

Travellers' Guide—Toronto Time.

Table with columns for departure and arrival times for various railroads including Grand Trunk East, Grand Trunk West, Great Western Railway, Northern Railway, Toronto and Nipissing Railway, Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway, and Western States.

The Daily Recorder.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 30, 1874. OUR NEW HYMN AND TUNE BOOK.

The compilers of the new tune book, of whose varied excellencies we had such a favorable exhibition on last Friday night, deserve the thanks of the church and of every lover of good music, for the service they have rendered the cause of sacred psalmody.

The following extracts from the compilers' preface will indicate the general character and scope of this important work.

(1) That they have not sought to introduce a collection of new compositions, but to select from the affluent heritage of psalmody, to which they have had access, tunes which should commend themselves to the taste and judgment of the best informed in ecclesiastical music.

(2) To select tunes suitable for congregational use, by the adoption of simple syllabic melodies of a moderate compass, and by the avoidance of those containing fugues, repetitions, and involved harmonies.

(3) To afford variety, not so much for its own sake as to insure the proper expression of the characteristics of the respective hymns, and so far as was consistent with this object, it has been their aim rather in limiting the number of tunes, as by this means familiarity with the collection would be more readily acquired.

(4) To endeavor, by a careful choice of appropriate tunes, published in immediate association with the hymns, to avoid the selecting of music during public service, or what is equally objectionable, the singing of tunes hurriedly chosen, having no affinity to the subject of the hymns.

While the Compilers look for no other or higher reward than the fulfillment of their hope that the work may, under God, promote the cultivation of sacred song in the congregation and family circle, and while the music may be regarded as peculiarly adapted to the expression of the warmth, earnestness and joyfulness of the Methodist Church, it may be deemed of some interest to say that some of their number are members of other branches of the Church of Christ, by which an additional range of information and experience has been brought to bear in the preparation of the work.

These gentlemen, the names of all of whom we do not know, and therefore cannot now mention with that honor they deserve, have devoted a large portion of time for the last four or five years, to the completion of this book.

In the year 1871, says their report, they addressed the Wesleyan Methodist Conference a letter, giving a general outline of the scope and design of a work in which they were engaged, embracing the foregoing objects, which commended itself to the judgment of that body, who signified their acceptance of the work when it should be completed.

"Having now finished their labour, it affords them," they say, "unfeigned pleasure to be able to present the work to the General Conference, for the use of the Methodist Church in Canada."

The marked favor which has already been accorded to the work is an augury of its complete success. We hope the Church will show its appreciation of the distinguished services which have been so generously placed at its disposal, by largely adopting this most valuable collection.

The above was already in type before the rather unnecessary debate of last night on

Mr. Rose's simple motion of a vote of thanks to the gentlemen who so generously present to the church the result of unremitting labors of several years, without fee or reward, as a contribution to Christian psalmody. Notwithstanding the character of that debate, we do not feel disposed to modify in any degree the expressions above used. We have heard opinions from persons as well qualified as any which fully sustain the judgment expressed. The book, of course, like every other book, will have to win its way by its merits. Those who prefer the unmeaning refrains and intricate tunes of certain American ditties, are, of course, at liberty to adopt them. But those who prefer a simpler style of music, adapted for the worship of the great congregation, can, we think, find all that they require in this admirable book.

Complete sets of the RECORDER, neatly bound in marbled boards, cloth back, labeled, will be furnished for one dollar. Orders taken at the Conference post office or at the Book Room.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH OF CANADA.

BIEVENTH DAY—EVENING SESSION.

At 7.30 the President gave out a hymn, which was sung, and the Rev. John Shaw led the Conference in prayer. The Minutes of the Afternoon Session were read and confirmed.

Rev. J. A. Williams resumed reading the Report of the Committee on Discipline, and the Conference adopted the Report which relates to the Lord's Supper, and Section 16, also Chapter 4, Section 1, 2, 3, and 4. Answer 2, question 2 shall read, "may be put back on trial for three months." Section 5 was also adopted.

The next part of the Committee's Report referred to the Ritual and there are some slight emendations in the prayers, and some additional passages of Scripture, one or other of which may be read as the Minister may deem proper. On the passage in Ezekiel, "I will sprinkle clean water upon him," being recommended to be added, various opinions were expressed as to the significance of the term. Judge Wilcox said these were days when there must be no uncertain sound in all we do or say. Not a few thought they could be saved if they were only baptised and had taken the Sacrament, hence we must so arrange everything in our economy as that we do not give the least possible sanction to baptismal regeneration. Tell the people that no water, no Sacrament, nor any priest can save them, but the High Priest, Jesus Christ the Son of God. Teach this everywhere, let it be known through the length and breadth of our Israel that there be no such thing as Church salvation.

