

THIRTY THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

REV. DR. CAMPBELL, ELECTED MODERATOR

Rev. Alexander Falconer, D.D., retiring Moderator, having preached the sermon reported in the Dominion Presbyterian of last week, called upon the Assembly to nominate his successor. There were six nominations, the first to be named being Rev. Dr. Mowatt, pastor of Erskine Church, Montreal, who was nominated by Rev. Mr. Tufts, of Stellarton, N.S., seconded by Mr. Walter Paul, of Montreal.

Rev. Mr. Tufts, in presenting the nomination, laid stress on the forty-one years of ministerial work, completed yesterday (Wednesday), which Rev. Dr. Mowatt had fulfilled with such splendid devotion. Having paid tribute to Rev. Dr. Mowatt's powers as a preacher and to the inspiration which had been communicated to so many by his means, Rev. Mr. Tufts remarked upon the fact that Erskine Church, in consequence of its pastor's efficiency, had come to occupy a leading place among the Presbyterian congregations in the Dominion.

The next nomination was that of Rev. Dr. Lyle, of Central Church, Hamilton, who was nominated by Rev. Dr. Ratcliffe, of St. Catharines. Rev. Dr. Lyle, however, begged to withdraw his name from nomination, his request being granted.

Third on the list was Rev. Dr. Campbell, St. Gabriel's Church pastor, who was nominated by Rev. Principal Gordon, of Queen's, seconded by Rev. Dr. Sedgwick, of Nova Scotia. Rev. Principal Gordon paid eloquent tribute to the faithful services of the pastor of St. Gabriel's during his forty years' ministry at that church, and also to his distinguished scholarship, among other things, in scientific studies.

Rev. Dr. Sedgwick, in seconding the motion, referred to the part which Rev. Dr. Campbell had played in bringing about the historic union of the four Presbyterian Churches in Canada at the first General Assembly, which was held in Montreal in 1875. He also considered Rev. Dr. Campbell's long ministry and fifteen years of efficient clerkship for the assembly had more than earned him the title to their votes.

The West was represented in the fourth nomination, Principal Patrick, of Manitoba College, Winnipeg, rising to press the claims of Rev. Dr. Frederick B. Duval, also of that city. He thought the time of the West had come. For nineteen years Rev. Dr. Duval had served both Winnipeg and the West as pastor of one of Winnipeg's leading churches, his ability as a preacher being possibly surpassed by the excellence of his pastoral ability. The nomination was seconded by Judge Forbes, of St. John, N.B.

The voting then commenced, the first pair submitted to the electors being Rev. Dr. Campbell and Rev. Dr. Duval, the former of whom gained the majority of votes.

At this point another candidate was nominated, the name of Dr. Carmichael, of King, being proposed by Rev. Dr. Wallace, of Toronto. Rev. Dr. Wallace suggested that it would be a happy medium between the East and West to elect Dr. Carmichael, who, among other admirable qualities, had "a saving sense of humor," which would be invaluable in the position.

The nomination was seconded by Rev. W. A. J. Martin, of Brantford.

The assembly was then asked to decide between Rev. Dr. Carmichael and Rev. Dr. Campbell, the latter of whom secured the victory.

The sixth nomination was that of Rev. Dr. Allan Findlay, superintendent of missions in Northern Ontario, who was proposed by Rev. G. Childerhose,

of Parry Sound, and seconded by Rev. E. D. Pelletier, of Whitefish, Ontario. Rev. Dr. Campbell, in the ensuing show of hands, again obtained the majority, and the assembly had lastly to decide between his claims and those of Rev. Dr. Mowatt, with the result that Rev. Dr. Campbell was finally declared to have been elected Moderator for the ensuing year.

Supported by his mover and seconder, Dr. Campbell then took his seat in the Moderator's chair, amid the hearty applause of the assembly.

The newly elected Moderator, in a brief speech, expressed his deep sense of the honor which he had received, though he could have been well content, he said, to remain in his clerkship. He then spoke of his new responsibilities as Moderator, declaring that each year had increased his conviction of the importance of the work which it was the assembly's province to fulfil. He laid stress on the importance attaching to the duties of the eldership at the assembly, which was pre-eminently an elder's institution, as indeed was the Presbyterian Church itself. He reminded them that though the elders might at times think themselves at a disadvantage compared with the clergy in the matter of platform prominence as speakers, the work which they could do had a value peculiarly its own. They must not think that their services were in any way of less account.

In regard to Rev. Dr. Campbell's successor as clerk to the assembly, the matter was referred to a business committee, who will report on the question this morning.

On the motion of Principal McLaren, of Knox College, Toronto, a vote of thanks was passed to the retiring Moderator, and gracefully conveyed to the Rev. Dr. Alex. Falconer by the newly elected Moderator.

