

Protestant teachers, 27 per cent. had Normal School diplomas, and only about 9 per cent. were without diplomas of any kind, whilst the average salary was \$194.72, as against \$142.65 generally for the Province. This showed that the Protestants, though in the minority, and in many cases conducting their schools under great difficulties, attached a much higher importance to the proper education of their children than did the Roman Catholic majority.

The St. Gregoire le Thaumaturge school tax matter was referred to as a case of gross injustice in the operation of the school law, and it was stated that three years' taxes were due before the Protestants were aware of the situation. The courts were powerless to give redress and the Government had refused to intervene. Therefore, there seemed nothing to be done but to proclaim it as an instance of that liberality which the majority boasted at the present time characterized their actions towards the minority.

In Ontario, the report said, there were registered in the public schools in 1894 pupils to the number of 483,203, with an average attendance of 56 per cent. These figures showed an increase over the preceding year, and the average attendance was higher than in any previous year in the history of the Province. Every teacher employed in the schools seemed to have a certificate of some grade, and over 36 per cent. had had a Normal school training. The average salary of teachers in the country was \$269, or nearly double what it was for teachers of all kinds in Quebec, whilst the average time of service was 4.34 years. The High schools numbered 129, with 554 teachers and 23,523 pupils. Of these teachers 482 matriculated at the universities. The total amount spent on education was nearly \$5,000,000, and the estimated value of the school property was over \$12,000,000. The legislative grant for public schools was within a trifle of \$300,000, as against \$160,000 in the Province of Quebec. The schools everywhere in Ontario seemed to be characterized by a high average of efficiency.

The report led to a lively discussion of the disabilities under which Protestants labour, as regards education in the Province of Quebec. At a later stage in the proceedings in addition to adopting the report and ordering it to be printed in the proceedings the Synod endorsed the terse statement of these disabilities which appeared in the May number of the Record.

On resuming after the adjournment Dr. Warden made a statement with reference to the operation of the Augmentation Fund, and urged its claims on the liberality of the congregations. Dr. Kellock, of Richmond, was appointed convener of the Synod's Committee on Augmentation for the ensuing year.

The feature of the afternoon and evening sittings was a conference on a series of practical subjects affecting the worship and spiritual life of the church. The first relating to the conduct of public worship, was introduced by a paper from the Rev. D. W. Morrison, of Ormstown, emphasizing especially the spiritual character which should belong to all the parts. This gave rise to some discussion of the trend of the propositions made by the Assembly's Committee on the subject, some urging that the whole matter should be dropped as speedily as possible, others that there was call for a manual of special services authorized by the Assembly. The Rev. P. H. Hutchinson, of Huntingdon, then read an exhaustive paper on the sermon which was listened to with the closest attention to the very end. In the evening, after a report on Life and Work by Mr. Hastie, of Cornwall, Dr. MacVicar gave an impressive address on "The Kind of Revival We Need." He held that there was but one kind of real revival, and there was but one source from which it could come. He then went on to speak of how revived religious life manifested itself, and emphasized the need of earnestness in the pulpit, characterizing a sermon which was aimless as a curse, because it displaced something which ought to be pre-eminently good. He concluded by touching on some of the practical outcomes of a revival.

Among those who took part in the discussion were Rev. Dr. Moore, Rev. Father Chiquay, Rev. Mr. Cruikshank, Rev. Dr. Patterson (St. Andrew's), Rev.

Donald Tait, (Quebec), Rev. Dr. Campbell, Mr. W. Robb, Mr. Scott (Lancaster), and Rev. Dr. Mackay.

A resolution expressing the indebtedness of the Synod to Rev. Dr. MacVicar, for his address having been passed, it was decided to accept an invitation from Almonte for the Synod to hold its meeting there next year.

The morning and afternoon sessions of Thursday easily disposed of the remaining business before the Synod. First came a brief report from Dr. Scrimger on Ecclesiastical co-operation which indicated that, while there was not much reason to complain of unnecessary duplication on the part of the Presbyterian and Methodist churches within the Synod, correspondence was proceeding with reference to several points which it was hoped might yet lead to some result.

