CHURCH CONFERENCES.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH.

FIFTH DAY.

The Conference met at the usual hour. After prayer and routine business the Conference proceeded to consider the reports of the District meetings.

REV. J. EDGAR'S CASE.

The Stationary Committee reported that, recognizing the fact that Rev. Mr. Joliffe had signified his willing to go to Parliament street church, or to Kingston, as the Conference might desire, they therefore recommended that Bro. Edgar go to Parliament street and Bro. Joliffe to Kingston. Although this was recommended contrary to practice, it was hoped that it would not be used as a precedent.

The Committee also recommended Bro. Wood for Stratford, Bro. Scott for Forest, and Bro. G. H. Thompson for Collingwood; that Bro. Paul Filor be stationed as second preacher at Toronto, Bro. Ryan at Chatham, and that the General Mission Committee be requested to do the best in supplying the stations left without single men.

Bro Edgar's case adopted.

REPORTS.

Rev. W. Hall read the report of the work of the General Committee for the year. He also read the report of the Missionary Committee. The reports were received.

The report of the Book Committee was presented, but it was objected to by Rev. W. Hughan, who complained that the committee had not met.

The PRESIDENT pointed out that the report was a statement of the accounts and it was agreed to hear it.

The report stated that the stock in hand was $4,000 less than last year, $3,000 less than books on hand last year, $2,000 working expenses, the stock on hand, $2,196; sales this year, $3,000; book debts to Mar. March, $1,341. The profit on the year's business was $200 less than the book room was in a better position by $385 than it was last year. The balance against the book room is now $710.65.

FINANCE.

The report of the Finance Committee, which was read by Rev. J. Clark, referred to the gratifying success of the book room. The accounts showed that all the funds belonging to the Church were in a better condition than they were at the last Conference, and that the books had been kept in a most satisfactory manner. The report was adopted, and that one of the auditors, who made the remark sometime ago that the conference was in a state of bankruptcy now is his report congratulated the Conference on its prosperity.

Rev. Mr. MILNER stated that the reason he made the remark was because he thought they were not able to pay their way with regard to the Conference fund, and he ought to say that he did not think there had been an overstatement when it was said that the funds were in a healthy condition, and that more had been paid than was the case in the past, yet at the same time he would say they had claims on the missionary funds which they would be unable to meet if they proceeded at the rate at which they were now going.

Rev. W. Hay referred to the fact of the recommendation of the state of the funds being put into the papers. It showed that they were not earnest and candid in their speeches in the presence of representatives of the press. He did not think that anything unjust would be reported, but sometimes members of Conference let things be said in reports were present. Many of the remarks made were public, and sometimes they were not. He had seen in ecclesiastical occasions, on which he had been present, that the speeches would have changed the tone form of his remarks had he reported that they were present.

Rev. Mr. YEAN, in reply, said that he sometimes forgot that there was a chief in the Conference. He pointed out that the remarks made in explanation of Rev. Mr. Milner's statement had not been published.

The report was then adopted.

A report on the pecuniary condition of the *Christian Journal* was then read and approved of.

A recommendation was read from the Brampton District to the effect that in consideration of the large amount of money due to the *Christian Journal* agents should be appointed in every circuit to collect subscriptions.

Rev. Mr. Rice attributed the difficulty in collecting subscriptions to the extraordinary habit of forgetfulness on the part of subscribers.

A resolution that the *Journal* should be sent to those who subscribed were paid by the end of the year, was passed.

The Conference then adjourned at noon.

The Conference opened at two o'clock. After the transaction of some routine business a committee for a short time, it was referred back for amendment.

STATISTICS.

Rev. Mr. CLARKE read the report of the Statistical Committee. The report showed the following statistics of the Church. There are at present, in connexion, 1,000 preachers, 1,000 churches. There are, local preachers, 211, decrease 2; class leaders, 870, decrease 8; Sunday school teachers, 8,000, decrease $1,75; examination fund, $1,000, decrease 2.

The report was adopted.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

Rev. R. PAUL read the report of the Sabbath observance committee. It was recommended that the ministers preach once each year on the subject. Church, and that a copy of the report be sent to do so should be published on the plan of their respective stations. The ministers should discourage as far as possible funerals on the Sabbath. It was also recommended that the brethren to make the preparations on the morning of the day for the proper observance of the Sabbath. They should deprecate traffic on the Sabbath, and discourage it as well as the post office labour.

The report was received without amendment.

TEMPERANCE.

Rev. J. SMITH read the report of the Temperance committee. The Committee, while recognizing the great evil of intemperance, felt that no great advance had made in this Province, and believed that the time was not ripe when public feeling was so strongly in favour of the prohibition of the sale of liquor, most respectfully urged the Church and the Christian public generally to use their influence to enforce the present restrictive licence law, as it was conceived to be advantageous to the cause of temperance. The committee assured Rev. Thomas that they had the most unqualified sympathy, and pledged themselves to use all their influence to help in carrying prohibitory legislation. The committee recommend that the Conference the necessity of all the stations uniting at least two temperance meetings in each year if practicable. They strongly recommended that all the official members of stations—there being only two thirds of the official members at present—should be consecrated, thought the time had come when all the members of the official boards should be temperate men, and recommended that in future total abstinence should be required of all new members received into the church.

Rev. Mr. MITCHELL, in the last clause of the report, which he looked upon as a breach of the pledge.

The PRESIDENT thought they would make a serious mistake if they adopted any such proposition. He felt that a special advocate, and others who were not, should be left free to act as they thought proper. He felt that the funds had been kept in a most satisfactory manner, and he was sorry that any of the officials of the stations—there being only two-thirds of the official members present—should be considered. He thought the time had come when all the members of the official boards should be temperate men, and recommended that in future total abstinence should be required of all new members received into the church.

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