

HAMILTON AND LONDON.

Annual Meeting of Synod at Stratford.

At the Synod meeting on Monday evening, after the sermon preached by the retiring moderator, Rev. Colin Fletcher, Rev. Hector Currie, B.A., Theoford, was unanimously elected Moderator for the ensuing year. Further business was deferred until the following morning.

At the morning's session, Rev. Colin Fletcher presented the report of the committee on obituaries, containing short sketches of the lives of the ministers who had died during the year—Rev. James Little, of Proof Line Church, in the London Presbytery, and Rev. R. M. Carlyle, of Sombria and Duthill, in the Sarnia Presbytery.

Rev. J. W. McNamara presented the report of the committee on Young People's Societies. Returns had been received from all Presbyteries except Chatham. The total number of societies reported was 161, a decrease of 9. Four Presbyteries reported an increase, Paris leading with five societies. Four reported losses, Hamilton leading with 7 decrease. There was a decline of membership all along the line of 379 members and 365 church members in the societies. Paris and Maitland were the only Presbyteries reporting an increase in this regard. Contributions to the schemes of the church were \$1,920, a decrease of \$74. Five presbyteries showed an increase, Hamilton and Maitland leading, the former with 50 per cent. The greatest decrease was in London Presbytery. For home missions the total raised was \$557, a decrease of \$70. For all other mission schemes there were raised \$607, a decrease of \$3.83. The total raised for missions was \$3,084, a decrease of \$229. For other objects \$2,102 was contributed, a decrease of \$541. Walkerton, London and Brantford were chosen names for the next meeting, Brantford being chosen by a large majority.

At the conference in the afternoon the largest share of attention was given to the question of church union. The paper read by Dr. Isaac H. Macdonald, of Moss, Presbytery of London, was one of the ablest ever presented to the synod. The speaker strongly favored the proposed church union in Canada, and while realizing the difficulties in the way, believed they could all be overcome. As a basis of organic union he proposed the Confession of Faith be supplemented by the declaratory act of the United Free Church of Scotland, which certainly could not be called Calvinistic. One paragraph from this act was adopted as follows:

"That this church also holds that all who hear the Gospel are warranted and required to believe to the saving of their souls, and that in the case of such as do not believe, but perish in their sins, the issue is due to their own rejection of the Gospel calls. That this church does not teach and does not regard the confession as teaching the foreordination of men to death, irrespective of their own sin." Dr. Macdonald concluded his splendid paper in these words: "If the church is to be the great social teacher, conservator, and regenerator of society, it can only be most effective as a united organization. The civil power will be found helpless at last to cope with the evils, vices and vicious habits imported to us from the dark regions of Europe, just as it has been found helpless in other lands. What is to be the strong bulwark of our land against this tide of evil? The hope of the future of this country is in a national school and a united church, a church representing true Canadian ideas, that will speak with authority upon such questions as the observance of the Lord's Day, the sanctity of married life, which is challenged at our very door by the attitude

of the Mormons, the importance of temperance and social reforms among the working classes. Union here is strength; division is weakness and defeat." A most interesting discussion followed, which was taken part in by Rev. Dr. McMullen, Woodstock; Dr. Hamilton, Stratford; Dr. Munro, Ridge town; Dr. McCrae, Westminster; W. J. Clark, London, and R. G. McBeth, of Paris. All, with the exception of Mr. McBeth, favored the union. No resolution was considered necessary, as the synod had unanimously recorded a favorable verdict last year, and as the General Assembly's committee has the matter now under consideration.

The other topic discussed at the conference was on "The Church of Christ and Social Problems." Mr. McBeth's paper on this subject was an excellent one, although some regarded it as a little too radical. He spoke strongly against land monopoly and war. Rev. James Rollins, London; Rev. T. A. Watson, Thamesford, and others, followed with earnest and interesting addresses. In the evening Rev. A. Henderson presented the report of a special committee on a plan of campaign all over the synod in the interests of the augmentation fund. Dr. Lyle, Hamilton, the General Assembly's convener, made a stirring appeal on behalf of the fund. He was ably supported by Dr. McCrae, Mr. Knox and Mr. Martin, of Brantford.

Rev. Mr. Fisher, of Flamboro, presented a lengthy report on "Church Life and Work," which on the whole showed a favorable condition of things all over the synod. The efficient work of the Lord's Day Alliance was recognized in this connection as helping towards a better observance of the Sabbath.

