Committee.

The total amount given for Home Missions was \$103,000. The giving had been largely in advance of former years, and much work had been done. Still, it was not what it should be, considering the wealth and resources of the Church. What would have been the condition of affairs in the North-West, but for the good work which has been done by this and other Churches? The claims of the scattered Presbyterians in the Province of Quebec, required our help. The work of the Gospel is more effective than all other means for stopping Romish aggression. The Presbyteries of Lanark and Renfrew, and Toronto are doing well. He paid a fine tribute to Dr. Robertson, for what he had accomplished in the North-West. After comparing the rates of giving in some congregations, and urging on ministers and elders greater zeal and diligence in stirring up a more liberal and systematic giving for the cause of Home Missions. Dr. Cochrane concluded by moving the adoption of the report.

Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, in a condensed, but racy and telling speech, presented the report of the Committee on Augmentation, Western section. At the beginning of last year, (1st April, 1888) there were 136 aid-receiving charges on the list, the whole number receiving grants during the year was 145; the number at present on the list is 130.

The receipts from congregational contributions and donations during the past year have been \$22,612; grants to Presbyteries and general expenses have amounted to \$25,394, the deficit a year ago was \$986; the total deficit is now \$3,768. This result is unmistakably disappointing. The demands on the fund for the year upon which we have entered will be about the same as for the past year, and a considerable increase in the contributions sent from many congregations will be required if the present scale of grants is to be maintained.

He accounted for the deficit by instancing some of the misconceptions of some in regard to the aims and necessity of the fund, by the miscellaneous and nondescript organizations that called for financial support, and by the fact that it had been a year of depression. There are some Presbyteries that had no mission fields of their own, and they did not rightly understand the needs of those who had a wide field. He concluded in a hopeful strain, that in a short time the claims of this fund would be better understood, and would receive a larger and more generous support.

The Rev. Dr. Bryson, Huntsville, Alabama, representing the Southern Presbyterian Assembly in the United States, was then called upon for an address. The visitor was received with loud applause. Dr. Bryson, who is a very effective speaker, thanked the Assembly for the hearty reception which they had tendered to him. He was pleased to note the earnestness with which the members of the Assembly entered into their work. He referred to the work of the Foreign Mission Committee, and stated that the Presbyterians of the South were working on the same lines. It was the duty of the Presbyterian Church to follow immigration to their great work in the West. The Presbyterians of the South had, to a certain extent,

missed their chance in this respect. They had not followed immigration as they should have done. The result was that many people in the United States who had been brought up in the good old Presbyterian faith, had become Methodists and Baptists. There are great forces coming from the European Continent, that are in a measure hostile and injurious. The only power with which to meet these forces is the Gospel. He then referred at some length to the race problem of the South, and stated the only way to unite the race differences of the South was to bring the coloured people to the knowledge of the Heavenly Father. In this way they would be brought into the brotherhood—the brotherhood of man. The reverend doctor, who is a typical Southerner, both in appearance and speech, was listened to during his address with marked and appreciative attention.

In bringing the proceedings of the evening to a close, the Moderator said they were face to face with a crisis. They had before them work in the North-West for the next five years. If it were not done, the opportunity would be lost. The Home Mission and Augmentation Funds were exhausted. They had only to understand these facts to know their position. The work would be done by their people, who in the last fourteen years had quadrupled their contributions.

## THIRD DAY.

The Assembly having been opened with devotional exercises Dr. Warden urged the necessity for more thorough and systematic efforts in sustaining the Home Mission operations of the Church, and concluded a brief address by proposing the following motion:

The General Assembly expresses its devout gratitude to the Great Head of the Church for the large measure of success vouchsafed in the prosecution of the missionary work under the care of the Western section of the Assembly's Home Mission Committee, and its subordinate Committee on Augmentation; records its thanks to the Church of Scotland, the Free Church of Scotland, the Presbyterian Church of Ireland and especially to the students of the Free Church College, Glasgow, for the generous aid given during the year; approves of the form of commission for missionaries, as submitted in the report, expresses regret that the receipts for Home Missions and Augmentation have been insufficient to meet the expenditure of the year, so that there is now a deficit of \$745 for Home Missions and of \$3,768 for Augmentation, and realizing the urgent necessity of strengthening this latter fund, which has proved of such incalculable benefit to the Church, earnestly commends this scheme anew to the confidence and liberality of the congregations and instructs the committee to visit by deputies the several Presbyteries during the ensuing fall and winter, with a view to largely increased contributions on behalf of both the Home Mission and Augmentation Funds, and also with a view to organizing Women's Home Missionary Societies in the several Presbyteries and congregations of the Church.

