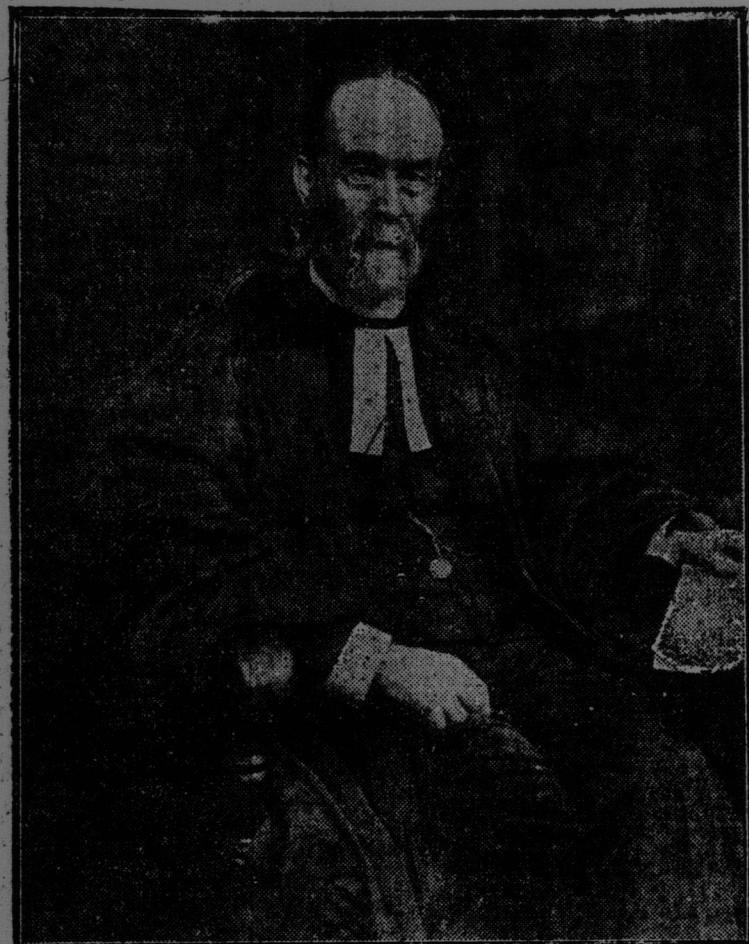


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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1907.

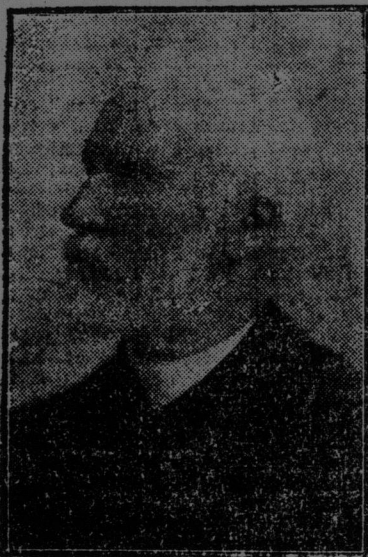
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA TO MEET IN MONTREAL'S HISTORIC OLD CHURCH



REV. ALEX. FALCONER, D. D., of Pictou, N. S., the retiring Moderator.

The thirty-third General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the highest court of that important branch of the Christian Church in the Dominion, will commence its deliberations in Montreal next week, the first session being set for Wednesday evening.

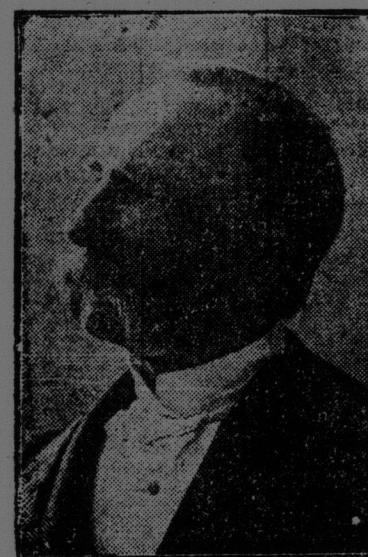
but the assembly is by no means bound to follow that action up by the selection of any of the nominees and may proceed to select one entirely of their own choice. In fact a presidential nomination is getting to have less weight with the assembly as time goes on.



REV. JOHN McMILLAN, D. D., of Presbyterian College, Halifax.

ring, the fifth of June, at Erskine Church. According to the time-honored custom, the retiring moderator, the presiding officer of the preceding assembly, held last year at London, Ont., will preach the sermon which is the initial event of the gathering. After the Rev. Alexander Falconer, D.D., of Pictou, N. S., has fulfilled that function the next step is the presentation of the roll of delegates and then the new moderator is selected. That with some routine business is usually all that is done at the first meeting and the next morning the assembly gets down to the regular business set out for it.

The different presbyteries throughout the country have the privilege of nominating men for the moderatorship,



REV. R. H. GRANT, of Orillia, Ont.

on. However, according to custom, there are several leaders of the church in nomination, among whom are Rev. Dr. Mowatt of the Montreal Erskine Church; Rev. Dr. Duval of Winnipeg; and Rev. Dr. Gracey of Gananoque. It is some years since the honor has fallen to the lot of a Montreal divine, so that it would not be a matter of great surprise if Rev. Dr. Mowatt were to be elected to the moderator's chair. He is a man of high standing in the educational work of the church, and is widely known and respected for his piety and learning.

Its Composition.

The General Assembly is composed of 500 members, of whom 250 are ministers and the other half lay delegates. As a general rule only about 350 of the whole attend, of whom 250 are ministers and 100 lay members. These come from the six Synods of the church, which for territorial purposes are grouped as follows: Maritime Provinces, Montreal and Ottawa, Toronto and Kingston, Hamilton and London, Manitoba and the Northwest, British Columbia and Alberta. These Synods in turn are sub-divided into sixty presbyteries. The bulk of the time of the assembly is occupied in hearing reports from different departments of the church's work as a whole, but from time to time there are sectional appeals which the presbyteries and synods have been unable to settle to the satisfaction of all, and these may be appealed to the highest court for settlement.

In an article of this character it is not necessary to dilate on the importance of the Presbyterian Church as a body, or on its standing in the religious life of the community. Its record is so well known that it needs no championship at this stage of its career. Suffice it to say that the official census of 1901, the latest authoritative figures on the subject, rank Presbyterianism as the third strongest denomination in the

Dominion. Roman Catholics come first, Methodists second, and Presbyterians third. According to the official census of the year mentioned there were 842,442 Presbyterians, but in the six intervening years that number has doubtless considerably increased, as in the decade from 1891 to 1901, Presbyterians show a larger percentage of increase than any other religious body. The increase as figured out by a mathematical device are:

Denomination.	Percentage of Increase.
Presbyterian.....	11.93
Roman Catholics.....	11.39
Methodists.....	8.15
Anglicans.....	5.34
Baptists.....	4.59
Congregationalists, less than 1 per cent. of all the religious or denominations of the Dominion, Presbyterians in 1901 constituted six per cent.	

Presbyterian Census.

All but three provinces showed good increases in the number of Presbyterians from 1891 to 1901, the three showing declines being the three Maritime Provinces, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. It would seem, however, that what those provinces lost went largely to swell the population of the new provinces in the Northwest. The following table shows the number of Presbyterians in the different provinces at the time of the two last census:

Province.	1901	1891
British Columbia.....	34,681	15,284
Manitoba.....	45,248	29,001
New Brunswick.....	29,498	40,539
Nova Scotia.....	106,331	108,863
Ontario.....	477,388	453,147
Prince Edward Island.....	20,750	23,072
Quebec.....	58,013	62,673
Northwest Territories.....	27,806	12,507
Unorganized Territories.....	3,151	51
Totals.....	842,422	755,235

*Indicates decrease.



REV. DR. McLEOD, Barris, Ont.

