

THE DISCIPLE OF CHRIST

AND CANADIAN EVANGELIST. U. W. O. LIBRARY

"If ye abide in my word, then are ye truly my disciples."—JESUS the Christ.

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\$1 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.

The Disciple of Christ

Is devoted to the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ, and pleads for the union of all believers in the Lord Jesus in harmony with His own prayer recorded in the seventeenth chapter of John, and on the basis set forth by the Apostle Paul in the following terms: "I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beseech you to walk worthily of the calling wherewith ye were called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love, giving diligence to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, even as also ye were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all."—Eph. iv. 1-6.

This paper, while not claiming to be what is styled an "organ," may be taken as fairly representing the people known as Disciples of Christ in this country.

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Eighth Annual Convention, held at London.

The annual meeting or conference of the Disciples of Christ in Ontario began yesterday (Friday) afternoon, May 31, in the Christian Church at the corner of Dundas and Elizabeth streets. The attendance at the opening meeting was small, but an influx of delegates is expected to-day. It is believed that there will be at least 150 Disciples present at 10-day's sessions.

The Conference will last until noon on Monday. To-day and to-morrow will see the Disciples in session from 9 a.m. until after 9 p.m., as three meetings will be held each day. On Sunday there will be a sunrise prayer meeting, morning worship, the Lord's Supper at 3 p.m., and preaching service again at night. In event of the church being too small to seat the congregation and the delegates, permission has been obtained to hold services on Sunday in the agricultural hall at the fair grounds.

The body is called "The Co-operation of Disciples of Christ in Ontario."

To the vice-president, Mr. John Campbell, St. Thomas, devolved the task of opening the meeting yesterday afternoon. The president, Mr. Hugh Black, of Rockwood, Ont., is absent under more than ordinarily sad circumstances. He is at Cook's Mills, Algoma,

endeavoring to recover the body of his son, who taught school there, and who was drowned on Wednesday last.

The meeting opened with devotional exercises. Then the minutes of the last annual meeting were read and confirmed. After that several committees were appointed, and then the proceedings took the form of a social meeting, adjourning at 5 o'clock.

The church was well filled in the evening, when Rev. W. D. Cunningham, pastor of the Church of Christ, St. Thomas, preached. He based his remarks on the following verse from Isaiah, lx, 1: "Arise, shine, for thy light has come, and the glory of the Lord is upon thee," and this verse from Ephesians, v, 14: "Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light."

The preacher expressed his pleasure at meeting so many who worshiped Christ in the same manner as himself, and went on to dwell of the majesty of the sun and all the powers derivable from the sun's rays. Well might Jesus Christ, then, be called the Sun of Righteousness. As the earthly sun was the source of earthly life and light, so the Sun of Righteousness awoke to spiritual and eternal life those who slept. He urged his hearers to live high, noble, grand lives, such as the Master would have them live. How could they live idly and contemplate the destruction of souls and not be moved to save them? God set them as watchmen on the hills, and bade them to be thoroughly alive to the condition of their own and other souls. Christ died for all, and how could they slumber while others died? The sermon was an earnest appeal to all to awake from lethargy and make an effort to save sinners.

A liberal collection was taken up. The eighth annual convention of the Ontario Christian Woman's Board of Missions commences in the school room of the church at 9 o'clock this morning.

FRIDAY MORNING.

The opening address of welcome was made by Mr. John Campbell, vice-president, St. Thomas. He reviewed the progress of the work of the Disciples of Ontario during the past year, and con-

sidered it very satisfactory in all points. Mr. Campbell gave an encouraging account of the mission work, and referred in congratulatory terms to the establishment of the Bible School in Toronto.

The address will be printed in the paper of the body.

Rev. P. Baker, Evesham, presented the report of the committee on statistics. It is pointed out that if a congregation or the body of the church does not care to report, it doesn't need to. Therefore, the figures presented were not as complete as they might otherwise be. There are now 64 congregations of Disciples in Ontario, with an estimated total membership of 4,000. There were 300 additions by baptism to the church body during the year, and total contributions amounting to \$21,864.77. The contributions to home and foreign missions were most encouraging.

The report was discussed and adopted.

J. Lediard, Owen Sound, presented the report of the committee on Sunday schools, and stated that the committee was looking forward to greater things. Their growth as a people would be largely from Sunday school ranks, and it called for their very best work. There was no other field so rich in results as that field. The report urged that teachers make special effort to visit the homes of their pupils. The committee were also especially anxious to see the schools take a larger interest in their home missions.

The church in St. Thomas reported 60 additions to the membership of the church by way of the Sunday school.

This report was also adopted.

The report of the committee on educational work was prepared by Mr. John Munro, Toronto. As Mr. Munro was absent in Manitoba, the report was read by Mr. R. W. Badah, Hillsburg. It stated:

1. That a Bible school had been established in Toronto, according to the recommendation of the last annual meeting.
2. That a teacher, Rev. T. L. Fowler, M. A., was engaged by the Board of the Co-operation, at a salary of \$600, for the six months' session.
3. That rooms in the Cecil Street

Church building, Toronto, were used as lecture rooms.

4. That there is now a nucleus of a library.

5. That there were five students in attendance at the school during the session, and five others who availed themselves of a correspondence course.

6. That the work done during the session was in every way highly satisfactory, and, in the opinion of the committee, was a cause for great rejoicing among the Disciples of Christ in Canada.

It was recommended that the school be made self-supporting as soon as possible, and that Rev. T. L. Fowler be continued in charge of the school.

The noon adjournment was then made. Mr. Wm. H. Jacks, United States consul, was an interested listener to the discussions. Mr. Jacks' predecessor was also a member of the church body.—Advertiser, May 31.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

In the afternoon, Mr. T. L. Fowler read the report of the committee on evangelists. It detailed the work during the year at the various points, the whole report showing that the mission work was most encouraging. The report also indorsed the formation of a Bible school in the province.

W. W. Coulter, St. Thomas, read the Christian Endeavor report, which showed that the total Endeavor membership in connection with the body to be 731—520 active, 153 associate and 68 honorary, accessions from the society to the church, 42. The expenses of the society had been \$201.36. The society had contributed \$392.69 to the support of the home church, home missions, and to the educational fund, \$11—a total of \$503.65.

Mr. Coulter also reported that the amount raised for the year for missionary purposes was \$1,000, as in 1893, and four times as much in 1894. One society was organized in China. Another society was organized for the support of a girl school in Japan. Another society organized a mission Sunday-school,