

\$294; Huron, \$169; Maitland, \$137; Bruce, \$105. There is room for reform here. In the civil service better provision was made for the superannuated than our Church is at present making. Contributions might be doubled. He concluded by moving that the overture be adopted and forwarded to the General Assembly with strong recommendation.

Rev. R. J. Laidlaw, Hamilton, was glad that such a memorial was before the Court. When proper provision is made for the transport, equipment, maintenance and care of the wounded and dying who go to fight our battles, we ought surely to make suitable provision for those in the service of the Captain of our salvation.

Rev. J. Gordon, Niagara Falls, spoke in support of placing the fund in a more satisfactory condition, because it relieves the minds of ministers and congregations. He suggested that the best means of bringing the claims of the fund before the people would be by lay agency.

Dr. Macdonald, Hamilton, thought that the overture should be transmitted with the strongest possible recommendation of the Synod. A good many laymen have very strong feelings on the subject. This fund has too little attention bestowed upon it. Some of the difficulties of the fund were occasioned because it was not known whether it was a Church Scheme. It should be a Church Scheme, and mainly managed by those who have no beneficiary interest in the fund.

The motion was agreed to and Rev. J. A. Murray, Dr. Macdonald, and John Charlton, M.P., were appointed to support the overture before the General Assembly.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

An overture from the Presbytery of Paris, on the right of presbyteries to nominate the Moderator of the General Assembly, was read.

Rev. W. T. McMullen, Woodstock, spoke vigorously in support of the overture.

Dr. Beattie also spoke in favour of the overture.

Dr. Cochrane, as the only member of the College of Moderators present in Synod, remarked that so far as he was concerned he should be exceedingly glad to have such a responsibility in the Presbyteries instead of resting with previous Moderators.

After discussion it was unanimously agreed to adopt the overture of the Presbytery of Paris and transmit it to the General Assembly, and Revs. W. T. McMullen and D. H. Fletcher were appointed to support it.

An overture by Rev. J. Laidlaw, relating to the supply of vacancies, was then taken up for consideration. Mr. Laidlaw then proceeded to explain the nature and purpose of the proposed Scheme, which in substance appeared in these pages.

The Rev. W. S. Ball seconded the motion, which was carried.

An overture from the Presbytery of Hamilton proposed the advisability of establishing a system by means of which elders shall be appointed to serve for a term of not more than five years, and at the end of that time be eligible for re-election.

Rev. S. Lyle, Hamilton, in speaking in support of the overture, believed that the dignity of the eldership was higher than that generally entertained. Men are willing enough to take their place on the board of management, but many are unwilling to enter the eldership. Why? They hesitate to take an office for life, uncertain as to the people's appreciation of the elder's services. The liberty of the church would best be secured by a time service, and it would be an easier method of disposing of an elder whose unfitness has become apparent. The early Presbyterian and Continental Churches retain what he contended was the proper method. Our present system is the innovation, and not the proposal now made. He did not mean anything revolutionary, he only desired a thorough discussion of the subject.

Messrs. James Laird, Forest, and Rev. Alexander Sutherland, Ripley, opposed the proposed change.

Rev. Dr. Cochrane moved that the overture be transmitted *simpliciter* to the Assembly. Agreed. Mr. R. J. Laidlaw and Mr. George Rutherford were appointed to support it.

The committee's report on Temperance was presented by the Rev. A. McLean, Blyth. It contained the following recommendations, which were adopted.

1. In places where the Scott Act has been carried Presbyteries, Sessions, members and adherents, in their corporate and individual capacities, ought to co-operate in securing its thorough enforcement. 2. Wherever the Act is to be submitted, Presbyteries, Sessions, members and adherents should give their cordial support in favour of the Act. 3. Approve of any steps taken by the Minister of Education to introduce temperance treatises on the physiological effects of alcohol into the Public Schools.

The following applications for license of students were granted:—Hamilton, W. A. Dunn, J. S. Hardie, D. McColl, W. G. Hendrie; Chatham, W. M. Fleming; London, R. McNair, James Hamilton; Bruce, J. A. Jaffray.