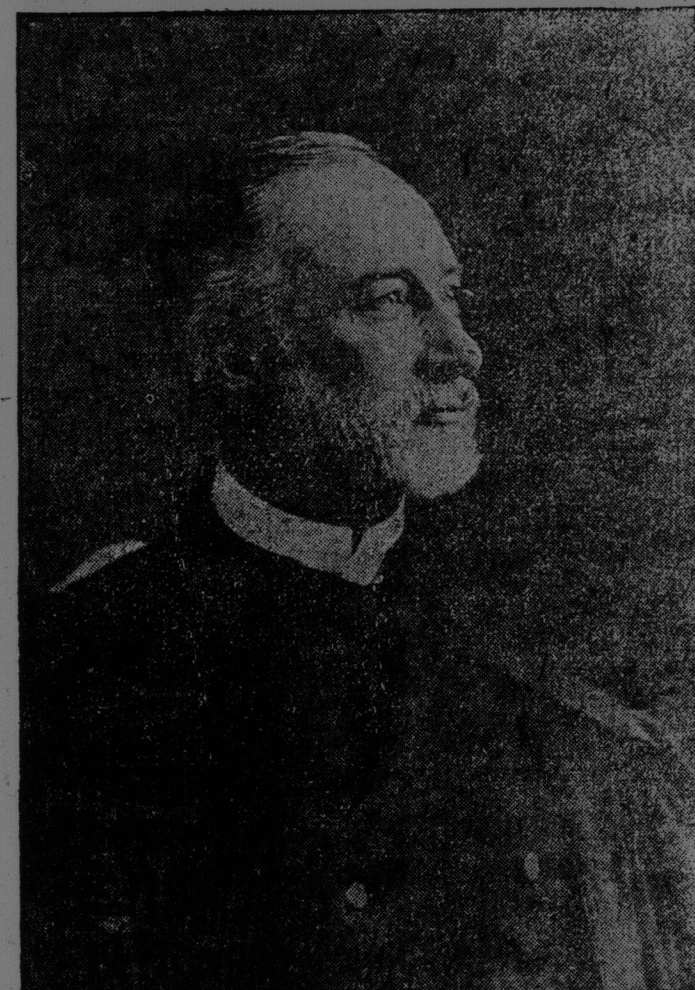
of the first synod in Canada. It was on the third of July 1871, when the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia was formed by the union of the Presbyteries of Truro and Pictou. The Truro Presbytery was organized in

undertaken to Canada by the Secession Church in Scotland and several ministers were sent out shortly afterwards. These became "The Missionary Presbytery of Canada" in connection with the United Associate Synod of the Secession Church in Scotland. Another stream of Presbyterianism was known as the Free Church. This was also an offshoot of the Scotch Church. It had its beginning in Canada in 1844. There were several amalgamations of Presbyterian bodies down to 1861 when the Presbyterian Church of Canada and the United Presbyterian Church of Canada, united under the name of the Canada Presbyterian Church. In 1875 came the union of other bodies which constitute the Presbyterian Church in Canada as it now exists. This body is now about to hold its thirty-third general assembly. Such is briefly sketched, the story of the upbuilding of that important body.

Growth Since Union.

Another important section of an article of this character must be one to show how the church has grown since the union in 1875. In the first year of the history of the united body, the total income was \$862,675. It has grown steadily until in 1906 it was \$2,000,000. The yearly increased income ranged all the way from \$3,000 to \$500,000, the smaller amount being in the second year of the union's history and the larger one in 1901. There were only four decreases in all that time, the smallest being \$10,000 in 1883 and the largest \$50,000 in 1902, quite a contrast to the preceding year with its increase of \$300,000.

The Church officers keep a careful record of the various purposes for which the income is subscribed. They can tell just exactly the average which each communicant and each family of a congregation contributes towards the minister's stipend, to the ordinary expenditure and the schemes of the Church.



