

ten congregations have had free loans averaging \$600 each, and amounting in all to \$12,700. To eleven congregations loan on interest were made to the extent of \$7600, on easy terms as regards times of payment, and four out of the eleven have paid in full; to the other seven \$3164 are still loaned. Nothing so far has been lost. The amount given and used is not quite nine thousand dollars, which is decidedly less than rents and interest, so that the fears of those who apprehended that capital was being treasured upon are causeless.

The Report was received and approved.

Rev. E. A. McCurdy submitted the Report of the Committee on Systematic Benevolence. The only thing attempted has been to keep the matter before the people through the press. The contributions of the people are increasing. 57 congregations have contributed to all the schemes. Non-contributing congregations are generally decreasing in number. The Committee ask authority to appeal for aid to circulate books and tracts on the subject.

Report was received and adopted.

A Reference from the Presbytery of Truro concerning a difference between Rev. J. Sinclair and Rev. E. Ross in a matter of property which was laid before Synod was referred to a committee.

#### THIRD SEDAUNT.

The moderator took the chair at 3 p.

The report from the College Board being taken up, a considerable part of the afternoon sederunt was taken up in lively discussion on the subject of the aid given by the church to Dalhousie College and the withdrawal of that aid in whole or in part. The following resolution was at length adopted.

"That the synod declare as their deliberate policy, that Dalhousie college should be sustained in its present or increased efficiency as a public non-sectarian institution and as such should be supported with all their influence, as being the institution which in the circumstances is best suited to serve the interests, not merely of one particular body, but of the whole province. But, having respect to the sacrifices which the carrying out of the above policy have entailed upon the church, the synod instruct the college board to confer with the governors of Dalhousie college with a view to their taking measures more efficiently to protect the interests of the college to relieve this church, whole, or in part, of the po-

cuniary obligation which they have assumed in this matter; and in addition empower them to conclude any arrangements which may in this respect be mutually agreed upon."

The finance committee of the Presbyterian college reported that immediate steps would be taken towards the collecting of the unpaid subscriptions to the endowment fund. There is at present in fund \$71,026.20. The contributions for the past year for the ordinary fund have amounted to \$2,402.39.

The report was adopted.

Rev. Dr. Patterson presented the report of the Widows' and Orphans' fund of the Maritime synod. This fund at present amounts to \$39,200. Sixteen widows with families and one orphan family are at present drawing upon the fund. The report was received and adopted.

#### FOURTH SEDAUNT.

At 7½ p. m., the synod was again constituted, with praise, reading of scripture prayer.

Rev. Joseph Hogg presented the report on the state of religion.

Congregations generally give cheering reports. One Pictou presbytery congregation reports one half the youth between 14 and 20 in communion.

In all congregations reporting there are weekly prayer meetings, in many congregations the attendance being half as large as the regular Sabbath service.

There is growth in the grace of liberality. An increasing number contribute one-tenth of their income to God. But with many such contributing is counted rather a sad necessity than a joyful privilege.

Truro presbytery reports that family worship is, so far as known, conducted in every family where the heads of families are communicants.

There are Sabbath schools in all congregations, the elders generally being found foremost in the work. But it is to be regretted that in some congregations this work is suspended during the winter. A variety of hindrances as referred to such as worldliness, lack of christian sociability, want of family religion, and neglect of parents to bring their children with them to the house of God.

The committee recommend that the attention of sessions be called to the importance of their securing a fuller know-