

## The N. S. Western Association.

The Nova Scotia Western Association met in its 53rd annual session June 19, at 10 a. m., with the Bear River church, the Moderator in the chair. After a short season of prayer and praise a committee on credentials was appointed of which Rev. W. G. Archibald was the chairman, and also a Nominating Committee, the chairman of which was Rev. E. K. Daley.

The provisional programme which had been prepared was adopted and visitors were invited to seats in the Association among whom we noticed Revs. J. W. Manning, the sec. treas. for the Foreign Mission Board, E. O. Read, A. Martell, Dr. C. Goodspeed, Rev. D. H. and Mrs. Simpson, Mrs. P. R. Foster, Miss Martha Clark of Chicago and others.

Rev. E. J. Grant was chosen Moderator, Rev. C. W. Corey, Clerk, Rev. H. B. Sloat, Assistant, and W. W. Clark, Secy., Treasurer.

The thanks of the body were tendered to Rev. W. L. Archibald for his faithful and efficient services as clerk during the past six years. Vacancies in Committees were then filled. The letter from the Bear River church was read. It expressed gratitude to God for the year's work under the wise and able leadership of their beloved pastor, and extended a most cordial welcome to the Association.

The pastor of the church, Rev. I. W. Porter, then came to the platform, and addressed the body, gracefully welcoming the delegates to the home and hearth of the church and community, to which Rev. H. B. Sloat made a fitting reply.

The newly seated pastors, Revs. H. P. Adams, H. B. Sloat, A. J. Archibald, E. L. Dakin, C. A. Colishaw, H. C. Newcombe and N. S. Tafford, had the hand of fellowship extended to them by Dr. J. C. Morse with a most brotherly address.

In the afternoon Pastor Colishaw conducted the devotional services, Rev. E. L. Dakin was appointed to report the proceedings of the body for the local press.

An informing digest of the letters from the churches was read by the retiring clerk. The summary of statistics showed the present membership of the Association 12,339. The total addition 397, of which 281 were by baptism. Of the 73 churches 39 report no baptisms. The churches reporting the largest increase are Bridgetown, St. Mary's Bay, Parkin's Cove, and North Temple, Oble.

One new church was received, that of Forbes' Point, Shelburne county, the Moderator extending the hand of fellowship to Deacon Forbes as the representative of the church.

A motion was made which looked towards providing a suitable monument to the memory of the late Rev. Wm. M. Gregor.

An historical address of more than usual interest was given by Dr. J. H. Saunders in which he traced the rise and progress of Baptist principles in Digby county.

In 1810 there was one known Baptist in the county while at the present time there were about 2,790 church members. The address was based upon Deut. 8:3 and Phil. 3:12. The sketch was most timely and contained much valuable information. It was followed by some personal reminiscences by Dr. J. C. Morse and Rev. E. O. Read.

In the future the Committee of Arrangements will provide the speakers for platform addresses upon the varied interests of our denominational work. Rev. D. H. Simpson offered the closing prayer.

In the evening the devotional services were conducted by Pastors Adams and Daley. The report of the Credentials Committee was then presented. The reference to the relation of the Springfield church to the Association was referred to in substance that the church regretted its failure to act upon the advice of the Association, assuring the body that an effort would be made to have the matter at issue settled, with this understanding the Committee recommended that the names of the delegates from this church be enrolled.

The report on Education was then read by Rev. A. J. Archibald, in which reference was made to the new second forward movement in commendatory terms. It contained the statistics of the schools at Wolfville which have already appeared in these columns in connection with the Anniversary Exercises; it emphasized the work done, the increased attendance and the influence of the schools upon the growing life of our people.

Addresses on Education were given by Principal Brittain of the Academy and Rev. D. H. Simpson.

Mr. Brittain showed that there was a most important place for our Academy in the work which it is trying to do. Its literary, business and manual training courses are adapted to the needs of our young people. His address was well received.

Mr. Simpson took the place of President Trotter, who was unable to be present on account of sickness. It was a difficult place to fill, but he discharged his duties with considerable skill and spoke effectively in the interests of his Alma Mater. The congregation was large and a good impression was made.

