

Religious and Missionary Intelligence.

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THE METHODIST CHURCH.

We write these notes a few days after the Western Conferences have been held. We hope to make mention, in our next issue, of those in the Maritime Conferences and Newfoundland, all of which are in session at the present time.

The election of the chief officers of the various Conferences created much interest. One feature in the elections was very pleasing, viz. : that three of the successful candidates for the Presidency were formerly identified with the smaller branches of Methodism.

The following is the list of Presidents and Secretaries of the various Conferences: Toronto—W. Pirritte, D.D., H. S. Matthews; London—J. R. Gundy, W. Rigsby; Niagara—John. Kay, R. W. Woodsworth; Guelph—W. S. Griffin, D.D., J. Scott, M.A.; Bay of Quinte—W. Burns, W. R. Young, B.A.; Montreal—T. G. Williams, D.D., W. J. Crothers, M.A.; Manitoba—J. M. Harrison, A. Andrews; British Columbia—C. Bryant, J. H. White.

So far as we can gather from the statistical reports, no Conference reports a decrease in the membership of the Church. Manitoba, however, reports the largest increase. At this we need not wonder, seeing that there is such a large tide of emigration to the country, many from our own parts. The eight Conferences named in these notes have a net increase of more than 5,000 members. Let us thank God and take courage. In the ranks of the ministry seventeen brethren had died, one of whom was General Superintendent Williams.

Toronto Conference made a new departure on modern usages, by setting apart an evening for a memorial service, at which not only grateful mention was made of the deceased

ministers, but also of three distinguished laymen who had gone home, viz. : Hon. J. Macdonald, William Gooderham and R. I. Walker. About thirty probationers were ordained, and fifty candidates for the ministry were received. This number enabled the Educational Committee to permit a large class of probationers to attend college, more than seventy enjoying the advantages of a collegiate training. Permission was also given to employ a large number of young men under Chairmen of Districts. British Columbia and Manitoba Conferences are in need of more labourers.

Among the candidates and probationers are to be found several sons of ministers. Two sons of the late Rev. Henry Steinhauer are following in their father's footsteps in preaching the Gospel to their Indian brethren.

Not the least interesting report presented at the various Conferences was that of the Book Steward, Rev. Dr. Briggs. The report surpassed all those of former years. The business has become more extensive than the most sanguine friends even expected, and during the past year, after setting aside \$12,000 to prepare for the bonds which will become due in a few years, \$6,300 was donated to the Superannuation Fund. On a recent day Dr. Briggs paid \$1,656 duty charged on a single invoice of books.

The Sunday-school reports gave evidence of increased interest being felt in the welfare of the youth of the Church.

The large number of Epworth Leagues that are being rapidly formed augur well for the future of our young people.

The Principals of all the Ladies' Colleges were on hand, at most of the Conferences, full of hope and good cheer respecting the institutions of which they are in charge. Albert