

ations for the rights of other churches obtained. Finally, the report was adopted, but the committee was re-appointed.

Dr. Scrimger brought the matter of Colligny College before the Synod. For the past eight years this institution has been under the management of the Board of French Evangelization, but as it had been found impracticable to utilize it in the interest of that work and as there were some financial problems to be faced which could better be undertaken by another board it asked the Synod to undertake the management and carry on the work. The matter was referred after some discussion to a committee to consider the situation and report as to a recommendation. At a subsequent soderunt the committee reported in favor of asking the Assembly to place the College under the control of a board which should represent the Presbyteries of the Synod and administer it for the Church. It was reported that a guarantee fund of over \$1,700 had been provided for a short term of years in order to tide it over present difficulties and give it a chance to become self-supporting.

The Rev. M. H. Scott, convener, presented the report from the committee on the mission to lumbermen. The aim of the committee was to circulate religious literature throughout the camps. Six colporteurs of the Bible Society had done much work in this connection, several ministers also had visited some of the camps, and had given away tracts, books, etc. A new departure had been taken during the past year, viz., the distribution of literature among boat and barge men, on the canals. The Rev. C. B. Ross and the Rev. James Bennett had taken this part of the work in hand. The income was \$286. While the expenditure was \$301. Mr. Scott moved the reception and adoption of the report, and that the mission be recommended to the generosity of the churches. Agreed.

At the afternoon soderunt the Rev. J. R. McLeod presented the report of the Synod's committee on augmentation. He stated that the congregations were doing better than in former years. Thirty-eight congregations were receiving aid from the fund to the extent of \$6,545. Contributions to the fund from the churches were 6,695, only a trifle more than the Synod is receiving. The fund has been of inestimable benefit to the church. By its aid many charges have pastors who would otherwise be unable to maintain ordinances. It is hoped that the interests of the fund will be still better recognized than hitherto.

The Rev. Dr. Campbell, of Renfrew, advocated great care on the part of Presbyteries in applying for grants from the fund. This care would prevent all friction between all the parties interested. Formerly, for many years, this Synod had received more than it had given to the fund. This year, however, it had given more than it had received. The special mission he had in view in appearing before the Synod, was to ask for an increase of \$5,000 towards the augmentation fund, from the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. The Synod of Toronto and Kingston is to be asked to raise \$2,000; the Synod of Hamilton and London had promised to raise \$2,000, and this left but \$1,000 to be raised by the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa. He felt sure that this would be raised with but little trouble. The young people's societies and the Sabbath schools could do a great deal towards this object.

The Synod then expressed gratitude to the great Head of the Church for the success which has attended this fund, and in view of the great need of the North-West, agreed to raise the additional one thousand dollars asked for, and to appeal to the young people's societies and Sunday-schools to help in this direction.

EDUCATION IN QUEBEC.

The Rev. Prof. Scrimger read the report upon education. In doing so he stated that it was based chiefly upon the official reports of the departments in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. The report from the latter indicates that the system in the latter province is very far from what it ought to be and from what it might easily become. Teachers' salaries are yet shamefully low, the qualifications insufficient, average terms of service are short, the school buildings are poor and badly equipped, parents withdraw their children at a very early age, while the principal reason for sending them at all appears in many cases to prepare them for communion. This is discreditably in the oldest province of the Dominion. He was glad to say, however, that matters were improving. The joint annual expenditure by government and municipalities for education was \$2,800,000. The number of teachers without diplomas has been reduced by 213, the number of teachers belonging to religious orders is less by sixty two, while the latter, it is expected, will be required now to furnish evidence of qualification in the future. Probably the most hopeful sign of all is the increased interest in education which is taken by the people generally. An improvement in the whole system may be looked for, as both political parties are committed to it.

