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GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

A Number of Interesting and Grati- fying Reports.

Inspiring Foreign Mission Meeting—This Interest Ably Presented to a Large Audience—Rev. Dr. Mackay's Farewell—New Missionaries to be sent to China and India—Bright Prospects for a Common Hymnal—Interesting Summaries of Reports on Temperance, the State of Religion, and Sabbath Schools—Progress all along the Line.

THIRD DAY.

FIRST SEDERUNT.

The Home Mission business of last evening continued this morning by the consideration of the question of salaries in British Columbia, Manitoba and the North-west, which the committee in order to avoid a large deficit, proposed reduce. The Synod of British Columbia opposed this reduction. The proposal of the committee was that, in British Columbia, a married man without manse get \$900 a year, with manse \$1050; unmarried men \$700; in Manitoba and the North-west without manse, married men get \$800, with manse \$750, unmarried men \$650; student missionaries with board and expenses to the field, get in summer \$550 per Sabbath, and for the whole winter half year \$650 per Sabbath. The committee also proposed that instead of its allocating sums for the fields separately, a lump sum be given to the Synods of British Columbia and the North-west to be located by the Home Mission Committees in these Synods.

The request of the Synod was that unmarried missionaries be paid \$750, and students \$500 per Sunday in summer and \$7 in winter, that the committee take into consideration the expense of living in some fields, that six months' notice be given of reductions, that the committee sit four days at its annual meeting, and that the "lump sum" system of giving be discontinued.

The Rev. Dr. Warden defended the action of the committee, which was adopted to save a large deficit, against the objections made to it, and also on the ground that living in the West had become so expensive. The Rev. James Buchanan and Mr. D. G. McQueen supported ably and forcibly the request of the Synod. Professor Bryce, Principal King thought the reductions too great. J. K. Macdonald sympathized with the request of the home missionaries and compared the salaries given to them with those given to our foreign missionaries and urged the claims of the latter. Rev. Dr. Caven and Mr. Hamilton also took part in the discussion which closed by the adoption of an amendment proposed by Rev. Dr. Warden as follows:—

"That the overture be remitted to the Home Mission Committee, Western Section, to report at the next General Assembly, with instructions for the current year to substitute \$6 and \$7 per Sabbath, respectively, for students' remuneration, instead of \$5.50 and \$6.50 per Sabbath; and \$500 for unmarried missionaries in British Columbia and \$700 for unmarried missionaries in Manitoba and the Northwest, instead of \$700 and \$500 respectively."

The Rev. Dr. Matthews, secretary of the General Assembly of Reformed Churches holding the Presbyterian system, visiting this continent at present, was in view of the Council meeting in Glasgow next week, addressed the court. He referred in pleasant terms to being present at the Assembly five years ago, and to his former connection with labor for and in the Canadian Church. He being a matter of ever-deepening pleasure. Our Church he characterized as in some respects a model Church, and spoke with enthusiasm of our missionary operations at home and abroad. The visit two years ago of the Rev. C. Gordon to the churches at home and the fact that he was unfolded of our work, was to them a great blessing, and had evoked a deep and widespread interest, one which had been and would be still more fruitful in practical help to our work.

He then referred to the meeting of the Presbyterian Council held in Toronto, and the great gatherings on that occasion. He bespoke interest in the meeting to be held next year in Glasgow, for which arrangements are already being made, and urged in the Church's own interest the sending over of a full delegation. The object of the council was practical, and in respect of the continental churches it was to revive between them and the British churches the interest and sympathy of a former day, when the latter were weak and persecuted, and their exiles for conscience sake found an asylum and welcome among the continental churches then strong. Now they were weak, depressed and enslaved by the state to a degree that we have no conception of, and one object of the Alliance is to help them to obtain a greater measure of freedom. Another is to note and watch over the formation and growth of native churches among the converts from heathenism in foreign lands as China, Japan, Africa, so that in the case of complications with England, for example, they would stand by themselves and not incur the evil they might suffer if identified with any European country.

Dr. Caven proposed a motion expressive of the Assembly's satisfaction at having heard Dr. Matthews' address, and of sympathy with the objects of the Alliance which was heartily carried. The Moderator accordingly conveyed to Dr. Matthews the assurance of the Assembly's gratification at his visit and address, and promised that it would be represented at the meeting of the Alliance next year in Glasgow.

THE AGED AND INFIRM MINISTER'S FUND.

