

THE NORTH-WEST SYNOD.

(Continued from last issue.)

the persons who are giving of their means to carry on their work. The students of the U. P. Hall, Edinburgh, agreed to make the mission work in Western Canada their scheme for the current year, and it is expected that perhaps \$5,000 or \$6,000 may be derived from that source for this year's revenue. The superintendent thought, however, that that should not be used in one year, but rather divided over three or four years, because of its being a special contribution, and that no such aid should lead the church to do any less, but more for her own work. The report stated that the supply of missionaries for the summer season was ample, but that some considerable difficulty had been experienced in getting fields occupied during the winter. Summer session students to the number of twenty-four are in the field this winter, and six young men who came over from Scotland and Ireland have also agreed to remain over. Notwithstanding this large help a number of missions must be closed until spring, owing to the lack of men. The Home Mission Committee of the General Assembly recommend to the Assembly that every graduate in theology and every minister received from another church be required to spend a year in the mission field before being eligible for a call. After discussion the Assembly sent the matter as a remit to the Presbyteries, to be reported on at the next Assembly. The Assembly is deeply interested in the subject, and it is hoped that the west which has the advantage of getting a more adequate supply for its missions, will give the subject its best consideration. The report referred also to the necessity of fuller information being given to congregations and missions in regard to this work, and the further necessity of organization. The committee recommend that steps be taken by every Presbytery to have missionary societies organized in every congregation and mission, as far as practicable, and that at least a collection for Home Missions and Augmentation be taken up every year.

Dr. Robertson followed up the presentation of his report with some explanations of the causes of the demands upon the Home Mission Fund being greater this year than ever before. He spoke of the very severe flood in the Fraser River Valley, and of the fact that very few of the people there have had a crop. Sixty houses had gone into the Kootenay. In one place fourteen families were living in the church. About Moose Jaw and on the plains about Regina little has been raised; and the Church must come to the help of the missionaries. He also spoke of the need of church work among the people of Northern Europe, who were a good class of people; namely, Icelanders, Scandinavians, Germans, and Hungarians. He had visited the Hungarian settlement and could bear testimony to the diligence of the missionary, who, he hoped, would yet be able to address the Synod in English. He spoke also of 3,000 white people who were without pastoral oversight; and of a district where for 250 miles there was not a single Protestant missionary. Illustrating the devotion of the missionaries he told of one who had given all his money towards the building of a church, and afterwards sold his house to buy the shingles.

On motion of Rev. Dr. Bryce, the Home Mission report was referred to a committee named by the Moderator. The members named were Revs. Dr. Bryce, Mr. Rochester, Mr. Gordon and Dr. Robertson and it was directed that the discussion of the report should be the first order of business this morning.

Rev. C. W. Gordon also spoke on Home Missions. He ascribed his success in the Old Country to the strength of the claims the West makes when presented to people with sympathetic hearts. He proceeded to speak of some of the wider aspects of the missionary problem. It had an uplifting power to think that the work here was part of a great world-wide work; they must not disappoint the Presbyterianism of the world. He showed what was the policy of the Presbyterian Church in the old world in the past; and he said they had here a great opportunity of pursuing the same policy. Another aspect of the case was this: We have an outline drawn here, we are laying the foundation of a community such as have been laid down and drawn in no other place in the world. In fifty years this will be a great and prosperous country. We have the saying very largely what its future will be. The Western States had not been a success religiously and morally. The same forces are at work with us. The churches are responsible for the future of the country. We have a great deal to say how the influence of the British Empire will in the future be thrown. We have advantage ground in British Columbia for an attack religiously upon China. From every point of view we cannot be content to see the work stand still. In conclusion he observed that in these hard times, it would take all possible help and united effort to tide over the crisis.

Rev. W. M. Rochester told how on his own field he had endeavored to interest and inform the people in reference to Home Missions. The town of Prince Albert, he described as a town of 1,500 inhabitants on the southern bank of the North Saskatchewan 250 miles north of Regina and 600 miles from Winnipeg, and situated in the midst of an attractive country. He described the locations of a number of the surrounding missions. In a territory 100x80 miles in extent, with thirty mission stations, the work of the Presbyterian Church was most inadequately overtaken by one ordained minister and two students.

