

Special Conference of United Church

At a political convention the first four seats are greatly desired. It seems that at all church gatherings there is general heed given to the admonition in regard to "taking first the lowest seats." This may be an expression of modesty but is not conducive either to efficiency or enthusiasm. But this handicap was not sufficient to mar the impression made by Rev. Edwin Moore's opening prayer. A report does not even need to be an adherent of the body whose deliberations he reports to catch their spirit. It was true in this case.

Immediately after the minutes, Mr. H. N. Burt, who has been for a good many years the chairman of the Business Committee, moved the House into Committee of the Whole to consider the budget for Maintenance and Extension. Mr. Albert Soper, who is the recognized organizing expert of the denomination, presented the report. First it was shown that the amount raised last year was \$40,000. The goal for the current year is \$51,000. This covers Missions, Aged Ministers, Home Missions, and the several other smaller general funds of the denomination.

Mr. A. Mews, C.M.G., who had just returned from the General Board meeting at Toronto, spoke on the general aspects of the question from headquarters' viewpoint.

The increase was due to deficits on missionary operations and especially to the needs of Presbyterian ministers who had gone out for conscience sake. In some cases, Methodist ministers had given the evicted Presbyterian minister half of his own parsonage.

Others with large salaries had divided their stipends. In spite of these local helps there had been great suffering on the Presbyterian side. He believed that with a little effort we could catch the inspiration, even though we had to look across to Canada to see its actual operation. We are in communion with these our brethren in the Body of Christ. The view of our church expands from China and Japan to include, because of the union interests, Africa, South America, India, and the Isles. Again, the spirit of Mr. Morris' prayer was felt in Mr. Mews' address.

On discussion, the plan of a budget was adopted unanimously. The question of the goal set, \$51,000, caused a general discussion. The veterans, Frank and Newman led off. They were on opposite sides. There was no one in their fire. Mr. Howes was a pessimist, save on the missionary question. Mr. Jackson pointed out correctly enough that an "objective" ought to be taken seriously, even if it were not called an assessment. Mr. Lench as usual lightened matters up with a bit of humor, humor that was true. Mr. Hill Peters was the first layman to speak. He was hopeful and enthusiastic. Dr. Darby spoke of the intense interest with which he had been questioned on the Union question, while in Europe the past summer. Mr. Joyce asked an illuminating question. Dr. Curtis threw himself into the debate followed by C. H. Johnson and Dr. Fenwick.

THE COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

On the order of the day it was proposed that the name Methodist College be changed to the Holloway College of Newfoundland, both as a convenience of nomenclature and as a tribute to a great principal. There was much discussion, the most striking speech being that of the mover, Mr. Joseph Peters, who stated that when in 1892 the old college was destroyed, Mr. Holloway received in one day four telegrams from Canada offering him a position. Dr. Macpherson seconded the motion showing how a tribute could be paid to brains rather than to money. To say more was to paint the lily. Dr. Curtis thought that the decision should be postponed because of present uncertainties. Mr. Horwood seconded Dr. Curtis' amendment regarding postponement. When explanations of procedure were fully given it was decided that this was best. It is quite probable, however, that this change of name will come about within a year or two.

When conference reassembled in the afternoon, Dr. Chown answered two questions, stating first that the maintenance fund contemplated one appeal for all denominational funds, and second, that the time and method was to be set by each local board. Mr. Bennett clarified the discussion by a well put statement. Dr. Fenwick showed that in future there would be but two classes of circuits, namely, independent and mission circuits. Dr. Chown made an impassioned appeal not longer than five minutes in length, but mighty in spiritual power. One striking sentence said, "It is a case of dollars

scattered here and there against the prayer of Christ." The vast majority of the delegates sprang to their feet at the challenge of a rising vote. Others made a slower decision, rising as though they carried a weight. Perhaps in the end they will make the best showing.

Mr. Strothard, Secretary for S. S. work, who has been campaigning in the Twillingate District for a month, came before conference. He is one of two specialists working in about 2,000 Sunday schools east of Montreal. That is not too great an overhead charge. After five years of continuous travel, Mr. Strothard will return to the pastorate next conference. He said in part: The self expression of youth must be guided. There is a parental privilege as well as responsibility. Children's sermons and scripture memorization should be used. Worship and decision must be kept close together and the great field for both, worship and decision, is with the children and the young people. Mr. Jackson moved a resolution of appreciation for Mr. Strothard's work during the past five years. This was carried most gladly.