Rev. J. RYERSON said he would not administer in any form if he did not believe that God's blessing would be communicated with the ordinance, and for ought they knew children might be regenerated at their baptism in answer to the prayers of God's people. He urged that there was often a lack of faith both in connection with this and other ordinances.

The President gave an account of an impressive baptismal service which he saw the late Rev. Dr. Bunting conduct.

Dr. FICKARD recommended the passage John 3 th. 5 v. to be inserted instead of "regenerate and born of the spirit."

On section II, baptism of adults, two passages of Scripture are to be added.

Rev. J. G. LAIRD thought that too much time was being spent in mere quibbling about words.

Dr. RICE was afraid that we were bringing the baptismal formula down to suit modern tastes.

On the Lord's Supper, the marginal notes on the prayers of consecration are to be omitted. Instead of there shall be said as on p. 123. "Then may be said," shall be inserted.

Section 4, which relates to marriage, excited some pleasant remarks. One said he did not like the word "obey," in the part assigned to the woman, as very few women intended to really obey, and still they would obey when they had men who were worthy of being obeyed. He thought the word had better be left out, but the cries of "no, no," rendered it unnecessary to put the question to vote. One minister said he thought if we kept on omitting, some would be for leaving out one or other of the "Ten Commandments." The prayers are recommended to be somewhat abbreviated. During this discussion, the President remarked that it was a matter of the highest importance to obey the Discipline, or we may regard it as little better than a rope of sand.

The Order of the Burial of the Dead, is next to be introduced. Instead of the sentence, "Suffer us not at our last hour," &c., shall read, "Grant us that at our last hour," &c. Dr. Evans thought that great solemnity should always be observed when reading this impressive service.

Rev. W. J. HUNTER read Report No. 3 from the Committee on Missions. Some verbal alterations were made, but the whole will soon be printed in extenso, so that we need not mention all the alterations here. It is understood that the President of the General Conference shall preside at all the meetings of the General Missionary Committee. There was a lengthy discussion respecting the constitution of the Central Board, and also the Committee on Consultation and Finance. Some were afraid of there being too much centralization, and could not see why the latter Committee was needed at all; but Mr. J. Macdonald explained how that under the old regime it had been found extremely difficult sometimes to get a sufficient number of persons together to consult in matters of importance, and now as the work was extended over such a large tract of country, he could not see how it could be otherwise than that there must be brought together occasionally a few persons who took deep interest in the Mission work, and who could render valuable aid in time of an emergency that might arise.

Judge Wilcox and Dr. Rice made similar observations. Mr. Lewis spoke for the first time we believe during Conference, but he was listened to with great attention. He was enthusiastic on the Mission cause, and hoped the time was not far distant when the income of the society would be a quarter of a million of dollars, when we might have a Foreign Mission, not only in Japan, but in some other point, Mexico, Brazil, &c.

Dr. JEFFERS spoke strongly against what is termed ex officio members. He was opposed and always had been opposed to ex officio members on any Committee. He thought they were an injury rather than a gain, and wherever such obtained, they were calculated to excite distrust, as they usually brought an amount of influence to bear which was sure to accomplish their own ends.

Judge Wilcox replied to Dr. Jeffers. He did not think there was any such danger as the doctor seemed to apprehend. Officials must have influence or else they would be of little use, but he did not think they would use that influence to the injury of anybody.

The election of a Missionary Committee for each Annual Conference was also debated considerably. Rev. A. HUNTER moved for such Committee to consist of the President and one minister from each district, besides an equal number of laymen. He thought that the best of men are liable to err, and that it was best to make such arrangements as that there would be little danger of going astray. He thought that in all cases of Annual Conference Missionary Committees that the number he had proposed would be simply sufficient.

Dr. STEWART, and others from the East, advocated the plan of allowing each Annual Conference to appoint its own Missionary Committee in whatever way they might choose.

