

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT OF THE SABBATH OBSERVANCE COMMITTEE.

The Committee appointed to consider the Report of the General Assembly's Committee on Sabbath Observance, and accompanying papers, beg to report as follows :

I. The Committee call the attention of the Assembly to the following encouraging facts presented in the Report :

1. The fact has been elicited that on our lines of railway the Sabbath traffic has been considerably abridged, being, in the case of many, confined merely to cases of temporary and extreme urgency ; while in no case has any attempt been made to call in question either the civil or sacred law, or to justify the evil on any other ground than that of the exigencies of commerce, and in all cases the desire has been expressed by the managers of railway companies to confine it within the narrowest possible limits.
2. Legislative action has been begun with a view to control the Sabbath traffic on lines of travel under the management of the Government, and in several instances the judicial authorities have spontaneously interfered to enforce the existing law.
3. The parties more immediately interested as Railway employees have, with remarkable unanimity, entered upon an agitation both in the United States and Canada, to enforce their claims to the enjoyment of the day of rest.
4. The cordial co-operation of most of the religious bodies in Ontario has been secured in the movement.
5. In several important localities, Associations are ready formed for the purpose of enforcing the civil law, and elevating the tone of public opinion on this important matter.

II. The Committee, at the same time call the attention of the Assembly to the great extent to which the evil of Sabbath desecration still prevails, especially in connection with many of our railway lines, and they would give special prominence to the fact that the main difficulty in the way of the suppression of this form of the evil arises from the connection of several of our Canadian Railways with the great thorough routes of American travel, and the large extent of Sabbath traffic on these lines.

III. The Committee would submit to the Assembly the following recommendation .—

1. That the Assembly continue the appointment of a Committee on Sabbath Observance, with instructions to continue their efforts in the direction in which such gratifying results have been already secured.
2. That the Committee be instructed to continue negotiations with other religious bodies in the Dominion, and with prominent parties in important centres of influence, with a view to secure the formation of a General Organization, with local branches throughout the Dominion, for the purpose of enforcing the existing law, and elevating the tone of public opinion on this important matter, by the diffusion of information through the circulation of suitable literature, and the agency of the public press.
3. That in view of the international aspects of this question, the Committee be instructed to open negotiations with Churches in the United States with which this Church is in correspondence, and with other Associations there, having similar objects in contemplation, for the purpose of securing concert of action in both countries in suppressing this form of Sabbath desecration.
4. That the Assembly recommend their Standing Committee to extend the range of their efforts so as to include all other prevailing forms of Sabbath desecration.
5. That a Pastoral letter be addressed to the members of this Church calling for their active co-operation in this matter, that a Sabbath be appointed for the purpose, and Ministers enjoined to bring the claims of the Sabbath before their congregation, and make it the subject of special prayer.