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GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

(Concluded.)

MONDAY MORNING.—FIFTH DAY.

The Assembly being constituted, the Moderator nominated committees to draft loyal addresses. For the address to her Majesty the Queen: Principal Forrest, Rev. W. S. Ball and the Hon. Alexander Morris; for that to the Governor-General: Professor Bryce, Rev. R. N. Grant and James McLennan, Q.C.

Rev. Robert Murray gave notice that at a subsequent sederunt he would move that the Assembly appoint a committee to devise a plan for meeting in whole or in part the travelling expenses of commissioners, said committee to report at an early sederunt of this Assembly.

AUGMENTATION.

The consideration of the Home Mission report was resumed, when

Rev. Dr. Cochrane explained that the committee had agreed to recommend that stipends should be supplemented up to \$700, and that should the state of the fund subsequently warrant it, \$50 additional be given. This proposal was necessitated by the fact that there had been a deficiency of \$4,000, and one of \$7,000 during the last two years. It was most undesirable to make the proposal, but the committee thought it warranted in the circumstances. It was, however, for the Assembly to say what should be done. It is for the Assembly to say what course it will adopt; approve or pay what they have been doing as formerly.

Rev. Mr. Warden moved the adoption of the recommendation made in the report, and in doing so explained that it was based upon the resolution adopted at the London Assembly, when the Scheme was inaugurated.

Rev. Mr. Robertson seconded the motion.

Rev. G. Bruce was sorry to hesitate in accepting the recommendation. He was sorry to hear the recommendation of a retrograde movement. He thought some means would be devised for obviating a resort to such an expedient.

Rev. W. S. Ball would also hesitate before opposing so wise and judicious a body as the Home Mission Committee. If college funds were behind he had never heard of professors' salaries being reduced. The hard working pastors could ill afford the slightest reduction.

Professor Bryce, seconded by Rev. H. H. McPherson, moved that power be granted to the Home Mission Committee to pay the same supplement as formerly.

Rev. E. D. Miller supported the amendment.

Rev. R. N. Grant, Robert Campbell, James Black, Principals Grant, Caven, McVicar took part in the discussion.

Hon. A. Vidal thought it was best to give full information to the people. They are both intelligent and liberal. Ministers do not speak plainly enough on the duty of giving.

Rev. D. L. McCrae was satisfied that two-thirds of the people did not understand the Scheme. There were many mistaken ideas concerning it. If pastors of wealthy country congregations would bring the matter fairly before their people there would be no deficiency.

Rev. Mr. Warden replied. Some of the wealthiest Presbyteries, he said, had contributed less this year than last to the Augmentation Scheme. He thought it would be business-like to have all the Schemes of the Church out of debt at the end of the year. The matter rests with the Presbyteries. If they were faithful in visitation there would be no difficulty. There was no serious opposition to the Scheme itself, but there was a lack of fidelity on the part of Presbyteries. It lies in the hands of the ministers of the Church. Home Missions and Augmentation were not antagonistic. They are closely related. A number of the mission churches in the North-West receive substantial aid from the Augmentation Fund.

The amendment proposed by Rev. G. Bruce was carried, and the report as a whole on the motion of Rev. Mr. Warden, seconded by Rev. S. Houston, was then adopted.

It was resolved, on motion by Principal Caven, that the Moderator be requested to prepare an address on the Augmentation Scheme for general circulation.

Rev. Mungo Fraser introduced the Methodist Ministerial Association to the Assembly, and the Moderator invited Rev. Dr. Hunter to the platform, and expressed a cordial welcome on behalf of the Assembly, to which Dr. Hunter in conveying the fraternal regards of the Association made a suitable reply.

Rev. Dr. Cochrane presented the report of the Home Mission Committee on the reference concerning the relations of the Synodical Committee, Superinten-

dent of Missions and Presbyteries in the North-West. It was to the effect that for the present the relations be continued as they are, but looking to modifications in future and paying a high compliment to the integrity and efficiency of the Superintendent's labours.

Rev. James Todd, John Mowat, D. M. Gordon, Professor Bryce, A. McLaren, Mr. James Yule, Rev. D. McGillivray, N. D. Russell, Professor Hart, Principals Caven and Grant, and Rev. R. H. Warden participated in the debate, when a vote was taken and the recommendation of the Home Mission Committee was carried by a large majority.

Rev. Dr. R. F. Burns supported an overture on the Augmentation Scheme from the Presbytery of Halifax, and moved its reception and remission for consideration to the Augmentation Committee; that Committee to report to next Assembly.

An overture was presented from the Presbytery of Owen Sound on the supply of mission fields. It relates to the failure of the law enacted last year requiring licentiates to labour for six months in the mission field before being eligible for settlement in a pastoral charge. The overture suggests that the term be extended to one year.

Rev. John Somerville explained that the rule enacted last year had failed to secure the end contemplated. Many stations are entirely neglected, and there are many labourers unemployed. Much mission work is done, but much is left undone. What will the Assembly do? A paper resolution will effect nothing. Mr. Somerville moved that all licentiates be required to labour in the mission field one year before settlement.

Rev. J. R. Gilchrist seconded the motion.

Rev. D. McDougall spoke of the difficulties of meeting the wants of struggling congregations in remote Presbyteries. He thought that the enforcement of the rule resulted injuriously in the case of the congregations.

A memorial was considered from the Presbytery of Kingston, praying the Assembly to rescind the regulations requiring graduates to give a certain time to the mission field before accepting pastorates.