Dr. DOUGLAS thought that the whole subject required to be gone about in such a way as that there should be mutual confidence, for the ground was so extensive that unless this is observed there would be great danger of the whole machinery getting out of order. It was well known that at times some brethren thought that their cases had not been considered as carefully as it ought to have been, but when the chairman of the brother explained that such were the pressing necessities of other parts of the work, that nothing more could be obtained for him, his fears were somewhat allayed. So in the case in hand, the Central Board would be made up of men from all the Conferences, they would thus know something of the wants of each, hence if any Annual Conference should think that justice had not been done to it, then the representatives of that Conference would be able to explain. There must be faith in each other, or else we could not proceed. The decision at length was that the Annual Conferences should elect their own Committee whatever way they thought proper, and the other recommendations of the Committee were adopted.

At 10.30 the Conference adjourned.

TWELFTH DAY—MORNING SESSION.

At 9 o'clock the President took the chair and gave out the 630th hymn. The Secretary read the xvii. Psalm, and Rev. G. Richardson led in prayer.

Dr. RICE read a memorial from the directors of the Ontario Female College asking for permission to apply to the Ontario Legislature for an amendment of its charter to increase the number of clerical directors, and also to appoint the principle by permission of this General Conference. He (Dr. Rice) moved that the prayer of the memorialists be granted, and that in accordance with the wishes of the directors, the Rev. J. J. Hare, B.A., shall be appointed Principal of the said Institution. Mr. SUTHERLAND seconded the resolution which was adopted.

Dr. FOWLER moved a reconsideration of the resolution adopted last night respecting the appointment of the Missionary Committee of each Annual Conference, which was adopted. Dr. FOWLER moved that the said Committee shall consist of an equal number of ministers and laymen, the laymen to be elected by the district meetings. Rev. J. GUNBY moved as an amendment that each Annual Conference shall be allowed to elect four of its members from each district, if they deem it necessary to do so, and spoke in defence of the amendment which he suggested on the ground that in some Conferences there are very few districts, and that therefore in such cases the Conferences should be at liberty to appoint four members from each district. The motion was moved by Dr. Fowler prevailed.

The Missionary Committee suggested that the laymen of the General Conference shall nominate the lay representatives to the Central Board.

Prof. BURWASH on behalf of the Educational Committee presented a further report. We expect to publish it in full in some future number. The following are a few of its recommendations:

The Boards of the various Educational Institutions shall have power to fill up all vacancies that may occur between one General Conference and another.

Each Annual Conference shall appoint one of its members Treasurer on behalf of the Educational Society.

The district meetings shall appoint deputations for meetings to be held within the bounds of their district in behalf of the Educational Society.

After slight amendments were made respecting the appointing of candidates to the Theological Institutions, also to the course of study and term of attending college.

There shall be central Boards of Examiners. Any member of an Annual Conference may be appointed Professor in any of our seats of learning.

The Boards appointed last Annual Conference shall remain until next General Conference, except that of Montreal Theological Institute to which shall be added the name of Mr. James Ferrier, jun.

The following are the members of the Wesleyan Institute: Manitoba, Revs. Geo. Young, Fawcett, E. R. Young, H. F. Manning, E. R. Bowman, M.A., Hon. H. W. Kennedy, D. Roblin, J. Stewart, J. H. Ashdown, A. Burrows, W. Gowler, W. Nixon, and J. Polk.

The Committee on Itinerary and Ministerial Support made their report No. 1, which recommended that the time of a minister stay on a circuit may be extended to four years on certain conditions. This report gave rise to an animated discussion, which continued the remainder of the session and a good part of the afternoon session also. Not less than eighteen of the members of Conference spoke on the subject.

Dr. RICE was the first to speak. He condemned the action of the Committee, and expressed a hope that the Conference would put its foot down upon the recommendation which he conceived to be fraught with nothing but evil. Of course, if the recommendation should even prevail it could not come into operation until next year, as the Annual Conferences would have to say whether they accepted or rejected the recommendation. He did not think there was any need to prolong the discussion.

Dr. FOWLER had given the subject some thought, but the more he had considered it the more strongly were his convictions opposed to it. He did not want to cast off everything which Mr. Wesley had given them. He believed the itinerancy was a system which had so far worked remarkably well, and he thought that the itinerancy was another of the many proofs of Mr. Wesley's far-seeing sagacity, even Mr. W. himself had said that he did not think himself capable of interesting a congregation longer than three years. Dr. F. recommended also that the giants of Methodism, such as Dr. Clarke, Benson, Bradburn and others, were all in favor of the itinerancy. The experience of other churches had not given them any thing of which they need not unless it was to make them resolved to cling more than ever to the itinerancy. If the recommendation of the Committee prevailed then he was sure they would soon have two classes of men in the ministry. Some would be men of honor, and their poorer brethren would be despised. The former might then sing—

A goodly tent I've got below,
And grand the trumpet shall blow
When I five years remain.