Rev. W. S. Ball moved that the Synod is of opinion that chaplains should be appointed to attend to the spiritual welfare of our forces now in the field, as is always done in the case of British forces in garrison and in the field; that the ministers of this Synod are quite ready to bear their part in the discharge of the

arduous duties in connection with this work; that this Synod memorialize the Government in terms of this resolution.

Rev. J. Gordon supported the proposal as right, patriotic and Christian.

Revs. W. T. McMullen, Chrystal, and J. A. Murray discussed the proposal. The latter gentleman suggested that there should be co-operation with other denominations.

THE EVENING SESSION.

Rev. John Thomson submitted the report on the State of Religion. It was an able document and was most favourably received. It presented a very hopeful view of the state of religion in the congregations of the Synod. The report on motion of the Rev. George Cuthbertson, was received.

Rev. Thomas McAdam, Strathroy, then presented the report on Sabbath schools. Though complete returns had not been received, it was under the mark to say that there were about 265 schools in the Synod with an attendance of 27,000. There were 3,085 teachers and other officers. The sum raised for Sabbath school purposes was \$11,110, and liberal contributions had been made for missions.

Rev. S. Lyle moved the adoption of the report on the State of Religion, and that the thanks of the Synod be given to the Rev. Mr. Thomson.

Rev. J. A. Murray said he thought the report struck the right key-note. It was hopeful—one of the most hopeful he had yet heard. Another excellent feature of it was the stress laid on the ordinary means of grace within the Church.

Rev. Peter Wright seconded the motion, expressing great satisfaction with the report, and commending it very highly. He favoured the idea of women taking part in the weekly prayer meeting.

Rev. J. Fraser Campbell then addressed the Synod on the mission work in Central India. There are 31,000 cities, towns, and villages in Indore. The greater part of the population are Hindoos and a small part of them are Mohammedans. He described the religious condition of the people, some of the tortures inflicted in the idolatrous rites, and the sufferings of the helpless and the bereaved. Mr. Campbell next detailed the efforts at present made for the evangelization of these millions. There are only two stations at Indore. The urgent needs of this mission field were then presented by Mr. Campbell, who stated that five missionaries are required immediately. The results of the mission have been most encouraging, and the lives and conduct of the converts are in most cases most exemplary.

Rev. J. A. Murray, seconded by Mr. Rutherford, moved that the thanks of the Synod be tendered to Rev. J. Fraser Campbell for his address.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

The report of the Committee on Sabbath Observance was presented by Rev. George Burson, St. Catharines. It referred gratefully to the services rendered to the cause by Mr. John Charlton, M.P., in the House of Commons, and Mr. A. F. Wood in the Ontario Legislative Assembly. An interesting discussion took place in which Revs. James Gordon, Nathaniel Paterson, A. F. Tully, Mr. Houston, Sarnia; Revs. John Gray, Windsor, Mungo Fraser, Dr. Cochrane, Hector McQuarrie, George Chrystal, Robert Hamilton, Dr. Macdonald, and Mr. Thomas Strachan, Brussels, participated. The forms of Sabbath desecration unanimously condemned were the Sunday newspaper and military and other parades with band playing. Several of the speakers referred to the evil effects of keeping stores open till a late hour on Saturday night.

Rev. W. T. McMullen presented the report of the Committee appointed for the purpose of securing religious instruction in public schools. The Committee had much pleasure in stating that a volume of selections from the sacred Scriptures has been issued by the Education Department, revised by representatives of the different denominations, and sanctioned by the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. The Committee heartily acknowledge the action of the Minister of Education.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The discussion of an overture by Rev. W. S. Ball, proposing the transference of the management of the French Evangelization Scheme from the Board at Montreal to the Home Mission Committee, having been postponed on the motion of Dr. Cochrane, to enable representatives of the Board to appear, was now resumed.

Rev. Peter Wright, as a member of the Board, testified that they were anxious to prosecute the work with the utmost diligence and with rigid economy. It was easier to pull down than to build up, and we ought to leave fault-finding to others, and be concluded by expressing his conviction that satisfactory explanations would be given.

Mr. Ball was again heard in support of his overture. He urged, as reasons for the proposed transference, the incompleteness and unsatisfactory nature of the reports presented to the Assembly, the diminution of work accomplished by the Mission and the expense connected with its management.

