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Ottawa, Wednesday, Dec 28, 1904.

THE MOVEMENT FOR UNION.

The Church Union Conference at Toronto closed on Dec. 22nd, after three days of conference between influential representatives of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational churches. Complete satisfaction was expressed with the progressively conservative attitude taken by the conference in joint committee, and with the support given the movement by the three denominational committees.

It was finally decided to appoint five sub-committees, to deal respectively with the subjects of doctrine, polity, administration, ministerial training, and law.

It was decided to appoint a small committee, consisting of a minister and layman from each of the three Churches, to retire at once and draw up a list of sub-committees, assigning to each the topics that should be discussed by it, and determining the number of members of which it should be composed. After some discussion it was resolved to appoint a Central or Executive Committee, communicate with the sub-committees, to assign any such subjects that may not have been specially assigned, and generally to act for this joint Committee between its sessions. This Executive Committee to consist of the Chairman of the three union committees of the negotiating Churches, the three Secretaries of this Joint Committee, and the Chairmen of the sub-committees to be appointed. The following report of the committee appointed to draw up a list of sub-committees was then presented and adopted:—

Your committee, appointed to frame a list of sub-committees, define the limits of the subjects to be assigned to each of them and determine the number of members of which each shall be composed, as well as the relative numbers from each of the three Churches, beg to recommend:—

(1) That the number of sub-committees be five, and that the subjects allotted to be as follows.

(a) Doctrine

(b) Polity—Under this head are to be embraced the organization and government of the Church, conditions of Church membership and rights and duties of members, ordinances of the Church, including means of grace and forms of worship, and the relation of Sabbath schools and young people's societies to the Church.

(c) The ministry—This topic is to embrace the training for the ministry, the pastoral office, including period of service, the rights and privileges of ministers and their relation to the doctrines of the Church.

(d) Administration—This shall include all the missionary, educational, benevolent, publishing and other agencies of the Church.

(e) Law—Under this head will be included titles to Church property, general and local, and legislation.

(2) That the three Churches be represented on each of the sub-committees in the proportion of two Methodists, two Presbyterians, and one Congregationalist.

(3) That each of these sub-committees on doctrine, polity, the ministry and administration be composed of forty members (sixteen Methodists, sixteen Presbyterians and eight Congregationalists), and that the sub-committee on law consist of fifteen members (six Methodists, six Presbyterians and three Congregationalists)

DOCTRINE.

Presbyterian Church: Principal Scrimger, convener; Dr. Armstrong, Dr. Battisby, Rev. G. S. Carson, Dr. DuVal, Principal Falconer, Principal Gordon, Dr. MacKay, Dr. J. L. Murray, Principal McLaren, Dr. Ramsay, Dr. Sedgwick, Rev. T. Stewart, W. M. Clark, Dr. Robert Murray and Mr. Walter Paul.

Methodist Church: Chancellor Burwash, convener; Rev. Drs. Carman, Shaw, Paisley, Langford, Curtis, Stewart, Antliff, Crothers, Ryckman, Revs. F. B. Stacey, D. W. Johnston and S. Bond and Messrs. Ames, Ferguson and Mann.

Congregational Church: Rev. Dr. Warriner, convener; Rev. J. E. Day, J. P. Gerrie, T. B. Hyde, Hugh Pedley, J. K. Unsworth and Messrs. J. R. Dougall and H. O'Hara.

POLITY.

Presbyterian Church: Professor Walter Murray, convener; Dr. Bryce, Dr. Campbell, Dr. Farquharson, Dr. Herridge, Dr. Lyle, Dr. MacGillivray, Dr. Millar, Rev. J. B. Mullen, Principal Patrick, Dr. James Stewart and Messrs. James Gibson, T. C. James, I. A. Macdonald, G. M. McDonnell and W. B. McMurrich.

Methodist Church: Justice McLaren, convener; Rev. Drs. Carman and White, Revs. Mavety, Steel, Crews, Griffith, Langille and Messrs. Harris, Inch, Fudger, Bishop, Bell, Aikens, Senator Cox and Justice Britton.