The usual votes of thanks were passed and the synod adjourned to meet in Zion church, Brantford, on the last Monday of April, 1906.

Brief Notes.

The Synod of Hamilton and London consists of eight presbyteries, in which there are 200 ministers ordained over the congregations.

Mr. Currie, the new moderator received his degree of B.A. from Victoria University, and took his theological course at Knox College, Toronto. On the 25th of April, 1876, 29 years ago, he was inducted into his present charge, and the fact that he has ministered so long to the same congregation is an abundant evidence of his acceptance and faithfulness.

The billeting system has been done away with in this synod, and the ministers and elders put up at the various hotels.

The attendance of delegates from the nine presbyteries which comprise the synod was only fair. It is felt more and more that the synods are a sort of fifth wheel to the coach in the ecclesiastical machinery, the real work being done by the presbyteries and General Assembly.

This has been the shortest session of the Synod on record; and is accounted for by the entire absence of appeal cases and burning question. The autonomy bill was not even remotely referred to. The meeting has been altogether a most delightful and harmonious one.

POINT-AUX-TREMBLES SCHOOL.

The fifty-eighth session of the missionary institutions of Pointe aux Trembles was brought to a close by appropriate exercises on Friday afternoon of last week. The chapel was filled to overflowing and the need of the enlargement contemplated was urgently felt. Among the friends who had come from the city were noticed Revs. Dr. Mowatt, Couissirat, Johnston, Campbell, Amaron, James Fleck, F. M. Dewey, E. A. McKenzie, S. J. Taylor, R. P. Ducloux, I. P. Bruneau, H. E. Benoit, John Mackay, Dr. Dickson and Professor Kelly (of the High School), Messrs. James Roger, E. Cop-

land and other prominent laymen and a large number of ladies.

Dr. Amare, and the Rev. F. M. Dewey conducted the Bible examination. The answers were prompt and intelligent and revealed a thorough knowledge of Bible history and doctrine. As a result of the religious teaching and Christian influences of the schools, thirty-two young people were converted and made public professions of their faith.

After the distribution of prizes, the Principal, the Rev. E. H. Brandt, gave a brief address on the character of the work done in the schools and on the place which institutions of the kind occupy in the life of our country. It is in schools of this kind, he said, where both French and English are taught, that French-Canadian boys and girls are made to fit themselves for Canadian citizenship. It is here that the race problem is solved. The Pointe aux Trembles institutions and those of a similar character, are the strongest factor to weld our Dominion into a happy nation.

Dr. Kelly urged upon the friends present the patriotic duty of enlarging and equipping the schools without delay. He knew of no educational institutions where more thorough work was done, at such little cost and in conditions more trying.

Dr. Dickson and others expressed their great satisfaction on examining the written papers. To some who were present for the first time at such a function it was a revelation.

A layman who contributed fifty dollars to help the cause said that if the business men of Montreal, and those who desired the peace and prosperity of the land could only see what he had seen, this work would not suffer for lack of funds.

The Rev. John Mackay spoke a few well-chosen words to the pupils, as did also Dr. Couissirat, and several brief addresses were made by others present.

One opinion was generally expressed, namely, that the solution of the perplexing religious and racial problems now agitating the country is not in the hands of politicians but of the humble educators and missionaries who are leavening French Canada with gospel light and truth.

The singing of the pupils on Friday was admirable, the valedictory read by a young lady was very touching, and the intelligent look of the pupils most pleasing. The interesting exercises of the afternoon closed with the singing of the National Anthem.—The Witness.

An American authority on social problems demonstrates that last year, in nine states of the union, 14,000 divorces were granted, as against 7,000 in the previous year. Speaking of this "amazing and disheartening record," the Morning Star of Boston, says:—"It is a result of the thoughtless way in which the American people stand for liberty. It is really a tendency to bondage. A people can hope to find some relief from its errors of judgment; but when it deliberately lowers its moral standards and persists in it, and is not shocked at the logical results of it, its case is hopeless. If co-operation among the States is not possible to remedy this divorce evil, then a federal law, even if it involve a constitutional amendment, should intervene before it is too late." It is in dealing with questions of this kind that our American neighbors find how cumbersome is the legal machinery of their constitution.

The kingdom of our blessed Master needs a consecrated press as much as a consecrated tongue or a consecrated pulpit.—Dr. Cuyler.

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