

agreed that when the vote was taken there should be no demonstration, but that the announcement should be received by the Conference in solemn silence and with heads bowed in prayer. At length the roll was called and the yeas and nays recorded, when it was found that the vote stood one hundred and thirty-seven to thirty-seven, or one hundred of a majority in favour of adopting the union basis. Twenty years have passed away since that memorable evening, but there are persons not a few among the older generation of Methodists in and around Peterborough whose manner grows animated and whose eyes kindle as they recall "that wonderful debate on the union question."

It was now generally conceded that the Toronto Conference had "saved the day," and that the basis was safe. This hopeful feeling was strengthened when it became known that the Conferences of other uniting bodies had adopted the basis, and that their quarterly meetings had given large majorities in its favour. Still later the Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland Conferences put themselves on record in favour of union, thus increasing considerably the majority vote. Last of all, the Manitoba Conference, which had just been organised and held its first session in August of that year, adopted the basis by a unanimous vote. Still, it could not be said that the measure was entirely safe. It had yet to pass the ordeal of a special session of the General Conference; for although that session had been authorised for the sole purpose of "giving effect to the union," it was anticipated that the opponents of the measure would insist upon another discussion of the whole question, and would be prepared,