Congregational Church: Rev. J. W. Pedley, convener; Revs. F. J. Day, J. L. Gordon, W. T. Gunn, W. H. Warriner, D.D., and Messrs. J. R. Dougall, T. B. Macauley and H. O'Hara.

THE MINISTERS.

Presbyterian Church: Principal Patrick, convener; Dr. Armstrong, Dr. Carr, Rev. W. L. Clay, W. J. Clark, Principal Falconer, Dr. Fletcher, Rev. J. Hay, Dr. Herdman, Rev. T. C. Jack, Rev. A. T. Love, Dr. Milligan, Principal Scrimger, Professor Dyde, Hon. D. Laird and J. K. Macdonald.

Methodist Church: Rev. Dr. Ryckman, convener; Rev. Drs. Henderson, Ross, Gundy, Cleaver, Williamson, Ross, Pitcher, Woodsworth, Potts, Hertz, Wilson and Messrs. Hall, Berge, Ellis and Chipman.

Congregational Church: Rev. J. K. Unsworth, convener; Rev. G. W. Ball, J. P. Gerrie, W. T. Gunn, D. S. Hamilton, Principal Hill, A. W. Main and B. W. Robertson.

ADMINISTRATION.

Presbyterian Church: Rev. Dr. Somerville, convener; Dr. Carmichael, Principal Forrest, Principal Gordon, Rev. W. A. J. Martin, Dr. Mowat, Dr. E. D. McLaren, Dr. McMillan, Rev. J. H. Katcliffe, Rev. James Ross, Dr. Smith, Dr. Warden and Hon. C. H. Campbell, Senator McGregor, Messrs. David Morrice and W. White.

Methodist Church: C. D. Massey, convener; Rev. Drs. Briggs, Sutherland, Potts, Huestis, Griffin, Chown, Sparling, Evans and Messrs. Allison, Hunt, Ashdown, Gurney, Flavell, Holmes and Denton.

Congregational Church: Rev. William McIntosh, convener; Revs. J. L. Gordon, Principal Hill, T. B. Hyde, J. W. Pedley and Messrs. C. R. Black, T. B. Caldwell, M. P., and A. McA. Murphy.

LAW.

Presbyterian Church: Hon. C. H. Campbell, convener; A. G. Farrell, Judge Forbes, W. B. McMurrich, J. A. Paterson and Dr. Sedgwick.

Methodist Church: N. W. Rowell, convener, Judge Chesley and Messrs. Aikins, Cate, Harris and McLaughlin.

Congregational Church: Rev. J. T. Daley, convener, and Messrs. Charles Cushing and S. P. Latt.

It should be understood that the committees above named will not be engaged at present in preparing a basis of union, but will meet together for further conference to exchange views and ascertain whether it be practicable to reach a common basis that might hereafter be submitted to the Churches concerned. In the meantime a statement giving the history of the movement up to the present time and the action thus far of the joint committee will be prepared and printed, and a copy sent to each minister of the negotiating bodies, so that the Churches may be kept informed of every step that has been taken.

It was universally recognized in the joint committee that a question so important and far-reaching in its results was not one to be unduly hurried; that a union of the Churches to be real and lasting must carry the consent of the entire membership, and that no final step could be taken until ample opportunity had been given to consider the whole question in the courts of the various Churches and by the people generally.

The remarkable "revival services" in Wales and various parts of Great Britain have set people talking, writing, and thinking. Presbyterians have not been as much addicted to special services as other branches of the Christian church; yet there has lately been a growing feeling all along the line that the inroads of worldliness, pleasure and luxury can only be met by a deepened spiritual life in our congregations.

At a meeting recently held in Nottingham, Eng., a Presbyterian minister strongly advocated that pastors should keep an "adherents" roll, certifying them when they removed from one church to another, and urged that it should be made as easy as possible for them to become members in full communion. The Belfast Witness endorses the proposal, saying that adherents form a very interesting and important element in congregations, both in town and country, who have received far too little recognition and attention.