On motion of Mr. A. Mews, the first step toward union legislation was taken. The objectives for the maintenance fund were set so as to ask increases over last year's benevolent funds in round numbers.

Presbytery of St. John's . . . \$5,000
Presbytery of Carbonear . . . 1,300
Presbytery of Bonaville . . . 1,000
Presbytery of Westville . . . 900
Presbytery of Twillingate . . . 1,200
Presbytery of Grand Falls . . . 900
Presbytery of Barrie . . . 1,000

EVENING SESSION.

All day as the reports of Presbyteries came in, or as matters were referred to special presbyteries, your reporter had the feeling, which is perfectly justified, that the new church is more Presbyterian in all its organization than anything else. To-night as the service opens with Psalm 121, the impression is deepened. Presbyterian organization was always good. Joined with Methodist doctrine which is fully preserved, there is going to be a strong combination.

The audience is much better and there is a choir and organ. It is ordination night. That is a spectacle. Yes, but such a solemn one and after all the crowd loves the awesome and the truly-reverent. Dr. Darby led in prayer. After another hymn, Mr. Roland Baggs was called upon to speak of his call to the ministry. As a boy he was impressed with some aspects of family worship. Sunday school added its influence and led first to decision to live for God, then candidacy for the ministry. Mr. Gilbert Ivany, next spoke of a boyhood's decision at twelve and a further consecration at fourteen. A Christian home, nine years at sea, and overseas service, all left their mark.

Very solemn was the series of questions addressed to the young men. Very seriously they made their answers. In deep silence the audience prayed for long minutes that God's blessing might rest upon these men. Then responsively other prayers were said, after which the officers of Conference laid their hands in blessing upon the heads of the candidates. God's Word was placed in their hands, and their hands were taken and given in reception into the ministry.

The ordination charge was given by Dr. Chown. Three major addresses and constant participation in and guidance of debate for two days is no light task, but this has been his portion.

THE CHARGE.

Jesus Christ made little of opinion but much of character. Jesus would say to those who inquired are there millions alive who will never die, "What is that to thee follow thou me." What difference, bring men to Jesus or bring Jesus to men. Jesus and men must meet or the soul dies. To save souls there must be a baptism with fire and the Holy Ghost. Change of heart comes only by melting. The burden of service cannot be carried while the burden of sin is carried. The audience laughed at two stories and laughed audibly and then immediately were conscious, as he said the old preachers were, of the solemn presence of God. The young men must preach on "Now is the day of Salvation." They were to go into the pulpit for business. In the language of business they must learn to close contracts. Prayer was another charge. His own experience had seen a night of prayer followed by an ingathering of hundreds. Third, seek the people out. Mark those who are under conviction and seek them out. There must be conviction, repentance, conversion and consecration. These were the rungs of the ladder of experience and the old men praised the bridge that carried them over. That was testimony. Over all these things there was passion. A truth preached without passion might as well not be preached. Here for example the old hymns fitted, "I am poor and weak and blind." "My God is reconciled," and in that order.

The vision must now widen. Personal needs must lead to the perception of missionary requirements and the social application of the teaching of Jesus.

A few words to the laymen and the simple and great charge was over. The hall for members of the next general council resulted in no election on the first round. Mr. Vatcher

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Fair Price2.48
LADIES' BROWN CALF LACED SHOES—Good-year welted, rubber heels, Sizes 3 to 7. Regular 6.00
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Sizes 11 to 21.10

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Sizes 11 to 2 .2.90, 3.20

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was the only man elected on the second and third ballots. On the fourth Dr. Fenwick, on the fifth Dr. Curtis, Rev. H. G. Coppin, H. N. Burt. Sixth round no election, seventh Mr. Leamon. For the first time ministers and laymen voted together.

Alternative delegates were elected. Mr. Mews and Dr. Darby. A committee was appointed to consider the matter of a new order of teacher-preachers for the manning of small appointments.

A discussion took place on the matter of Civil Service appointments. The officers of Conference were appointed to present certain statements of fact to the government.

The Conference then adjourned to meet at the call of the chair.

WRESTLING AT MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, Oct. 25.—Sandy MacDougall, of Scotland, earned the right to meet Ed "Strangler" Lewis here next Tuesday night, when he took 2 out of three falls from George Deslongchamps, a local grappler, here

tonight. MacDougall was too clever for the local man. In the semi-final, Nick Butze, coach of the Notre Dame University wrestlers, defeated Bill Peterson, of Sweden, in 3 straight falls.

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