The Rev. M. H. Scott, of Hull, presented the report of the Lumbermen's Mission, which showed a very large amount of actual work done on a very small expenditure. Dr. Armstrong of Ottawa, moved the adoption of the report in an earnest speech, strongly commending the work to the congregations of the Synod.

The Rev. D. McLaren of Alexandria, gave in the report of the Sabbath School committee, but in the matter of statistics much of its value was lost, as the figures are more or less guessed at, owing to some of the presbyteries either having failed to send in any returns or having sent in incomplete ones. There were, it was stated, 335 schools within the bounds of the Synod, and of these 245 had reported. There were 2,666 officers and teachers at work, and 24,670 schools were on the rolls, with an average attendance of 16,400. During the year about \$1,200 had been received for all purposes from Sabbath Schools. The schools which had raised no money whatever numbered 44, and 123 had given nothing at all to the schemes of the church. There had been spent on the schools \$8,229, of which one-third was contributed by the congregations. The schools had given to missions \$6,713, an increase of 9 per cent. over last year.

Rev. Mr. McLennan, Quebec, introduced the subject of the grievances of Protestant ministers in regard to civil acts performed by them. He mentioned that the Quebec Ministerial Association felt that the marriage license fee was too high; that \$8 was a large exaction to make, and especially when it was considered that the exaction in Ontario for a like purpose was only \$2. Another point was that the money went to a quarter which they could scarcely sympathize with. If any preference were to be given, it should be given rather to elementary education than to higher education. Another thing was that the clergy were required to obtain annually a register, attested by a civil functionary, and they had to make payment for it, and when they had used it for a year they had to return it to the custody of the Prothonotary, who kept it. It then belonged to the State, and could be used to supply any information that it contained. A pecuniary penalty attached to neglect of any of the prescribed points. Some of the clergy felt that it would be service enough to render to the State if they kept the register, and returned it at the end of the year, without any money burdens being attached.

Rev. Dr. Campbell stated that the matter had engaged the attention of the Montreal Ministerial Association, which had approached the first Tailion Government and Mr. Mercier's Government on the subject. The Government would have been prepared to give some redress had it not been for the opposition met with from the Protestants of the Council of Public Instruction, and that because the colleges were there represented, and they got the lion's share of the fund. Out of the fee of \$8, \$6 went to the Council of Public Instruction for higher education; the remaining \$2 was the fee of the issuer of the license.

After further discussion a committee, consisting of Rev. D. Tait, Mr. J. C. Thompson, Mr. Peter Johnson, Quebec, and Rev. John Nichols, Rev. Dr. Campbell and Mr. Matthew Hutchinson, Montreal, was appointed to confer on the matter with any other committee that might be appointed by any other Protestant body.

Rev. Dr. MacVicar addressed the Synod in respect of Coligny College. He said the past year had been a prosperous

one. The fees from boarders and day scholars had met the expenditure and left a favorable balance of about \$800, which met the interest upon the debt. In view of the changes that are likely to occur in the work assigned to the present able director of the College, Rev. Dr. Warden, the Executive of the French Board had asked Rev. W. R. Cruikshank to undertake the direction of the affairs of the College, and, after due consideration, he had consented. Incidentally, Rev. Dr. MacVicar alluded to the Montreal Presbyterian College, which, he said, had ended the year with a balance on the right side of every account.

The Rev. Mr. Hastie moved a series of resolutions with reference to Sabbath Observance, and approving of the establishment of a Lord's Day Alliance for the Province of Quebec. These were carried and a committee appointed to co-operate with representative committees from other bodies for a like purpose. A pleasant break in the course of the business was a breezy address from Dr. Robertson, on the Home Mission Work of the Northwest, which met with the hearty sympathy of the Synod, and for which he was formally thanked by the moderator in its name.

After the standing committees for the year had been appointed, and votes of thanks passed, the moderator congratulated the members on the pleasant meeting which all had enjoyed, and closed the Synod in the usual way.

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