The Eastern Section was first reported on. In both this section and the Western there have always been met difficulties in maintaining this fund so as to secure to all annuitants a maximum allowance of \$200. In the East 113 ministers are connected with the fund and 21 annuitants drew from it \$3,274.32 leaving against the fund, which began the year with a credit balance of \$457, a deficit of \$308. There contributed to it 137 congregations, but unless a heartier response is made to appeals on its behalf, the maximum cannot be kept up, and special appeals will have to be refused.

The report for the Western Section was presented by Mr. J. K. Macdonald who explained fully the present financial condition of the fund as presented in the report, of which the total paid up capital amounts to upwards of \$122,000, and which has the prospect of the speedy addition to it of several thousand dollars. The canvass on its behalf to raise it up to \$200,000 had been interrupted somewhat for the present, but the fund was gradually creeping up. The blame for its slow progress he and others attributed largely to the want of interest on the part of ministers. The number of annuitants last year was 79 and there had been paid to them over \$10,000. In the discussion on the report of the committee on this report much difference of opinion appeared as to how, and on what conditions, the benefits of this fund should be distributed. A point much urged by the committee itself was that all ministers should become connected with the fund at or soon after their ordination. Finally a motion prevailed to the effect that all ministers be urged to connect themselves with the fund, and that unless they do so within a reasonable time after ordination they shall be precluded absolutely from its benefits.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

EVENING SEDERUNT.

This sederunt was devoted to Foreign Missions. On the platform beside the Moderator was a strong array of foreign missionaries at home on furlough, and others under appointment to proceed shortly to the foreign field. Conspicuous among these were the Rev. Dr. Mackay and his Chinese student, Rev. Dr. Smith and Dr. McClure, Rev. J. Fraser Campbell, Rev. Mr. Jamieson, Rev. Mr. McArthur, labouring among the Sioux Indians, Rev. Hugh MacKay, Round Lake, and others. The meeting was large, the arrangements good, and the whole proceedings deeply interesting. The report, of which a summary follows, was read by Rev. Dr. Morrison, convenor of the Eastern Section.

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS.

This report is a bulky document of 97 pages packed full with information on the whole Foreign Mission work of the Church for the past year. It contains first a tabulated statement of the different fields of labour, and stations, the agents sent out by the Church, the date of their appointment with a full list of native helpers. Then follows a statement of those missionaries who have either retired or been taken away by death and one of the salaries of missionaries and native helpers. These fields are next taken up separately and dealt with in detail. With the most interesting of these details the readers of THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, of the Leaflet, of the W.F.M.S., and the Record have become already acquainted, so that it is unnecessary now to repeat them at any great length. A glance at the fields and stations occupied and the number of agent's, native and English speaking, employed, is sufficient to show that this is a very large work, and must tax the efforts of the officials to keep up with it, and require the constant care and oversight and utmost wisdom of the large committee carrying it on.

NEW HEBRIDES.

The first field taken up is the New Hebrides where our missionaries are the Rev. H. A. Robertson on Erromanga, Rev. J. W. McKenzie on Effate and Rev. Dr. Annand on Santo. The two former were each appointed in 1872 and the latter in 1873. The transference of this mission, which was begun by the Church of the Maritime Provinces and has been cherished and fostered by its care, to the Australian Presbyterian Church, so much nearer to it than we are, has been under the consideration of our Church. The mission has had a most interesting and encouraging as well as a tragic history. A training school or college has been established lately in connection with the mission for the training of native teachers and pastors. A single sentence or two from the missionaries reports gives us a glimpse of their life and work. Mr. Robertson says: "This completes my two and twenty years here. During all these twenty-two years I have been the only missionary on this island. But I am quite in error, for my dear wife has also been a missionary here during all those years; and if I have worked hard and suffered a good deal and have been exposed to danger often, she has worked harder, suffered more and has been exposed to quite as many dangers as I have been." Speaking of a communion service, Mr. McKenzie remarks: "It was with no ordinary feelings that I baptized and admitted to the Church on that occasion a native who, a few years ago, threatened my life." Dr. Annand says: "Could we have secured teachers, I should have had many out-stations before this time. But without native helpers we cannot extend our work much beyond our nearest villages. The mere preaching of the Word on occasional visits does not seem to make much impression. Line upon line, precept upon precept, reiterated day after day, week after week, and even year after year are needed before the hard savage heart responds to the truth?"

TRINIDAD.