Rev. R. H. Warden, Montreal, replying, challenged

the correctness of Mr. Ball's statement that the reports were incomplete. During the last nine years these reports were prepared with the utmost care. In accordance with a growing desire these reports were now more condensed than formerly. He denied the statement that there had been a decrease in the results of the work for the last ten years, and proceeded to give statistics showing that there had been a decided increase. No field had ever been abandoned without the consent, expressed or implied, of Presbyteries. He was satisfied that no body of men could work the Mission better than it has been done in Montreal. The contributions have been steadily advancing, and no doubt, but for these detrimental statements, they would this year have been at least equal to those of the previous year. The statistics are not reported by the Board, but by the Presbyteries. He then gave detailed explanations of the various mission fields under the care of the Board. The scheme is on a more solid basis to day than ever it has been before. The Pointe aux Trembles Institute is in a most efficient state. Great good has been done there. Had no other work been done than has been done by that Institution, it would be worth more than has been expended on the whole work of French Evangelization. The French are increasing in numbers in Eastern Ontario, and will go on increasing, and it is in the interests of civil and religious liberty to give them the Gospel.

Rev. Principal MacVicar, Montreal, said he spoke under a profound sense of responsibility. The Home Mission does not want the work. There is no parallel between the two kinds of work. If the office is abolished the work will be disorganized, Presbyterianism in Montreal will be injured. The Home and Foreign Mission work of the Church would seriously suffer. The Methodists have seen the necessity of having an office in Montreal. The abolition of the office would not secure economy. The Home Mission Committee will not have sufficient funds. Sixteen or eighteen years ago he asked for \$2,000, now we get \$30,000. A revolutionary scheme would scatter the men engaged in the work. The noise, creaking, dust, and newspaper writing which the change may occasion will make Presbyterianism and Protestantism a laughing-stock. He was prepared to affirm that if the work were suppressed we could not long be free at Ottawa or anywhere else. He then gave interesting incidents in connection with the work at Pointe-aux-Trembles. If we have been working in a wrong way, tell us. The converts are more self-denying than we are. The charges made against the work have been based on little criticisms.

Rev. W. S. Ball, in reply, claimed that he had based his previous remarks on a most careful examination of the various reports submitted by the Board to the General Assembly. The change contemplated would not injure but promote the efficiency of Pointe-aux-Trembles. What bearing on the case has the fact that the French Canadians are increasing in Eastern Ontario? The success of the work would not be interfered with by adopting the change. The office might be abolished but Presbyteries would not be abolished.

Rev. Archibald McLaren explained the condition of the congregation at Great Bend.

Mr. Lyle concluded an able speech by moving that the overture be received and laid on the table, and that further, having heard the statements of Mr. Warden and Principal MacVicar, this Synod expresses its entire confidence in the present administration of the Board of French Evangelization of the Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Dr. Laing thought that most of the members would go home better satisfied as to the administration of the affairs of the French Evangelization work. Has Mr. Ball shown good cause for abolishing the French Evangelization Board? The reports may not be as complete as some might desire. It would be better generally if we had shorter reports. If the accounts are carefully audited and reported upon we might have confidence in their correctness. The speaker was decidedly of opinion that the facts adduced by Mr. Ball have been explained. No abler Board could be obtained in the whole Church. Dr. Laing paid a high tribute to Mr. Warden's eminent ability in the management of the business of the Board. The Home Mission Committee has plenty of work without any addition. The Home Mission Committee is not best fitted to manage the work of French Evangelization. He concluded by seconding the motion.

Rev. J. B. Duncan, Paisley, moved, and Rev. J. A. Murray seconded, an amendment to receive the overture and transmit it to the General Assembly, while expressing entire confidence in the present management of the French Evangelization Board.

After several questions had been asked by the Rev. R. M. Croll, Simcoe, the vote was taken. On the question being put forty-eight voted for the amendment and forty-four for the motion. The amendment thus becoming the main motion, Mr. Ball called for the yeas and nays, when sixty-nine voted yea, and forty-three nay.

The Synod was then adjourned by the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.