Sunday was the great day of the feast. At 9:30 there was an interesting devotional service—deeply spiritual,

which prepared the way for the reception of the gospel message to be delivered by Rev. W. J. Rutledge of Port Maitland—the preacher of the Association's sermon. He took for his text Rom. 1:16—"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ" etc.

Mr. Rutledge spoke (1) of the Characteristics of the Gospel, then (2) of the elements which underlie these characteristics (3) that the acceptance of its blessings imposes an obligation—"I am debtor"—and finally the true reason of consecration to the discharge of this great obligation. The preacher developed these thoughts in his own forceful way. He was deeply in earnest and the large congregation which filled the house enjoyed a most excellent sermon delivered with more than usual fervor and force.

The afternoon was given to Sunday School work. The report on this subject was read by Rev. Ward Fisher. Attention was called to the great value of Sunday School work to the home and to the church. The churches that are to be strong in the future must see to the material which goes into them now. Our Sunday Schools indicate the nature and character of the churches that are to be. Special reference was made in this connection to the character of the instruction which is given, and to the libraries which furnish the reading for our schools. Much of this ought never to find a place in any Sunday School library. Great care should be exercised in the selection of reading matter for the young.

This feature of the report was still further enforced in a thoughtful address by Rev. David Price.

After this excellent address the report on Home Missions was presented by Rev. E. K. Daley. It referred to the work of caring for the weak churches as incumbent upon us because of the command of Christ and from the fact that they stand related to all the strong churches and to all the enterprises of the denomination.

The report recommended the appointment of a superintendent who should give his time on the field among the churches in the interest of the work.

Rev. E. J. Grant, the Secretary of the Board, then gave a resume of the work of the year, calling attention to the number of fields needing help and the great lack in men and money. He made a strong and stirring appeal for help in sustaining this department of the Lord's work.

Sunday evening was given entirely to Missionary addresses. Rev. H. P. Adams spoke on Home Missions. Everybody who has heard Mr. Adams knows what an effective address he can make and this one was no exception. After him came the report on Foreign Missions read by Rev. E. P. Coddwell.

The report affirmed that "a survey of our mission in India will convince us that we have entered upon an undertaking that will for years to come require all the sympathy, faith and money that we can put into it."

The result of the year's work shows a membership of 513 in eight churches, nearly one half of these were added during the last five years. There were baptisms in every one of the eight churches. On the whole mission field the total number of baptisms were 47. The report refers to the need of increased support of the work on the part of the churches on account of its growth, and development. It says the time has come for an advance all along the line. Interesting addresses were given by Rev. S. S. Poole, Miss Martha Clark who gave some personal reminiscences of the nature of her work in India among the women and children and an instance of the obstacles put in the way of high caste persons to prevent them from openly confessing Christ, and the secretary of the Board who spoke on "Our field and our forces." Mr. Poole's address was forceful and impressive. We hope to see it in our columns ere long and so shall not try to give its substance at this time.

The meeting in the interest of missions was an excellent one both in matter and spirit. The music by the choir in this and all the other services were helpful and inspiring. It was a good day, and the evening session formed a fitting close.

On Monday the reports on Home and Foreign Missions received further consideration, especially that of Home Missions. The trend of discussion seemed to be that if the services of our best men were to be obtained and retained the salaries of Home Mission pastors must be increased. These reports were adopted—as also that on education after some inquiry as to the religious life of the schools.

The Committee on the Circular Letter having examined the letter reported recommending its adoption. It was read by the writer, Rev. C. W. Corey. The subject was "Some Phases of Church Discipline." It was a timely presentation of a subject which is not receiving that attention from the churches which it deserves. Church discipline is very much neglected in these days. This latter was so well received that it was resolved to publish the same in order that it might reach a wider constituency. Its timely suggestions deserve careful and prayerful consideration by all our pastors and churches.

This was followed by the report on Systematic Benevolence which was read by Rev. S. S. Poole. It is admitted that this subject is of prime importance and vital to

the best interests of our people. The subject being given prominence given to its consideration. It might well be given a whole session.