Rev. P. Wright gave an address on the augmentation fund. He spoke first of the importance of personal sacrifice and giving consecration and devotion over words only. People are ready to make sacrifices for what they love; so it will be with those who

love Christ. The same spirit should be cherished as the early Christians possessed. Passionate enthusiasm should take possession of us in view of the brightening prospects before us. The church was lacking more in intensity of spirit than anything else. The true hearted missionary was the noblest type of human excellence. In conclusion the speaker said: "Let us pray for our missionaries more."

At the opening of the Synod on Thursday morning about fifty delegates were present. The consideration of the Home Mission report was taken up and discussed by clauses, as follows:

1. That Presbyteries be instructed at their earliest convenience to consider the recommendations of the Assembly's Committee, to make such readjustment and consolidation of fields as may result in a saving of the funds of the Committee.

2. That while the Synod regard one general missionary society as the ideal, yet for the present every Presbytery be urged to have Home Missionary Societies organized in every congregation and mission, as far as practicable, and that it be referred to the Synod's Home Mission Committee to draft a constitution for such societies.

3. That the Synod express its hearty appreciation of the efforts in Britain of the Rev. C. W. Gordon in spreading information as to the Northwest, and of the successful result of his appeals to the British Churches, by which a large sum was promised for work for the next five years. That thanks be tendered to Messrs. Arnot and Drummond for their successful advocacy of the claims of our work before the Students' society of the U. P. Hall, and that the clerk of Synod be instructed to forward a letter expressing the appreciation of the Synod of their timely action.

4. That in regard to the amount obtained in Britain by Rev. C. W. Gordon, the sums to be received from the U. P. Students' society, and also from various congregations, societies and individuals throughout the Dominion, the Synod express its cordial approval of the principle laid down by the General Assembly, viz., that these amounts shall be paid through the agency of the Home Mission Committee as other funds are paid, and that all such amounts distributed shall be subject to revision from year to year as in the case of grants from the general fund.

5. That the Synod strongly emphasize the fact that notwithstanding the help received from abroad, on account of the rapid extension of the work, and of the special grants made necessary by the floods in British Columbia, and the drought in certain parts of the Territories, it will be necessary for congregations to put forth every effort in order that the contributions of the year may exceed any amount hitherto reached.

6. That the Synod express its satisfaction at the valuable assistance rendered by six theological students from Great Britain to the summer session, thereby keeping open important fields during the winter months. The Synod expresses its appreciation of the self-denial of the theological professor of Manitoba College in carrying on the summer session, and of the valuable aid given during the past year to the College in this theological work by Principal Caven, Dr. MacLaren, Prof. Thomson and Rev. D. J. Macdonnell.

7. That Presbyteries use every endeavor to effect such adjustment in the case of stations as to strengthen existing congregations that they may become self-sustaining, or make lighter demands on the funds.

8. That Presbyteries discountenance such subdivision of congregations as tend to make permanent full churches and so render them liable to come on the Augmentation Fund at any time.

9. That Presbyteries exercise care in putting congregations on this list that have not the prospects of becoming self-supporting in the course of reasonable time (say four or five years).

10. That all Presbyteries appoint committees on the augmentation to watch over the interests of this work and procure contributions from all congregations within its bounds.

The report was read by Dr. Bryce and was adopted as a whole. The report of Nisbet academy, Prince Albert, was read by Rev. W. M. Rochester. The main recommendation contained therein was that no steps should be immediately taken towards re-establishing the academy. The report was adopted.

It was moved and carried, that the Synod meet in Winnipeg on the second Tuesday of November in St. Andrew's church at 8 o'clock p.m.

Rev. Joseph Hogg called attention to the fact that the present Synod of the Presbyterian Church was the largest in the history of the Church in the Northwest, and that there was not so much reason now for meetings of the Synod to be held further west, inasmuch as Winnipeg was now more central for the Church, as British Columbia and a part of the Northwest had lately been organized into a separate Synod.

The report on systematic beneficence was then read by Dr. Duval and was received by the Assembly.

The report was taken seriatim as to the recommendations made therein.

The first recommendation was that the Committee be empowered to procure and circulate through sessions literature bearing upon systematic beneficence.

2. That all ministers and elders be urged through their Presbyteries to educate the people under their care in systematic giving.

Dr. Duval, with regard to this, remarked that he wished to see the Church in the position of a foster mother to her people, not harassing the poor for gifts, or asking five cents in charity from a washerwoman with five children to support, but by rigid economy in church matters making it unnecessary to ask assistance continually from people who were not in a position to afford it.

Chief Justice Taylor remarked that he had found that people were averse to giving money if they did not know how that money was to be expended. He believed it was the duty of the elders