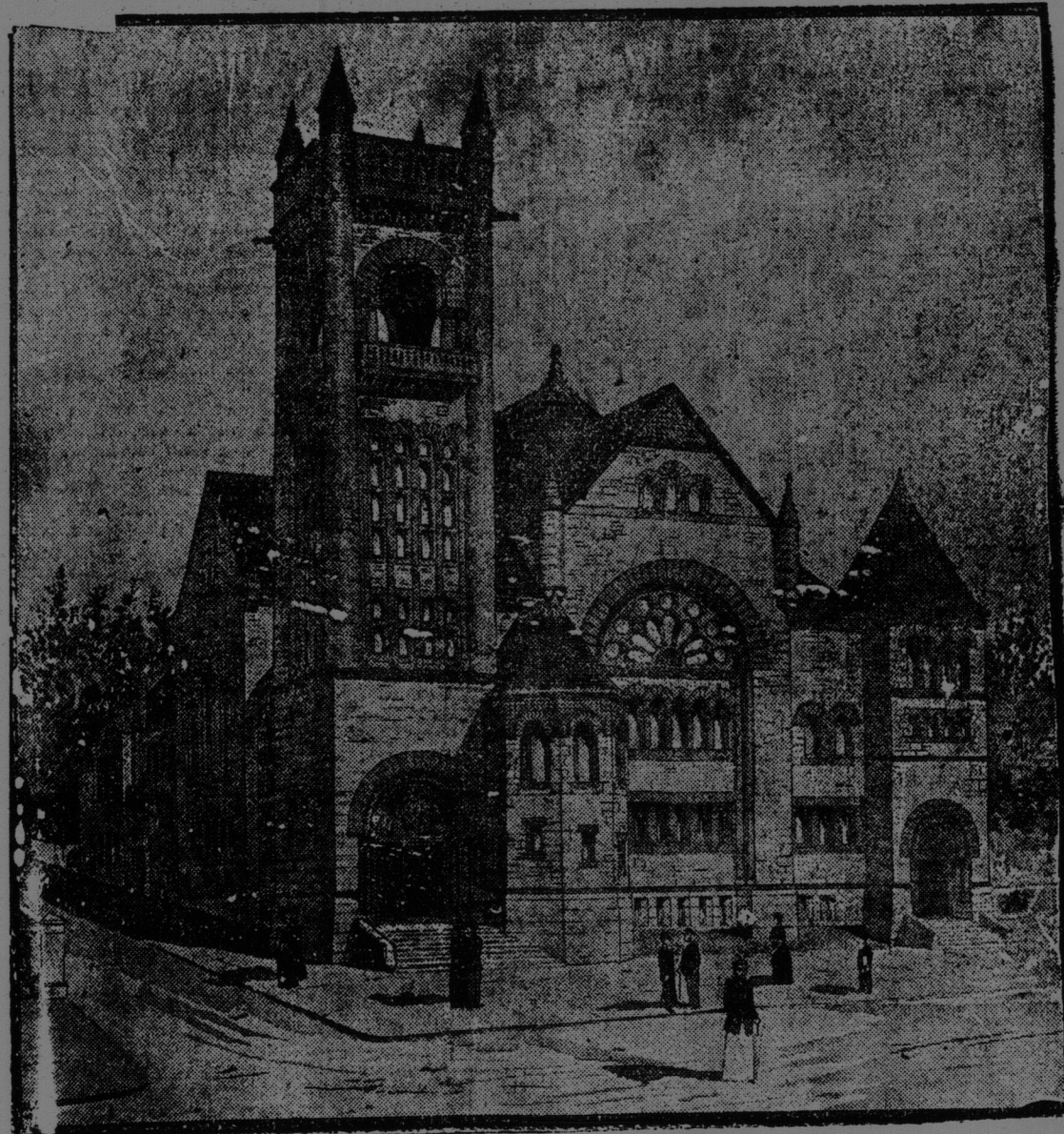
REV. PROF. SCRIMGER, of Montreal.

The amount paid for stipends alone exceeds \$1,300,000. For ordinary purposes the payments exceed \$2,000,000 and for schemes of the Church half a million is paid in. For all purposes the amounts collected total over \$3,000,000.

to be devoted to that class of work.

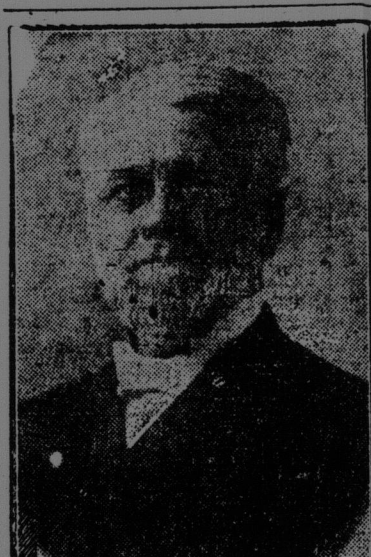
French Evangelization.

Another feature of work in home field by which the Presbyterian church sets much store is French evangelization. In



ERSKINE CHURCH, Montreal, where the Assembly will be held.