The New Moderator.

As was to be expected Rev. Dr. Campbell is proving himself a model presiding officer, seeing that the business of the Assembly moves on smoothly and expeditiously. From long and valuable services in the ministry and as senior clerk of the General Assembly he well deserved the honor.

Born in Lanark county, Ontario, June 21, 1835, Dr. Campbell was educated at Queen's University. Graduating in 1856 with the degree of B. A., he was two years later the recipient of that of M.A. Twenty-nine years afterwards his Alma Mater conferred upon him the honorary degree of D.D.

Dr. Campbell's active life was commenced as a teacher. For a time he was head master of Queen's College Preparatory School. During five years thereafter, commencing in 1861, he was ordained Minister of St. Andrew's Church, Galt. Following that he came to St. Gabriel's in this city.

Notwithstanding his arduous pastoral labors of more than 40 years in which he continues at the present moment, Dr. Campbell has found time to perform much literary work. In 1870, before that object had been accomplished, he secured a prize for the best essay on the subject of Union. Many other contributions to periodical literature have flowed from his pen.

SECOND DAY.

Montreal, 6th June, the General Assembly reassembled in Erskine church, this morning at ten o'clock, the moderator, the Rev. Dr. Robert Campbell, presiding. The first hour was spent in devotional exercises, in which the Moderator and Rev. Dr. Mowatt, Rev.

Geo. McArthur, Elders McQueen, Judge Forbes and others took part.

At eleven o'clock the business of the Assembly was entered upon. On the motion of Dr. Somerville, the clerk, Dr. R. Douglas Fraser, was appointed pro-tem to the joint clerkship rendered vacant by the election of Dr. Campbell to the moderatorship.

Dr. Fraser then read the minutes of the first sederunt, which were approved.

Dr. Falconer read the report of the emergency committee which dealt with the resignation of Mr. Warden, treasurer, of the western section of the church, owing to his disagreeing with changes that had been made in the regulations governing the office. Although he had been asked to reconsider his decision he had requested to be relieved of his post. Dr. Somerville had been appointed as temporary treasurer till this assembly met.

It was reported that application for the vacant office had been received from Mr. R. C. Jennings, Toronto; Rev. Dr. J. Fraser Smith, Comber; Mr. R. H. Pringle, Brampton; Rev. G. W. Mingie, Montreal; Mr. H. G. Hopkirk, Toronto; McClelland Wilson, Gravenhurst, George Davidson, Toronto and E. B. Holt, Ottawa.

The committee appointed to consider the question of the vacant treasurer-ship for the Western division, is as follows:—Dr. Lyle, convener; Principals Springer and Gordon, President Forrest, Dr. Carmichael, Rev. Dr. McQueen, D. Strachan, Messrs. Samuel Russell, A. Stuart, K.C., J. K. McDonald, Alex. Neilson, Geo. McCaig, Peter Crearer, Wm. Cuthbertson, elders.

It was moved by Mr. W. Gordon, of Winnipeg, son of Principal Gordon, of Queen's University, in connection with the reception of Presbyterian ministers coming from other Presbyterian bodies, the British Empire and the United States, that the admission of ministers to the Western church should be left to the home mission committee.

President Forrest hoped the assembly would not accept the resolution in its present form.

Mr. Walter Paul suggested that the matter be referred to the committee on the reception of ministers, and Mr. Gordon withdrew his resolution in favor of Mr. Paul's amendment, which was agreed to.

It was reported that the following students are applying for special courses:—

Messrs. C. G. Townsend, Henry A. Burley, J. W. Johnson, B.A., J. A. Forrester, Alp. Longmore, McConnell, A. S. McKim, Hy. Young, J. R. Wilson, R. H. Scott, Kenmuir.

For Leave to Retire.

Applications for leave to retire from the duties of the ministry were reported from Rev. D. McDougall, Rev. K. J. Grant, Rev. Duncan Henderson, Rev. John Mackenzie, Rev. Donald Stewart, Rev. E. F. Seylaz, Rev. Peter M. Duncan, Rev. W. T. McMullen, D.D., Rev. Hector McQuarrie, Rev. J. A. F. Sutherland, Rev. John Mowat, Rev. James Carswell, Rev. D. Sutherland, Rev. Charles McKillop.

The report of the Special Committee on Method of Appointing Standing committees was read by Rev. Dr. Ramsay, of Ottawa, recommending certain changes should be made.

An overture of the Presbytery of Hamilton on the Standing Committees of the General Assembly was read. This overture recommended that at each meeting of the General Assembly a committee to strike standing committees be appointed.

Rev. W. J. Dey supported the overture, and said the idea was that the committee should have time to consider matters. He proposed the overture be accepted and adopted.

Dr. Ramsay moved that it be referred to the special committee to which the