Coming to Ontario, he said that the report from that province was of unusual interest owing to the prominence which it gives to

moral and religious instruction. In December the minister had sent out circulars to all the inspectors asking answers to a lengthened series of questions. These bore largely upon the personal and relative social and moral duties of the pupils and teachers. The report of the minister gives the answers in full, and should be studied by every clergyman in the province. Fully seventy-five percent of the teachers belong to some Christian Church, and the regulations regarding religious instruction are followed in about ninety percent of the schools. These regulations were helpful to the moral tone of the pupils. The minister is persuaded that no lasting benefit would be accomplished by authorizing the teachers to give direct religious instruction; besides, strife and bad feeling would be unavoidable. Few of the teachers are competent to expound religious truths satisfactorily to all concerned. Moral instruction receives full and constant attention. Moral duties, the rights and duties of one towards another, are certainly within the sphere of the state. Dr. Scrimger held that more might be done in the way of religious instruction. It was gratifying to find that in 1895 the Scriptures were read in 5,218 schools out of 6,660 in the rural districts and prayer was offered in 4,917 of them. In 5,000 schools, however, no advantage was taken by clergymen of the privileges of visitation allowed them by law. The report admitted that there was some force in the objection against teachers being allowed to give dogmatic doctrinal teaching; but claimed that there was no force in the objection to teaching Bible history. This is a field that may be easily common to all denominations. That history is the most interesting and instructive in the world, and no one can afford to be ignorant of it. This is done in the Protestant schools in the Province of Quebec, and no friction results from it.

Dr. Campbell, Montreal, said there was great ground for gratification in the largely increased interest taken by the Province of Quebec in the work of education.

It was then agreed to receive and adopt the report; to express satisfaction at the sign of improvement in the Province of Quebec, and especially the increased interest on the part of the people generally; also, to express gratitude at the signs of the very high moral and religious character of teachers in the public schools of Ontario, and urge that a place be given to the study of biblical history in the course of instruction.

The Wednesday evening soderunt of the Synod was devoted to a conference upon the work of the Holy Spirit. The Rev. J. McLeod opened with a paper upon "The Spirit in the life of the Church." He said the first point which should be noticed was the necessity of a firm belief in the personal existence of the Spirit. All the attributes of personality are ascribed to him in scripture. He is also Divine, equal with Father and Son. He had authority, in the control and administration of the Church. Next there was necessity of the Spirit controlling and guiding every form of church work. The Holy Spirit will work through two agencies, first through consecrated men and women, and second, in the use of his own word, which is the "sword of the Spirit." How are we to secure His help? In two ways—by prayer and by implicit obedience. With such a spirit the Church of God will march on.

The Rev. David McLaren then gave a paper upon the work of the "Spirit in the Foreign Missions of the Church." Jesus sent His disciples forth to witness for Him. The Holy Spirit is the prime agent in witnessing for Christ. The Spirit inspired the Word, concerning which Christ said "search the Scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of Me." Another agency employed by the Spirit is the work of consecrated believers. All such are His witnesses. True mission work must find its origin and power in the influence of the Spirit. He alone gives success in this work.

After these papers a discussion took place upon the numerous points which had been raised. Among those who took part in this were Rev. M. H. Scott, the Rev. Dr. Armstrong, the Rev. A. Russell, the Rev. J. C. Campbell, the Rev. J. A. Macdonald, the Rev. G. C. Pidgou, Mr. Walter Paul and the Rev. A. H. Macfarlane.

On Thursday morning after routine the Rev. Dr. Armstrong appeared and spoke in the interests of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. He reminded the Court that some adverse criticism of the management of the fund had appeared in the public press. He informed the Synod that all these objections had been fully and triumphantly met by the Convener in the Synod of Kingston and Toronto. He also claimed that this scheme of the Church was accomplishing a good and necessary work. The fund, therefore, should meet with a liberality of support worthy of its great importance.

The Rev. A. H. Scott followed upon similar lines, and sustained his contention by citing a number of statistics.

The Rev. Dr. Campbell, Renfrew, the Rev. Dr. Campbell Montreal, the Rev. Orr Bennett, the Rev. J. R. McLeod and others