It will be only a matter of ten years when the church will be able to celebrate the centenary of the formation

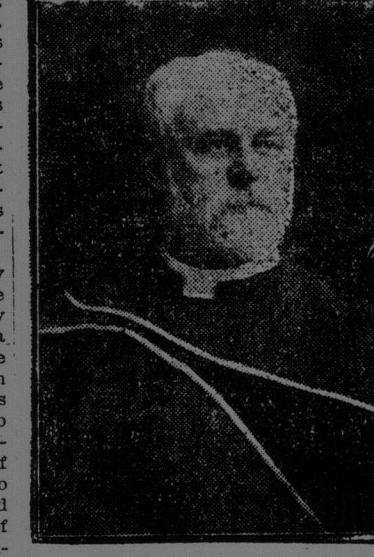


REV. DR. DUVAL, of Winnipeg.

1786 and the Pictou Presbytery in 1795. The first named was a "Burgher" and the other "Anti-Burgher." As that famous split in the old country church had no real place in the colonies, being strictly peculiar to Scottish conditions, it was deemed fitting after those years that the two bodies should come together, hence the formation of the first synod ninety years ago. On its roll were the names of nineteen ministers, the most of whom had been connected with the secession churches. At that time the whole number of ministers in the eastern provinces was twenty-six and the Presbyterian population was estimated at 42,000.

The first meeting of a Presbytery goes much further back than that. The earliest record is of a meeting on July third, 1776, when the ordination of a minister took place at Halifax in the Protestant Dissenters Church which was organized in 1749. Its members were partly belonging sometimes to one and sometimes to the other denomination. This organization rose out of the 1500 people, mostly Calvinists, who came from Holland, Germany and Switzerland and England, most of whom settled in the vicinity of Lunenburg. As far back as 1831 a mission had been

The latter embodies missionary and other work.



REV. DANIEL M. CORDON, Principal of Queens College, Kingston.

Missionary Work.

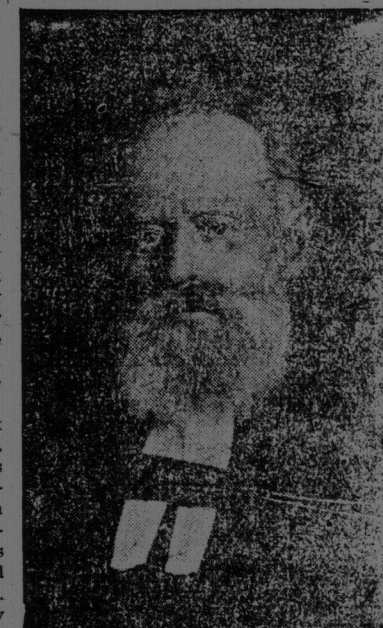
For its missionary zeal, both at home and abroad, the Church is famous. In Canada the Church expends over \$150,000 a year in looking after the sections which are unable to support regular church and in taking care of the newly opened sections of the country. Success has invariably attended the ministrations among our new arrivals in the country, a matter of no small importance considering the way the country is growing at the present time. Work among the Mormons has been one of the few disappointments. The non-Mormon population in the Mormon belt, so called, in the northwest is so small, the influence of the Mormon Church is so tremendously overshadowing, the organization of the system is so complete and the power of the Priesthood so absolute, that the missionaries, if they are not to grow weary in well doing, must be men of great faith. New Ontario, where the mining regions are becoming important is now receiving the attention of the Home Mission branch of the Church work. This work is ably supplemented by the Women's Home Missionary Society.

Closely allied the Home Mission work is that of the Augmentation Fund, which helps out small congregations where they are not strong enough financially to support a minister. In such cases the Church comes to the assistance of these struggling congregations by augmenting the minister's stipend to a point where it is possible to live. The aim of the Church is not to allow no minister to work on less than \$800 per annum, steps having been taken not long since to raise the amount to that basis from a lower level. The Church raises about \$50,000 per annum

this there are between fifty and sixty earnest workers engaged. In this field there is an annual expenditure of about \$25,000.

The Pointe Aux Trembles School is the chief seat of effort in that connection and so satisfied is the board, of which Rev. Dr. Mowatt, of Montreal, is the chairman, that strenuous efforts are being made to extend the scope of operation. In the report of the board to the last assembly this significant statement is made: "It is unquestionable that the awakening of Quebec from the intellectual torpor, the social and industrial stagnation, which characterizes all

(Continued on Page



REV. A. FINDLAY, D. D., of Montreal, Supt. of Presbyterian Missions in Northern Ont.