

public schools, directed Presbyteries "to ascertain, as fully as possible, from public school inspectors, to what extent the law regarding the teaching of temperance in the public schools is being carried out within their respective bounds, and to report to the Assembly's Committee on Temperance." This duty has been very generally attended to by Presbyteries.

In Prince Edward Island, we are sorry to learn, the law is "largely a dead letter," the subject being taught in only a small number of the schools. Efforts were made to obtain the desired information, but the Presbytery, at the time of reporting, was not able to give any definite statement. This important matter should be urged upon the educational authorities until the subject of temperance be put in its proper place in the common school curriculum, and receive its proper share of attention in all the schools.

The present law regarding this subject in Nova Scotia came into full operation in August, 1893, and reports received from the inspectors by Presbyteries are all very satisfactory. The new text books are well liked, and for a time the supply was not equal to the demand. The subject is taught in nearly all the schools, and in very many both teachers and scholars take a great interest in the study.

New Brunswick has also made good progress. Temperance is put on the same footing as other "useful knowledge" subjects. A new and greatly improved text book has been lately adopted, and the demand is beyond the supply, but the teachers are reported as doing their best in the meantime to carry out the law by giving oral lessons where text-books cannot be obtained.

There has been no change during the year in Quebec, but the subject is said to be generally taught, and the inspector of the seventy Protestant academies and model schools says: "More attention could not be given to the subject."

Ontario, since last report, has taken two important steps in advance. (1) Temperance was put on the lists of subjects required for entrance examinations to high schools and collegiate institutes, formerly it was optional. (2) The new text book, promised last year by the Minister of Education, has been issued and is now in use. It is reported to be a great improvement over the old, and several inspectors speak of it as very satisfactory, and teachers and pupils are said to be taking a deeper interest in the subject than in former years. The moral phase of the question is also receiving increased attention. This fact is encouraging, as it shows that the subject is being treated more as it should be, not only on the grounds of science and expediency, but on the higher ground that temperance is a duty and that intemperance is a sin. The progress made in such teaching, while the subject was only optional, gives good grounds to hope that now, with its place on the list of required subjects, with a good text-book, there will be very decided advances made in the near future. In 1892 the number of pupils reported as receiving instruction on temperance was 33,926; in 1893 the number had risen to 171,549, an increase of 405 per cent.

In Manitoba temperance is in the regular course of study, and should be taught in all the schools. The Presbytery of Rock Lake gives the fullest information, and probably the state of matters within its bounds will not be much different from what it is throughout the province. The inspector in that district says that temperance is taught systematically in about thirty per cent. of the schools; incidentally in from thirty to forty per cent. more. He also remarks that "intemperance has been taught objectively in a few schools, while excessive drunkenness has been recorded, objectively, in only one instance."

In the North-west Territories teaching of temperance is optional, and is not very general. The Presbytery of Regina has agreed to again memorialize the educational authorities to place temperance on the list of required studies.

British Columbia has the subject as a branch of anatomy, physiology and hygiene. It is optional, but teachers are directed to give it due attention, and in all papers which the department of education sets on physiology and hygiene, certain questions on temperance are included. The inspector of Victoria says in his annual report: "With respect to the teachings of temperance, a branch subject of hygiene, the sentiment of the school is sound. The conviction that alcohol and tobacco are bad things to use is universal."

Taking a general view of the matter there is much reason for encouragement. Teachers and inspectors appear to be giving the subject special attention in most parts of the country, and in a very large majority of public schools in the Dominion temperance is taught with a growing interest, while special advances have recently been made by the educational authorities in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Ontario.

Among the resolutions recommended to the Assembly for approval by the committee are:

That in view of the pronounced state of public opinion in favour of prohibition, as expressed by the recent plebiscites held in Manitoba, Prince Edward Island, Ontario, and Nova Scotia,—by the unanimous vote of the Legislature of New Brunswick, and by the reports of Sessions, and Presbyteries, and in accordance with the request of the Synod of Hamilton and London, this Assembly instructs its Committee on Temperance to approach by memorial and petition the legislative body, or bodies which shall be declared competent by the Privy Council asking the immediate enactment and vigorous enforcement of legislation, prohibiting the liquor traffic. This Assembly also advises electors to secure as representatives in the legislatures, Dominion and Provincial, men whose opinions and practice are in accord with total abstinence and prohibition.

That this Assembly is gratified to be able to recognize the progress made in the teaching of temperance in the public schools, that, during 1893, improved text books have been adopted in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Ontario; that in Ontario temperance has been placed upon the list of required subjects; that the moral phase of the question is receiving increased attention; and that in accordance with orders of the Hon. the Minister of Militia and Defence, the sale of

intoxicating liquors has been discontinued at all camps of instruction. At the same time this Assembly regrets that no action has been taken, to close the canteens connected with the North West Mounted Police, and instructs its Committee on Temperance to press the matter upon the attention of the proper authorities.

