

## THE PRESBYTERIANS.

The Assembly Objects to Anti-Chinese Legislation.

A Strong Deliverance on the Subject of Prohibition.

State of Religion—Declaration of Loyalty—Sunday Schools and the Boys Brigade.

(From THE DAILY SUN, 20th inst.)

The first business which was brought up in the general assembly yesterday morning was one petition from the presbytery of Barrie in re Rev. R. Moodie, asking that he be allowed to retire from active service, but that his name be allowed to remain on the book. The presbytery granted.

Rev. J. MacNeil moved the adoption of the following resolution:

The committee on resolutions regarding assembly's minutes beg leave to recommend as follows: That to each congregation three copies be sent, one for the minister, one for the representor elder and one for the board of management.

The motion carried. A number of additional copies were printed to supply a copy to each member of session in all congregations that have contributed to the assembly fund within the past two years;

That hereafter copies shall be supplied to each member of session in all congregations that have contributed to the fund during the year previous.

Further, That a copy be sent to each retired minister; and

Whereas, From the number of congregations making no contribution, there is evident lack of interest in this fund; with a view of deepening the interest, it is recommended that the committee on resolutions be appointed to take charge of the fund and report annually to this assembly, to consist of Dr. Reid, Dr. Campbell, W. G. Wallace, J. A. Paterson, Arch. MacMurchie.—Adopted.

Rev. Dr. Sedgwick brought up the matter bearing on the case of the Rev. Mr. Knight of the presbytery of Barrie. The case was stated as follows:

Rev. Robt. McNaught was ordained and inducted as pastor on October 4th, 1887. Difficulties having arisen in the congregation on the report of a committee, who had made full inquiry, it was resolved, on January 17th, 1893, in the presbytery:

"That in their judgment Mr. McNaught is not hindered by his residence in Barrie from continuing his ministry, and that the following communication from Mr. McNaught was read resigning his charge, and the resignation was accepted, to take place on the 31st day of that month. The resignation was accepted by the presbytery and was given a dissimilarity letter. Last year Rev. Mr. McNaught made application to the presbytery to resign from the ministry and membership of the church. The presbytery of Hamilton referred the matter to the assembly, with the following enquires: What is the present status of Rev. Robt. McNaught? Is he still a member of the church in good standing? And the presbytery, after a careful examination, reported that he had made full disclosure of his conduct to the assembly later now tendered him to the position he was in before he received the dissimilarity letter?

A committee was appointed by the assembly to inquire into the matter and report.

In answer to question No. 1 the committee reported that their judgment was that Rev. Robt. McNaught is not a member of the Presbyterian church. In answer to question No. 2 the committee agreed that the presbytery is under no obligation to receive back the letter of dismission, and further are of the opinion that the receiving back of said letter would in no respect affect the present status of Rev. R. M. McNaught.

Some of the members were of the opinion that the report of the committee was silent, too harsh, while others were inclined to accept the opinions of said committee.

The following, moved by Principal Caven: That the assembly receive and adopt the report of the committee respecting the matter in reference to the Rev. R. McNaught, and that the presbytery of Hamilton have power to deal with the matter.—Adjudged.

The presbyter of the former has informed the convener that there were five vacancies and settlements since June, 1893. It appears that there were 24 probationers on the roll. One of these was received in April, 1892, and at the close of the two years limit fixed by the assembly his name was dropped from the rolls, and others were taken in later periods of the same name. One of them has been settled in Huron presbytery, and the names of the others will fall to be omitted, unless previously settled, when their term has matured in the course of 1894. In 1893 there were 13 certified for appointments—2 for the first quarter, 4 for the second, 5 for the third, and 2 for the fourth. Of these 13, 11 have been settled, and 2 are still on the roll. In 1894 three new names will be on the roll. The discussion was going on when the assembly adjourned.

Evening Session.

After the assembly had been formally opened last evening, the Rev. Dr. Macrae submitted the reports on loyal addresses and moved their adoption as follows:

That in view of the pronounced public opinion in favor of prohibition, as expressed by the recent plebiscite held in Manitoba, P. E. Island, Ontario and Nova Scotia, by the unanimous vote of the legislature of New Brunswick, and by the reports of sessions and presbyteries and synods of the provinces of Quebec, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and London, this assembly instructs its committees on Temperance to approach by memorial and petition the legislative body or bodies which shall be declared competent by the privy council, asking the immediate enactment and vigorous enforcement of legislation prohibiting the liquor traffic. This assembly also directs its committees to secure, as representatives of the bounds, and shall take measures to stimulate interest in the augmentation of the synods in the western sections of the church to instruct to appoint synodical augmentation committees which shall have power to recognize exceptional liberality on the part of aid-receiving congregations by making an increased grant.

That synods in the western sections of the church be instructed to appoint synodical augmentation committees which shall have power to recognize as representatives of the bounds, and shall take measures to stimulate interest in the augmentation of the synods among the congregations in which total abstinence and prohibition.

This report was adopted as a whole.

Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, convenor of the members and elders of the Presbyterian church in Canada, met in general assembly, desire to express to your excellency our high appreciation of the manner in which you have entered upon the discharge of the duties of your exalted office. We rejoice to be associated with both your excellency and Lady Aberdeen are manifesting your interest in every movement, philanthropic and religious, calculated to benefit the social and civil welfare of the Canadian people. We fervently pray that both your excellency and Lady Aberdeen, to whom we respectfully address, may convey our most sincere congratulations, may enjoy the thorough blessings of the Most High.

It is also the desire of the assembly that the interests of the church, and in harmony with the Presbyterian form of

government, if all ministers without charge who are seeking settlement and all licentiates had their names placed at the disposal of the committee appointed; and if all vacancies, including the strongest and most influential members, and in other respects, were referred for more than one year.

Again, presbyteries should be

responsible to the men whose names they have appointed for appointments to the church, and by this action relate him to the position he was in before he received the dissimilarity letter?

A committee was appointed by the assembly to inquire into the matter and report.

In answer to question No. 1 the committee reported that their judgment was that Rev. Robt. McNaught is not a member of the Presbyterian church. In answer to question No. 2 the committee agreed that the presbytery is under no obligation to receive back the letter of dismission, and further are of the opinion that the receiving back of said letter would in no respect affect the present status of Rev. R. M. McNaught.

Some of the members were of the opinion that the report of the committee was silent, too harsh, while others were inclined to accept the opinions of said committee.

The following, moved by Principal Caven: That the assembly receive and adopt the report of the committee respecting the Rev. R. McNaught, and that the presbytery of Hamilton have power to deal with the matter.—Adjudged.

Afternoon Session.

Immediately after the dinner hour, the moderator read a letter from Dr. Wells, deputy from the Free Presbyterian church in Scotland, extending to the general assembly of Canada the hearty and fraternal greetings of that body.

The following resolution was moved by Dr. Sedgwick: That the general assembly grant to the honorable the general assembly the previous question into its consideration and endeavor, in conjunction with sister churches, to bring such influence to bear upon the government of Canada as may result in the removal of the aforesaid restriction. The above was signed by a large number of the members.

In sympathy with the above the following was moved by Rev. D. M. Gordon and seconded by Rev. Dr. McVicar: That the assembly receive and adopts the above overture and appoint a committee to bring the matter before other churches and to press it upon the government.

Rev. Dr. McVicar of Farnham, spoke warmly on this matter. He drew attention to the action of the parliament of Canada in discriminating against the people of China, and called upon the assembly in God's name to adopt this resolution.

Mr. Gordon's resolution was adopted.

When the clerk of the assembly read the minutes of the morning session, he stated that Dr. Caven, Dr. Macrae, Dr. Prout, Dr. Sedgwick and several other members of the assembly had voted in favor of the motion, but nothing now was brought forward.

The motion to refer the matter to a committee, moved by D. J. McDonald in the morning session, was finally adopted, and a large committee was appointed to carry out the recommendations contained in the resolution, with a convenor for the west, the east and four others for Canada.

Rev. Dr. F. G. Fraser submitted a number of recommendations on the report of the foreign mission committee. The following are a number of the more important: That the general assembly congratulate the church and especially the eastern section, upon this their jubilee year.

That the general assembly express satisfaction with the success of the efforts made for reducing the amount of the deficit made by the eastern division last year.

That the assembly express sympathy with our missionaries and pray that they may be sustained and blessed in this affliction.

That the assembly express satisfaction with the successful manner in which the work in Farnham has been carried on by Rev. Dr. McKay.

That the assembly express satisfaction that in so many places congregations have begun work among the Chinese.

That the assembly record their gratitude to God for the success of the missionaries in the North, Central and British Columbia.

That the general assembly grant the request of the western division of the committee as to the ordination of Jas. A. Simlmon, and ask the presbytery of Toronto to ordain him.

Father Chiriqui seconded its adoption. When he was 27 years of age, he said, he took the oath of total abstinence. He was now 85 years old and he had never broken it. His hand did not shake, he could see to read without spectacles, and his lungs were highly gratified.

Rev. Mr. Hogg moved the adoption of this report. He thought on the whole it was very convincing. A few years ago it would be impossible to present such a report. The general assembly should feel highly gratified.

Rev. D. J. McDonald submitted the report of the special committee on augmen-

tation, as far as "practically unani-

mous" was concerned.

That the assembly adopt the estimates of the foreign mission committee for the coming year, viz.: the eastern division, \$26,000; for western division (general fund), \$16,300, and for the W. F. M. S. fund, \$41,654.

That the assembly express appreciation of

the excellent services done by the women of the church in advancing this department of the church's work, and pray the increased blessing may rest upon their efforts during the coming year.—Adopted.

The clerk read two overtures from Ontario presbyteries, stating that there were now living in Canada over 10,000 Chinese, who, living in such a heterogeneous community, were themselves heathens in religion.

These overtures asked the assembly to appoint an itinerant evangelist to labor among these people in Canada.

Rev. Dr. McVicar supported these overtures. He said that in his judgment they were the most important overtures that had yet come before the assembly. He pointed out that there were in nearly every town in Canada a greater or less number of the heathen Chinese. A missionary should be appointed, familiar with their language, to labor among them and to teach them.

The adoption of this report was moved by Rev. Robert Campbell of Montreal.

The discussion was going on when the assembly adjourned.

The presbyter of the former has informed the convener that there were five vacancies and settlements since June, 1893. It appears that there were 24 probationers on the roll. One of these was received in April, 1892, and at the close of the two years limit fixed by the assembly his name was dropped from the rolls, and others were taken in later periods of the same name.

One of them has been settled in Huron presbytery, and the names of the others will fall to be omitted, unless previously settled,

when their term has matured in the course of 1894.

It appears that there were 13 certified for appointments—2 for the first quarter, 4 for the second, 5 for the third, and 2 for the fourth.

Of these 13, 11 have been settled, and 2 are still on the roll.

In 1894 three new names will be on the roll.

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