This mission was also begun through the instrumentality of the Maritime Church. In addition to the preaching of the gospel, teaching the Coolie labourers and their children forms a large part of its work. These figures give some idea of the state of the work:

	Schools	Scholars	Com'ers.
Tunapuna.....	14	917	94
San Fernando.....	16	933	348
Princesstown.....	13	1,257	95
Couva.....	10	746	101

Many teachers are employed in this important work. A college has been established here also which embraces a training school for teachers. Of these the report says: "The Government give a grant in aid that fully covers the expenditure—outside of the missionaries labor—on this branch of the work, which is so important to the welfare of the schools, both from the point of view of the State and the Church."

INDIAN MISSIONS IN MANITOBA AND THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

This work, through the W. F. M. S. Leaflet, and in other ways, has become so familiar to all that from the long, full and interesting report we need only to notice the uniform testimony borne to the great value of the visit made last year to the different agencies by Mesdames Harvie and Jeffrey, and quote the contrast given on the first page between the state of things now under the care of our Church with what it was ten years ago:—

Ten years ago our revenue was a little over \$6,000; now, thanks in a great measure to the Women's Foreign Missionary Society, it is three times that amount. Ten years ago there was not a band which, to stave off starvation, did not receive two or three times as much food from the Government as it does now; the Indians, by the joint efforts of missionaries and Government agents, have learnt something of self-respect and manly independence. They have learned by hard experience that "if any man will not work, neither shall he eat." Ten years ago Western Canada was plunged in the horrors of civil war through an Indian rebellion; now there is such a good understanding between whites and Indians that not only is another outbreak impossible, but even the hardest working agitator can hardly raise an "Indian scare" worth a head line in the daily papers. Ten years ago on Sabbath, hunting, fishing, and any other kind of work and diversion went on, on many reserves, as on any other day; now on these reserves there are churches well filled with devout worshippers, and in Sabbath keeping they furnish a model of which their white neighbors often fall short. Ten years ago they refused to listen to the missionary; now they welcome him, and although they do not all follow his teachings, there are among them many devoted Christians, whose simple faith and child-like literal acceptance of Gospel truth is a rebuke to our sophistications and subtleties.

Yes, we have made progress—God has prospered us. We have already enjoyed days of reaping. That which the psalmist pledged to us in promise is ours in realization. "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed" has "come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." But in the main it is still the time of sowing, and considering the hardness of the way-side ground, the unyielding rock that in many a case underlies the thin surface layer of soil, and the thorns that abound on all sides, it is no exaggeration to say that it is a time of "sowing in tears." We need now and then to turn our eyes away from the discouragements, and to hold them intently upon the proofs—the living proofs—that some of the seed has fallen into good soil and has brought forth an abundant harvest.

IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Work is carried on among the Indians in British Columbia at Alberni, Ucluelet, and Ohiabts. At these places are found tribes of 200 and over, and one smaller one. Our agents in the field are Mr. M. Swartout, Misses B. J. Johnston, M. Minnie and Mr. Alex. McKee. Alberni is the chief point. Here is an industrial school in charge of Miss Johnston and Mr. McKee. An Indian school is taught by Miss Minnie. The change of feeling in the Indians is thus described: "At first, we had not only to ask for the children, but to use every means in our power to persuade them to stay with us; now their friends bring them and ask us to try and make room for them because they do not want them to die. All are steadily gaining a knowledge of the Bible, although much that they commit to memory is beyond their comprehension." Of Ohiabts Mr. Swartout says, "The chief came twice to me and said, 'I want a missionary for my place. My people are being ruined with whiskey, and I want a missionary to make them good.' But we have no grant for a school there, nor a teacher. Two true were the words of the chief. Whiskey is ruining the Ohiabts, and they must be ruined, unless something can be done to help them. Of the work as a whole yet it is added, "Everything is in the experimental stage and the future only will disclose the result of the effort we are making."

CHINA.

Of this mission, both in Formosa and Honan, it may be said as of that to the Indians that the Church has been kept well-informed. We only add the following particulars, first, of Formosa:

Missionaries, ordained (two natives)....	4
Preachers, unordained.....	60
Bible Women.....	24
Communicants (Male 1,027, Female 711).....	1,738
Colleges (College closed for 1894).....	1
Schools—Boys.....	8
Attendance.....	236
—Girls.....	1
Attendance.....	12
Hospitals.....	1
Dispensaries at Chapels.....	60
Patients (new) in Hospital.....	3,156
Treatments in Hospital.....	10,736