Dr. Robertson, Superintendent of Missions in the North West, followed up the line of argument and illustration employed by Dr. Warden. He spoke of the urgent need of well sustained missionary efforts in the North-West. Such effort was more needed now than ever. Never since 1882 had there been such an influx of emigrants in that vast region as was taking place now. Canadians make excellent immigrants, as do also those who come from the older lands.

The European Churches are deeply interested in the populations of Eastern lands, but unless our Church and the other Canadian Churches plant the Gospel in the field that is within our borders, who else will do it? The increase in the Presbyterian Church in the North-West has been in a larger ratio than that of any other. The time is not far distant when the Church in the North-West will be self-supporting. The increase has been most marked. When he first reported to the Assembly the number of members was 1,335, now it is 7,677. The rate of contribution is higher than in any other part of the Church being at the rate of \$19.17 per member. The deficits result largely from the fact that people generally do not know sufficiently the necessities and importance of the case. The credit for the great work accomplished is mainly due to the self-denying men who labour so devotedly in the North-West.

At this stage the Moderator requested the Rev. Dr. Ure and the Rev. G. M. Milligan to engage in prayer.

Dr. Reid referred to the great variations in rate of giving in different Presbyteries and congregations.

Mr. Hamilton, of Collingwood, was glad to hear that the Presbytery of Paris had undertaken to support a missionary in the North-West. Personally he had adopted the principle of systematic benevolence.

Principal King was delighted with the encouraging character of the reports presented. Much progress had been made during the last few years. He was not sure but that it was a good thing for a church to have sometimes the spur of reported deficits. Under cover of systematic giving injury might occasionally be done to some good cause. It might foster the theory that a part is the Lord's and the rest the property of the individual. He recognized that his whole income was the Lord's and had to be spent in His service in the ways he judged best. Dr. King strongly urged the widening of the scope of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society so as to include Home Missions. He considered it was our duty to plant the Gospel in every part of our land.

Rev. D. J. Macdonnell in a few words moved, seconded by Dr. Cochrane the following as a substitute for the last clause of Dr. Warden's motion: In order to secure the co-operation of the women of the Church in Home Mission work, the General Assembly instructs the committee instead of taking action in the direction of forming Woman's Home Mission Societies, as sanctioned by a previous General Assembly, to confer with the Foreign Mission Committee of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society with a view of widening the basis of said Society, so as to include Home Missions in its operation.

Rev. P. McF. McLeod, after speaking in glowing terms of British Columbia, expressed the desire that as he might be considered a tender-foot, the brethren from the Pacific Slope should speak of the field there. It was a country with great capabilities. He was followed by Rev. T. G. Thomson, Vancouver, and the Rev. D. McRae, Victoria, who spoke of the peculiarities and requirements of the field, the great success that has attended the work there, and expressed great confidence in its future.

Mr. James Croil, expressed his satisfaction at the encouraging nature of the reports. He was not in sympathy with individual congregations sending out particular missionaries to particular fields. The committees could be trusted. They were in a position to estimate the adaptations of men and the special requirements of every part of the field. He thought commissioners to the Assembly ought to give the fullest information possible to the people, and the results would be most satisfying.

Mr. John Charlton, M.P., spoke of the great importance and the large capabilities of the North-West. If we are to mould aright the destinies of what will become the great centre if this is to be a prosperous nation we must plant our institutions there. The wealthy men throughout the Church could do much if they only realized the importance of the country and its needs. He suggested that Dr. Robertson should take up collections and send round subscriptions when he addressed meetings on behalf of the North-West.

Dr. Cochrane briefly and forcibly seconded Mr. Macdonnell's amendment.

Dr. Kellogg did not think the proposal made by Mr. Macdonnell was the wisest thing to do in the circumstances. It would be strongly resented by many members of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. He detailed the experiments made in the American Church and the results had not been satisfactory.

Rev. G. M. Milligan spoke in similar strain. The work was one and it would be injudicious to take away the motive which animated the women to work for women. Why not organize for all the Schemes of the Church?