That, in future, until otherwise ordered, questions on temperance be sent down to Sessions only once in three years,—and that in the intervening years Presbyteries be enjoined to watch over the interests of temperance within their respective bounds, note the course of events bearing upon the movement, hold conferences upon the subject, and report directly to the Assembly's Committee on Temperance, which shall report to the Assembly.

That Synods be recommended to hold Conferences on Temperance, dealing with such features of the work as may, in circumstances, call for special attention.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

The report on Sabbath schools was presented by Rev. T. F. Fotheringham: There are 143,162 scholars in the schools; a growing percentage of them are memorizing Scripture and the Shorter Catechism, and preparing their lessons at home; more teachers' meetings are held; more scholars are attending church; about one-third of the members added to the Church, come direct from the Sabbath school. The schools contributed last year \$11,867 to religious and benevolent objects.

Mr. T. W. Nesbitt, Sarria, gave some interesting information about the Boys' Brigade, and moved the reception of the report.

WEDNESDAY, June 20th.

Rev. Dr. MacRae submitted the resolutions on remits, colleges, representation of mission stations and Synodical powers. The committee recommended that, in regard to the representation of mission stations, the interim account become the law of the church, that in regard to enlarged powers of Synod no further action be taken in this direction by the General Assembly.

The report on standing committees was read, and a few additions made.

RECEPTION OF MINISTERS.

Rev. Principal Forrest read the report on the reception of ministers from other denominations. The following ministers were received: Rev. Messrs. Hamilton, Thomas Corbett, R. Aylward, D. Archibald Kobacs, T. Lamb (if approved by the Synod of Manitoba), R. Livingston, W. P. Anderson, C. E. Amaron, P. A. Timkin (to attend one session at college), J. Burton (returned from Congregational Church), J. F. Somerville, R. H. Sinclair, John S. Muir (if approved by the Presbytery of Toronto).

AUGMENTATION CHANGES.

Rev. D. J. Macdonnell reported for the special committee appointed to revise the augmentation scheme recommending the following changes: The minimum stipend to be for unmarried men not requiring a house, \$700; for married men, \$750, with house, or \$800 without, \$850 with manse, or \$900 without in Manitoba and the North-west, where the expense of living is exceptionally high, and in cases of exceptional liberality on the part of congregations, the grant may be increased at the discretion of the committee. Grants asked by Presbyteries shall be reviewed by Synodical Committees to be appointed, which will also do all possible to stimulate interest in the fund. In the western section, as in the eastern section, the fund shall be administered by a committee distinct from the Home Mission Committee.

SPECIAL COURSES FOR STUDENTS.

Rev. D. M. Ramsay reported for this committee, and the applications from the following students for special courses were granted: Messrs. D. J. Scott, R. A. Guthrie, W. E. Ashe, J. B. Cropper, M. S. Scott (second year extramural), J. A. Shinnon, T. W. Richmond (on completion of two years), M. S. Mackay, G. M. Morrow, R. Murray, D. McLean, A. Stewart (advised to take university course), C. A. Coleman (to take special course under Presbytery of Victoria), J. A. McConnell (to have standing of first year in theology).

Memorials from the Presbyteries of Barrie and Algoma asking for the establishment of a church and manse fund for Muskoka and Algoma were received. The memorials were referred to the Home Mission Committee, western section, to consider the advisability of instituting a fund for the more destitute fields in the western section east of Manitoba.

The following ministers have leave to retire, and, to be placed on the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund:—I. J. Murray, John Morrison, John Anderson, Nathaniel Patterson, John Scott, D. M. Beattie (annuity up to time of death), G. E. Freeman, (half benefit), M. Turnbull, John Ewing, W. Maxwell, Dr. Patterson, Alex. McKee, Edward Roberts (half benefit), E. Grant.

An overture from St. John Presbytery asks the Assembly to define a family for statistical purposes, and to say how families in the congregations should be reckoned. The overture was transmitted to the Committee on Statistics for consideration, to report to next Assembly.

AUGMENTATION FUND.

The following is the Separate Committee appointed to administer the Augmentation Fund, western section.—The Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, (convener), Dr. Warden, Dr. R. Campbell, Dr. Robertson, Dr. Laing, Dr. Laidlaw, Messrs. J. Somerville, E. Cockburn, Jas. Ballantyne, A. Findlay, W. G. Wallace, R. D. Fraser, M. McGillivray, John Hay, John Neil, Peter Wright, J. A. Macdonald, James Herdman, W. J. Clark, ministers, and W. Mortimer Clark, J. A. Patterson, Joseph Gibson, Joseph Herderson, G. T. Ferguson, A. Jardine, W. Hamilton, Jas. Tusker, George Rutherford, D. D. Wilson, William Thompson (Hamilton), J. S. Stewart (Woodstock), elders.

GREETINGS FROM AUSTRALIA.

The Rev. W. Scott Whittier conveyed to the Assembly the goodwill and congratulations of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales.