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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1897.

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The Maritime Convention.

MONDAY MORNING.

At the morning session of Monday the reports of Treasurers of Denominational funds were presented and were laid on the table for future consideration. The following is a condensed statement of the report for Nova Scotia:

RECEIPTS.	
From Western Association	4139 68
Central	5026 71
Eastern	2805 65
African	15 30
General Receipts	389 99
	\$12377 33
PAYMENTS.	
Postage, Stationary, Exchange	23 04
Geo. A. McDonald's bill, Association	
Envelope, &c.	39 72
To Home Mission Board General Fund	3118 77
Church Edifice	
Fund	10 00
	3128 77
To Foreign Mission Board, Famine	
Fund	67 75
To Foreign Mission Board, General	
Fund	2893 72
To Foreign Mission Board General	
Fund per Treasurer,	1260 24
	4221 71
To Acadia University	1485 18
" Ministerial Education Board	330 32
" Relief and Aid	334 32
" North West Mission Board	2194 47
" Grand Ligne Mission Board	619 80
	\$12377 33

NOTE.—Add to the above the \$5459.49 contributed by the W. M. Aid Societies, and the \$76.00 reported by Treasurer F. M. Board, too late to be included as mentioned before and we have as the total from Nova Scotia, \$17912.82

A. COHOON,
Treas. for Nova Scotia.

Wolfville, N. S., Aug. 7th, 1897.
The treasurer of denominational Funds for New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, Rev. J. W. Manning, laid his report on the table. The total amounts from the Associations being:

	From Churches.	From W. M. Aid Societies.	Total.
N. B. Western	\$1,394 74	\$760 19	\$2,154 93
N. B. Southern	1,721 70	889 29	2,610 99
N. B. Eastern	1,459 25	880 20	2,339 45
P. E. Island	561 09	580 21	1,141 30
Total receipts	\$5,136 78	\$3,079 89	\$8,216 67

This amount was distributed as follows:
Home Missions, \$867.99; Foreign Missions, \$2,571.03; Acadia University, \$517.10; Ministerial Education, \$124.89; Ministerial Relief and Aid, \$131.89; Manitoba and Northwest Missions, \$405.62; Grande Ligne Mission, \$507.73.

The committee on the state of the denomination reported considerable progress; the increase in the number of churches was nine, the total number being now 414; the membership being 50,421 as against 48,830 of last year; the number of additions by baptism is 2,351, being somewhat less than last reported; there were eight ordinations, and eight new houses of worship have been opened; other buildings are in the course of erection in various localities.

The expenses for church support were \$164,894.29, being about \$10,000 less than 1896; the amount contributed to denominational work was \$17,124.12, the sum last year being \$17,785.09.

The number of Sunday schools conducted during the year was 530, the same number as in 1895, but two less than last year; the number of scholars enrolled, 28,874, average attendance 19,962, teachers 3,192, scholars baptized 1,116.

The committee recommended that the first Sunday in December next be set apart in all our churches as a day for review of God's dealings with us during the year for thanksgiving to Him for all His manifold mercies, for humiliation for our lack of earnestness in His service and for prayer that incoming year may be marked by the outpouring of greater blessings than any that have preceded it; and further that the same subject be introduced at all prayer or other social meetings during the same week.

The report on obituaries, presented by Rev. D. G. McDonald, showed that seven ministers in connection with our denomination in these provinces have been called away during the year. The names of these departed are Revs.

W. T. Corey, D. W. C. Dimock, I. R. Skinner, B. N. Hughes, Aaron Cogswell, David Blakney, R. R. Philp. The report contained suitable mention of the labors of these honored and beloved brethren. At the request of the President the Convention was led in prayer by Rev. E. O. Read in thanksgiving for the lives and labors of the departed, and commending their bereaved families to the care of the Heavenly Father.

Bro. C. E. Knapp presented a resolution in reference to the custom of including intoxicating liquors among the exhibits of our Provincial Exhibitions. This resolution was referred to the Committee on Temperance.

The Foreign Mission Board's report was next taken up by the Convention and was considered clause by clause. The first clause that called forth discussion was that on the Resignations of Missionaries.

Very great and general regret was expressed at the resignation of Mr. Higgins and his withdrawal from the work in India. The opinion was expressed by some of the brethren that the interest of the work demanded that Bro. Higgins should return to the Mission field in India, even though, Mrs. Higgins' health might be such that there was no prospect that she would ever be able to live in that country. Others while not prepared to go so far, spoke of the depressing effect of the numerous resignations from the missionary work upon the churches and expressed the desire that the matter might be most carefully considered and that if possible the resignation of Mr. Higgins might be withdrawn.

Mr. Higgins gave an explanation of his position. It had been the earnest desire of his heart to return to the work in India. But the condition of his wife's health made it most improbable that she could ever live in that climate. Through prayerful consideration he had reached the conclusion that under the circumstances, he should resign. It had been very difficult to reach the conclusion. He earnestly desired to follow the path of duty. He desired to go to India, he was ready if it were shown to be duty to go to India without his wife and spend his life there in the service of the Master. Some of the brethren, while earnestly desiring the return of Bro. Higgins to India, felt that they could not ask him to practice self denial that they were not ready themselves to undertake. Finally the clause under consideration and that referring to Reinforcements were referred to the Board that further conference might be had between the Board and Mr. Higgins before the Convention should take final action on the report.

The Board reports that the response of the churches to the appeals of Foreign Mission day, the last Sunday in March, was so satisfactory that it is recommended that similar appeals be made on that date the current year. Referring to the Missionary Conference held in Truro in April last, the report says your Board is of the opinion that more of such gatherings in different centres would be most helpful in the work and pastors and churches participating therein would be great gainers.

To meet the distress in India on account of the famine there have been comparatively liberal contributions from the churches. For this purpose there were contributed through the Board as follows: From Nova Scotia, \$1269.94; New Brunswick, \$1053.88; P. E. Island \$74.30, \$62.21; a total of \$2478 06.

Special contributions to the support of Mr. Gullison have been made to the amount of \$385.51 and the Board trusts that the number of contributions may be so increased that provision shall thus be made for the entire support of this missionary family.

FINANCES.

As usual have given the Board much concern. "The impulse given to the work at the last Convention, the presence of the outgoing missionaries, and later at the New Brunswick Convention, have had a good effect upon our people. At both these Conventions special pledges were given for the support of Mr. Gullison, which have been very helpful—these will be continued. Then the visitation of the churches by Mr. Higgins, who has been indefatigable in his efforts, as well as other agencies employed—have all resulted in an increase of funds. This increase, however, has not been sufficient to meet the increased expenditures and wipe out the deficit of last year. The total receipts have been \$19,752.37, which includes \$2,478.06 received on account of famine fund—and the total expenditures have been \$20,606.59—which

includes the deficit of last year of \$782.29, and the amount expended for famine relief of \$2,369.13, which leaves the deficit for the year of \$962.15.

The amount received from the Treasurer of Convention for N. B. and P. E. I. has been more than was received for the previous year, while the receipts from the churches in Nova Scotia show a decrease. This may be offset however by the amounts which were sent direct to the Treasurer of the Board. These have amounted to \$1,886.74, which does not include what was sent for the support of Mr. Gullison.

The interest received from the Bradshaw trusts (1 and 2) have amounted to \$1,349.52, of which \$505 was from trust No. 1. and \$844.52 from trust No. 2. There has been paid to the Treasurer of the New Brunswick Convention the sum of \$237.50, less expenses incurred, to be expended by that body for the Foreign Mission board, for Home Mission work in New Brunswick.

There has been paid to the Treasurer of the Home Mission Board of the Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces, in accordance with the provisions of the second trust, \$208.80, to be expended for Home Mission work in New Brunswick.

The bequest of the late G. P. Payzaat of Windsor for \$1,000 has been paid, but owing to the succession tax the amount has been reduced to per cent. The exact amount which came to the Board was \$898.87.

The Board's estimates are as follows:

Bimlipitam—Salaries	\$1,950 00
General purposes	520 00
Bobbill—Salaries	1,700 00
General purposes	645 00
Chicacole—Salaries	1,200 00
General purposes	1,165 00
Palcondah—Gen. purposes	117 00
Lands and buildings (new)	2,500 00
Parla-Kimedi—Salaries	1,500 00
General purposes	535 00
Vizianagram—Salaries	2,000 00
General purposes	675 00
New Missionaries—Salaries	1,050 00
Mushi (2)	100 00
Outfit	500 00
Travel to India	1,400 00
Furlough allowance	850 00
Home expenses, salary travel	1,150 00
Rent, year book, printing, stationary	250 00
Deficit	853 34
	\$20,660 34

MONDAY AFTERNOON.

Mr. M. Baghdasarian a native of Kharpoor, India, was introduced to the Convention and made a brief address. Mr. B. is a graduate from the theological department of McMaster University. With his father he is at present engaged in lecturing on Armenia in the Maritime Provinces for the purpose of securing funds to bring some of their relatives or friends from Armenia to this country. Rev. N. P. Gross, who has lately entered upon work for the Danish Colony in the northern part of the province, spoke of his work and in the interests of the 200 Danish families to whom he is ministering in and about New Denmark and whose needs are great.

The consideration of the F. M. Board's report was resumed, the remaining clauses being read and adopted without much discussion. In connection with the reference to the bequest of the late G. P. Payzaat, Bro. C. E. Knapp asked why the succession dues were charged to the legacy and not to the estate. It was explained that the Nova Scotia law required it, differing in this respect from the law of New Brunswick. Mr. Knapp considered this feature of the N. S. law objectionable and thought no doubt it would be remedied if the government were approached on the subject.

A request being made for a statement of the trust funds held by the Board, the Secretary explained that, owing to the fact that some of the funds had been involved in litigation during the year, this was at present impossible, but that such a statement would be made as soon as practicable. The report of the F. M. Board was then tabled and the report of Denominational Funds for Nova Scotia taken up.

Mr. E. D. King spoke of the evidences which the report afforded that when the claims of a particular interest were put forward strongly there was a corresponding response on the part of the churches. A number of the

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