Rev. M. W. Maclean spoke in support of the memorial. He was not averse to students spending a definite time in mission service before being settled in congregations. The regulation was loyally carried out in the Presbytery of Kingston, but it is causing us the loss of promising students. Something ought to be done for the supply of mission stations during the winter season.

Rev. David Wardrope suggested that each settled minister should give one day each month to mission fields during the winter months.

Rev. Dr. Torrance considered that by our present methods we debar students and vacant congregations from desirable settlements by moving in the line suggested in the overture. There were a number of catechists who might be employed.

Rev. M. W. McLean moved the reception of the overture from the Presbytery of Kingston.

Rev. Alexander Gilray seconded the motion.

Principal Caven moved that the General Assembly, being very desirous of obtaining continuous supply at all seasons, send these overtures to the Home Mission Committees, Eastern and Western Sections, to consider the subjects to which they refer, and report to next Assembly. In support of this motion Dr. Caven spoke of the great and arduous work accomplished by the students in the mission field. In not a few cases they had seriously overtaxed their energies. Students had their rights, and he would never be a party to legislation which would impair their rights.

Rev. Dr. Reid thought it was a sad thing that so many stations are unsupplied, and so many unemployed ministers.

Dr. R. F. Burns thought there was a little too much crude and hasty legislation. The subject ought to be seriously considered before anything further is attempted in this direction. He seconded Principal Caven's motion.

Principal Grant stated that the overture makes mission stations more important than vacant congregations. This is a very great injustice to the students.

The motion proposed by Dr. Torrance, remitting the question to the Home Mission Committee to report to next Assembly, was carried by a large majority.

EVENING SESSION.

Principal MacVicar submitted the report of the Board of French Evangelization. Under the care of the Board there were seventy-six mission stations, seventeen colporteurs, double the number in the previous year. They had distributed 2,652 portions of the Word of God, 500 pamphlets and 22,700 tracts. They had visited many homes. These colporteurs had to report every two weeks to the office in Montreal. The management of the colportage required

much attention. There are at present twenty-six mission schools, four of them opened during last year. The total number of pupils is 804, the number attending Pointe-aux-Trembles being ninety-four. Eighteen confessed their faith in Jesus Christ, and were admitted into the fellowship of the Church. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed by Professor Coussirat and the secretary, when fifty-one communicants sat down at the table. During the year 222 had been received into the communion of the Church. There were immense difficulties to be encountered in the prosecution of the work. The financial position of the Board was also in a very satisfactory state. Exclusive of a small balance the income had been \$32,233, and there was a balance on hand of \$2,000. It is proposed to induce a number of English students in Montreal College to study French, and to devote themselves to the work among the French-Canadians. The Board asks for authority to extend the work to other nationalities besides our French fellow-countrymen. Twenty missionaries trained under our care have been doing excellent work. In the Province of Quebec there is a population of 1,250,000. There is a growth of liberal sentiment among the educated classes. There ought to be more prayer and more faith amongst us. He had unabated faith in the Gospel to elevate Frenchmen and all men.

Professor Campbell gave an interesting account of the history of French-Canadian Missions, the opposition and dangers encountered, and of Father Chiniquy's early Protestant labours. We fought, he said, for free speech, and gained it. The professor paid a fine tribute to the business abilities and the valuable services rendered by Mr. Warden. The great difficulties encountered by French-Canadian converts were described. They had no quarrel with Rome but one, and that was because she denies the people the Word of God. The rise and progress of the Parti National was described and the division caused by the Riel affair, and reference was made to the advance of liberal opinion in the Province of Quebec. Professor Campbell concluded by moving that the report be received and adopted, thanks conveyed to the Chairman of the Board, and that the Scheme be cordially commended to the sympathy and liberality of the Church.

Rev. Dr. Moore gave an account of mission work among French-Canadians in the Ottawa Valley. In the capital city of the Dominion there was a population of about 15,000 French Roman Catholics. It was difficult to enter their homes; in country districts it is not so difficult, the people being less under restraint and of a more inquiring turn of mind. The portions of Scripture and tracts distributed are much more widely read than is generally supposed. They have eleven schools within the bounds of the Ottawa Presbytery, with an attendance of 318, eighty of the number being Roman Catholics. The number of French-Canadian Protestant families is at present 146. Dr. Moore stated that a new French Protestant Church had been opened in Ottawa. The little church is frequently quite filled.

Rev. W. S. Ball expressed that though not in harmony with the views of those in the management, he had not hesitated to state his opinions in an open and manly fashion. He would prefer that the work should be under the care of the Home Mission Committee, but he felt he could bow to the decision of the majority. There is not a mission that lies nearer to the heart of the Christian people of Canada than this excellent mission. Many of his difficulties concerning it had been removed.

Father Chiniquy then delivered a very characteristic and stirring address, in which he stated the immense difficulties and discouragements experienced in bringing out his recent work "Fifty Years in the Church of Rome," a copy of which he presented to the Moderator, who gracefully acknowledged the gift, and in the name of the Assembly expressed the thanks of the Assembly to Father Chiniquy for his admirable address.

The report was adopted, and the Assembly adjourned.

TUESDAY MORNING—SIXTH DAY.

The Assembly having been constituted, after routine business,

Rev. Dr. Middlemiss submitted the report of the Committee on the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. The special appeal made last year was so well responded to as to warrant supplementary payments to annuitants. Forty-nine beneficiaries, of whom seven had died during the year, derived aid from the fund. The whole amount paid in annuities last year was \$9,647. It was decided that only \$200 could be paid to each. At the close of the year, however, it was found that each annuitant could receive \$50 additional