

The General Conference.

Quadrennial Meeting at Winnipeg.

The General Conference of the Methodist Church meets once every four years, for the purpose of reviewing every department of the work, and making such changes in the Discipline as may be deemed necessary for the successful government of the Church. This year the session was held in the city of Winnipeg, beginning on Thursday, 4th of September. It was feared by some that the attendance would be rather light on account of the great distance and expense, but it is doubtful if there has been a greater proportion of the delegates present at any previous General Conference. The attractions of "the Great West," as it is usually termed, combined

attention day after day to the questions of the Conference with as much carefulness as their brethren of the cloth.

After organization of the Conference, the General Superintendent's address was the first order of the day. The venerable doctor occupied more than an hour and a half in its delivery and touched upon many questions of interest and importance. At its conclusion several delegates expressed their high appreciation of the Superintendent's utterances, one aged brother declaring that he had been well repaid for coming to Winnipeg by what he had heard in the address.

In discussing the missionary question the Doctor made the following reference

THE YOUNG PEOPLE:

"The Young People's Forward Movement for Missions, the campaigning of

forces in an irresistible host for God and His kingdom."

AN ADVANCE MOVEMENT.

Great interest attached to the report of the Missionary Committee, as it was well known that there would be special proposals to meet the growing needs of "New Ontario" and the West. The committee recommended that four local superintendents of missions be appointed, one for Ontario, one for British Columbia, and two for Manitoba and the Northwest. In addition, it was recommended that there be a Corresponding Secretary who would have general oversight of the whole work, and further, that the General Board of Missions have power to increase the number of local superintendents whenever it may be deemed necessary.

It was expected that this somewhat radical measure would meet with some opposition, but to the surprise of everybody there was remarkable unanimity of opinion and the Conference seemed prepared to pass the recommendations unanimously. One of the delegates, however, asked some questions which drew out an eloquent speech from Mr. N. W. Rowell, in which he marshalled a striking

array of facts and figures, showing the marvellous growth of population in New Ontario, and in the Northwest. He gave the following interesting figures showing the number of emigrants who have come into the territory west of the Great Lakes:

In 1897 there were	10,864
" 1898 " "	27,857
" 1899 " "	36,175
" 1900 " "	31,000
" 1901 " "	38,000

During the present year up to September 1st, 52,800 had come, and the probability is there will be fully 70,000 before the end of the year. "Do you know what this means!" said Mr. Rowell. "If they could be gathered into congregations of 100 each, it would mean 700 new congregations. If numbers are any criterion of responsibility, then the Methodist Church, more than any other body, has a right to assume a large share of the task of carrying the Gospel to these people."

With great enthusiasm the Conference passed all the recommendations, and then sang heartily, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

TEMPERANCE WORK.

The Temperance Committee brought forward a recommendation that a "Secretary of Temperance be appointed, to give his whole time to the advocacy of the temperance cause. The measure was ably advocated by Mr. Joseph Gibson, who declared that, in his opinion, the Methodist Church was not half seized of the enormity of the liquor traffic, and its responsibility in relation thereto. He



THE CITY HALL, WINNIPEG, MAN.

with the important questions to be considered brought almost every man to Winnipeg.

The total number of delegates was 298, and probably the majority were young men or at least in the prime of life, although there was quite a percentage of aged brethren, who gave to the deliberations the advantage of their matured judgment. Ministers and laymen were there in equal numbers, and while possibly the preachers did most of the talking, the lay delegates took a very active part in all the business. Judges, lawyers, merchants, manufacturers, and farmers of a high grade of intelligence gave their

districts, the responsive attitude of the student volunteers in the colleges, the men and women and money furnished by these agencies for mission work, show clearly that a new era is upon us, and that there are new and mighty forces to be developed, fostered and guided by the highest wisdom of the Church in the name of our Lord and Christ. The ready and faithful co-operation of our Epworth Leagues indicates a providential preparation for so auspicious an occasion in mission advance, assures us of possibilities and resources almost limitless, and lays upon us the demand for such wise and energetic supervision as shall unite all the