Mr. J. PATTON opposed the change, as it would work injuriously. Several attempts had been made during the last twenty years to make such a change as that now proposed. He hoped the recommendation would be voted down.

Mr. W. KENNEDY took the same view, and hoped that this General Conference would speak so as to be heard all over the Dominion, that this itinerancy should be held intact as we have received it from our fathers.

Mr. W. H. GIMS acknowledged that he was the author of the report inasmuch as it was through his recommendation that the recommendation had been made. The Committee had no idea whatever of doing away with the itinerancy, and even though they had recommended that one year should be added to the term, yet they had done so with such guards as that they thought they would only have few applications for an extension of time.

Rev. E. H. DEWART did not think that the itinerancy would be endangered even though the term be extended to 5 years. It would be well to look at the matter squarely for this was a subject which would ever and anon be demanding their attention.

Rev. W. S. GRIFFIN called attention to the inconveniences and losses and suffering which the itinerancy entailed upon all those who were engaged on it. He knew instances in which he believed lives had been endangered, by reason of the incessant riding of 3 years which like cast iron would not bend. Then too the Church might suffer a minister might be engaged building Churches, a getting Parsonages, and he is called away before the work is completed, then see what confusion follows, perhaps loss occurs to the Church.

Mr. G. WESS approved the recommendation as also did Judge WILMOT, who said that he became more and more attracted to Methodism. They had men in their ranks fitted for all situations. Some could how in the quarry others were workmen of great skill, all were useful. Not one of them could be dispensed with. Of course all would admit that every Minister did not suit alike. It is no reflection to say that the people are often glad when the 3 years of some men expire, and very likely some of the Clergy are glad too. He wanted the itinerancy to remain as it is. He did not expect to form anything better, and he would not part with it until he knew what was coming in its place. There had been men of eminence and such as James Hamilton, Chalmers, who had held their respective congregations for many years, and the people always were glad when they filled the pulpits because they knew that they would be well fed.

Rev. J. GRAY moved an amendment to the report so that the rule on p. 17 relating to the Stationing Committee should so read that no minister should be stationed longer than three years at any place, except the Editors, Book-Stewards, Professors, and Governors.

Mr. R. WILKES seconded the motion in a few well chosen remarks. He had great sympathy with the ministers, whom he knew had to make great sacrifices in order that the itinerancy might be maintained. Still he believed that it was better for the church that the system should be maintained as our fathers held it. He had paid considerable attention to other systems of polity and he found that the average term of a Presbyterian minister's connection with a particular church was only 2 years and 7 months, though some ministers did remain 30 years, so that it could easily be seen how short a term some of them must remain. There were at this time not less than 69 Presbyterian Churches without pastors. This was certainly something worthy of being pondered.

Mr. J. MACDONALD thanked God for the itinerancy. He did not like so many changes, he was led to ask whether are we drifting? John Wesley had been mentioned again, and if for nothing else he had given the church the itinerancy. There was not, he was sure, 69 pulpits vacant in Methodism. They had not to exhibit their men to see whether the people would accept them. Methodism was a system of adaptation all the world over. It proved itself adequate to any emergency that might arise. He claimed to know their ministry well, and he was bold to say there were many men in comparative obscurity who were not behind their chief, but these men being retiring, and not having friends in the Stationing Committee are kept back. They are like "full many a gem is born to blush unseen." He had had with people of other churches who had said, "O, that we had your itinerancy!"

AFTERNOON SESSION.

After the usual devotional exercise and the reading of the minutes, the order of the day was resumed.

Rev. Mr. GAZETT re-opened the debate. He defended the position of the committee and argued strongly in favour of the report, he was sure that those who were on the same side as he was had been greatly misunderstood. They disclaimed any idea of demolishing the itinerancy, but surely it was not fair to make it as it had been represented like the Medes and Persians. Surely there was some flexibility about it. True, it was antiquated, though he did not quarrel with it on that account; but he was reminded of Angelo who made a beautiful work of art, and when his friends dressed it up as though it had just been discovered as a relic of 400 years ago. The doctor examined it and declared its superiority, but when they found out that Angelo was the maker they said it was good, &c. The fact was nothing would do for the doctor but antiquity, and so nothing will do for some of their Methodists but antiquity. No matter how wise a man Wesley was, and they will not detract, still he thought that they should not be compelled to adopt the cast iron rule in all things, unless there is some other reason than that now assigned. Why it took some men a year to get acquainted with their people, and usually the last year of such ministers won't be the best, and he urged that the 4th or may be the 5th would be the best of all.