At 2:30 after devotional exercises the Sunday School report was further considered and spoken to by a number of brethren of brethren. It is evident that this department of the work of the church is having a larger place in the mind of our pastors and rightly so, this is in evidence from the interest taken when the subject in its various phases is under consideration. During the discussion the International S. S. Association and its work was considered, criticised and finally commended.

At 3:30 the Rev. H. C. Newcombe, the pastor of the Temple church, Yarmouth, preached from the words as found in John 14:12. The sermon was thoughtful and stimulating. Mr. Newcombe said the text contains a programme for life's service. In it may be found the believer's obligation to his Lord—his exaltation through his Lord and his qualification for his work. The sermon was followed by a brief conference. Rev. E. O. Read assisted in the service.

Monday evening was given up to the discussion of the Temperance question. This is a live subject in the Western Association.

The report was read by Rev. E. J. Grant, one of the prohibition stalwarts who has already done yeoman service in this great cause in these Maritime Provinces. The report declared in emphatic terms that if Christian people were to combine, the deadly evils of intemperance could be driven from the land. It was recommended that the friends of temperance should seek to obtain such legislation as was within the scope of our local legislatures to grant,—in other words to hold what we have gotten, and get what we can, until the entire prohibition of this great evil is obtained—and further that a Committee be appointed to co-operate with other similar organizations to press upon the Provincial Government the enactment of a law which will give us such a measure of prohibition as will banish the saloon from the land.

The report was spoken to by Rev. E. K. Daley and S. Langille. The subject of Mr. Daley's address was "The battle for prohibition." He emphasized and illustrated these three points: (1) The Warfare is a righteous one, (2) The demands of the warfare and (3) The warfare is one of promise.

The address was admirable in conception and expression. Mr. Daley is a fluent and forcible speaker. Mr. Langille gave three reasons why we have not prohibition. (1) Because of the unrighteous dollar. (2) Because of corrupted politics. (3) Because of the apathy of Christian churches. Mr. Langille seems to be at home on the temperance platform. He is an old stager. He knows how to use his voice with dramatic effect—even without words. In these addresses many good things were said, and it is hoped that great good may result therefrom.

On Tuesday morning the report on Temperance received further consideration and was adopted. The report on Denominational Literature which was quite lengthy was read by the chairman, Rev. J. T. Keston. The report emphasized the great need of a literature adapted to the wants of our people—a literature saturated with the views which differentiate us from other peoples—it called attention to the lack of a proper denominational spirit on the part of many; referred in terms of praise to the MESSENGER AND VISITOR and expressed the hope that every effort would be made by the pastors to have the paper introduced into every Baptist home, sympathy was expressed for the editor in his recent illness and the hope for his speedy restoration to health and strength.

The fact was also noted that Rev. Issiah Wallace is publishing an autobiography of his own life and labors and commend this venture to the Association for their hearty support.

The managers of the Baptist Book Room came in for some strictures, but explanations were made as to present conditions which though regrettable, seemed to be satisfactory. The report elicited some discussion and was finally adopted.

At this point Rev. E. J. Grant on account of important duties elsewhere asked permission to retire and Rev. I. W. Porter acted as Moderator for the remaining sessions of the Association.

Rev. H. P. Adams read the report of the Committee on Obituaries. Suitable reference was made to the life and work of the late Rev. E. N. Archibald, Rev. W. L. Parker and Sister Elizabeth Miller of Mt. Huxley.

The report of the Committee of Nominations was received and will be published in full in the Year Book.

An invitation for the Association to meet next year at the North Temple, South Oble, was accepted. In the afternoon session the Association adopted Resolutions (1) giving expressions of appreciation of the hospitality of the Bear River church and people; (2) to the transportation companies for the courtesy of reduced rates of travel; (3) Thanks to Rev. W. J. Rutledge for Associational sermon; (4) Sympathy for Dr. Trotter in his sickness; (5) Co-operation with the Lord's Day Alliance.

Rev. Dr. C. Goodspeed then presented his paper on Vicarious Atonement, which was instructive, inspiring and helpful as evinced in the full and hearty discussion which followed.

At the evening session after some routine business the time was given up to an evangelistic service with a ser-