Mr. DEVLIN spoke against the recommendation, so did Rev. R. TINDALL who said that he and those who belonged to the late Methodist New Connexion Church did not wish the idea to prevail that the four years' rule would be any complaint to them. Their Conference did try for an extension of time, but their were differences of opinion respecting its utility. He hoped the Conference would decide their question without in any way being influenced as to how the question would effect them.

Mr. T. BOWLES approved the recommendation on the ground that it would engender strife in the official meetings, and would tend to destroy the connexional spirit.

Rev. A. SUTHERLAND delivered a vigorous speech which we are obliged to pass over. Judge Deacon, Rev. W. Williams, Dr. Allison, Rev. A. Hurlbut and Mr. T. Mitchell also addressed the Conference, but our space is so full that we are compelled reluctantly to curtail.

The amendment and the resolution were then put to the Conference, when the former prevailed, followed by great cheering.

JUDAS JONES then moved that no minister should remain longer than two years without an invitation, but the motion did not prevail.

Rev. GERVASE SMITH, prior to his departure, expressed his gratification at the appointment of Dr. Ryerson as representative to the next English Wesleyan Conference, and he believed that the appointment would be equally gratifying to his brethren at home. He said that the altered relations which now took place between the parent body and the Methodist Church in this country. He recommended a Conference of a business nature between the two Book-Stewards of the two bodies, to arrange all such business transactions as the future may require. He was very much pleased to see his lay brethren forming a part of this General Conference; he admired their strong Conservatism in all that is good, and augured well for our future. He referred to an act which the Conference did last Saturday, that he thought would grieve his fathers and brethren in England—the change of the name from that of Wesleyan Church to Methodist Church. Well, he hoped that God would bless us and our legislation, even that of last Saturday. He expressed the high pleasure he felt during his sojourn among us—our kindness and courtesy toward him, and he again prayed that God would bless us and our great country, until literally "Christ's dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the rivers unto the ends of the earth." We have a glorious future before us.

After the reading of various addresses and reports, the Conference adjourned.

EVENING SESSION.

The Conference met at 7.30 o'clock. The early part of the evening was occupied with the reading of fraternal addresses to other Churches, all of which were adopted.

Rev. J. BORLAND read the address to the M. E. Church of Canada; Rev. G. R. SANDERSON read that to the M. E. Church of the United States; and Rev. E. H. DEWART to the M. E. Church South.

Rev. DR. SARGENT, of Baltimore, briefly addressed the Conference in acknowledgment. He said the Church he represented was the first of the larger Methodist bodies to adopt the principle of lay delegation. He gave some interesting statistics of the body. They had 3,379 ministers, 3,044 local preachers, 676,600 members, 260,000 coloured members before the war, many of whom were now organized into a separate coloured church. They had 61 chartered institutions of learning. They had also a vigorous publishing establishment and several newspapers.

Rev. DR. FOWLER read the address to the Governor-General; Rev. ALEX. SUTHERLAND that to the New Connexion Conference in England, and Rev. W. S. BLACKSTOCK that to the Primitive Methodist Conference.

Dr. W. OGDEN read the voluminous and able report of the Committee on Publications, which we expect to reproduce in full. It gave a most favorable exhibit of the publishing interests of the church, and offered suggestions for its extension and thorough organization. Its discussion was made the first order of the day for this morning.

Rev. S. ROSE moved a vote of thanks to the gentlemen who had so generously, and for several years devoted a large portion of time to the preparation of a Methodist Tune Book.

Rev. J. A. WILLIAMS moved that it lie on the table.

Hon. JUDGE WILMOT sharply criticized the character of the book, as, in his judgment, unadapted for general adoption.

Rev. J. A. WILLIAMS followed in a similar strain.

Rev. A. SUTHERLAND defended the book against the charges made against it. The tunes it contained were not unfamiliar tunes. He had been accustomed to hear them all his life. Complete unanimity of sentiment as regards any tune book, was not to be expected.

Dr. JEFFERS had no objections to a vote of thanks, but did not want the Conference to become responsible for any endorsement of the work.

Dr. GREEN explained that the Book-Steward and Book Committee had only carried out the directions of the late Canada Conference, which had accepted the offer of