

a professorial chair, to be called the "John Redpath," chair in the Presbyterian College, Montreal.

These motions were adopted with most cordial unanimity.

SYMPATHY WITH QUEBEC.

At the opening of the evening session, Mr. ROBERT MURRAY moved, and Dr. MACRAE seconded, a resolution expressing the sympathy of the Assembly with the citizens of Quebec in their severe loss by fire, and recommending the people under their charge to give practical proof of their sympathy as opportunity may offer. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

HOME MISSIONS.

Dr. COCHRANE presented the Committee's Report:—In laying their Annual Report before the General Assembly, the Committee record with gratitude the continued gratifying progress of their work, more especially in the remote and necessitous Home Mission fields, under their care. An earnest effort to equalize the receipts and expenditure for the year has prevented the appointment of many missionaries, and compelled the Committee to refuse many appeals. The great drawback to our possessing this great land is not so much the lack of men, as the lack of means. During the year many promising students of our colleges have given themselves to the mission field, and the prospects are that still greater numbers will offer themselves in coming years. This fact ought to provoke a much larger degree of liberality on the part of our people, so that the Committee may be enabled to take advantage of the missionary spirit that seems to possess our candidates for the ministry. Then follows a review of the work accomplished in Lanark and Renfrew, Ottawa, Peterborough, Muskoka, &c. Of Muskoka Mr. Findlay says:—The prospects of the field for the future are very hopeful. When we remember that in 1876 we had but 16 stations all told, and that these were supplied by five missionaries, that now we have fifty stations requiring the labours of fifteen missionaries, we may well ask, "What hath God wrought?" Our people in these stations, while thankful for the past for the care which they have received from the church they love, are also very hopeful for the future, and are looking forward with pleasure to the appearance among them again of those who bring with them the word of life. To visit these stations in turn during the comparatively limited period at my disposal for so doing, will give me a very busy summer. From the middle of May, when the roads become fit for travel, to the end of September, when the student missionaries withdraw from the field, will give me just twenty Sabbaths. In the Presbytery of Barrie alone there are twenty-seven labours, and more are needed. Very gratifying results are reported from the policy of settling missionaries in fields for the space of three years.

Progress is reported from Sault Ste. Marie, Manitoulin Islands, Prince Arthur's Landing, Fort William, &c.

The missionary among the men on the Pacific

Railway, Mr. McCannel, says:—I found that my parish extended from the ballast pit at Martin station, 120 miles from Fort William, to Eagle River, 170 miles from Winnipeg. Thus my mission field was 110 miles long, but the breadth was not by any means proportionate to the length, being only 66 feet. In speaking of the stations on the Canada Pacific Railway it must not be supposed that they are in, or in the immediate vicinity of, prosperous towns and villages and a well settled country. On the contrary, although sidings are put in for stations every ten miles, frequently there is no station house or indeed a house of any kind within twenty miles. The nearest settlement is that of Fort Francis between 30 and 100 miles to the south, and Thunder Bay and Manitoba east and west, hundreds of miles away. To the north, with the exception of an occasional Hudson Bay post and a few wandering Indians, the nearest settlement is on the other side of the Pole in the penal colony of Siberia. This is literally "The Great Lone Land." Anywhere away from the portion of the road under construction, a person might travel hundreds of miles and see no living creature larger than a squirrel or a rabbit. The natives are of all nations and forms of religious belief. They might also be described in the language of Scripture as being "out of every nation under heaven." Roman Catholics and Protestants are about equally divided, the majority of the latter are Presbyterians. The men as a rule were anxious to have the Gospel preached to them, and regularly attended—Roman Catholics as well as Protestants. Owing to the distance I had to travel—all on foot—I could only hold two services a month in each of the different camps, and in some camps not that often. Men were coming and going continually, so that in many instances those to whom I preached when going up the line were all away, and their places supplied by new hands, when I returned. I held altogether eighty services on the line. Once, twice or thrice on Sundays according to the part of the line I happened to be on. Every day was Sunday with me, and every evening some of the men were ready to attend service. There was some work done by certain parties on Sunday, but as the terms of contract expressly prohibit Sunday labour, there is very little open desecration of the day. I heard but little profanity, and, owing to the absence of intoxicating liquors, quarrelling and fighting are unknown. As might be expected in a country into which all supplies have to be brought hundreds of miles, everything required commands almost-fabulous prices. Half way between Thunder Bay and Winnipeg hay is worth \$120 per ton, potatoes \$6 per bushel. The latter were, last May, sold for ten cents a piece. They were not then used as an article of food but as medicine. Doctors attend to the bodily ailments of the men, as like the missionary, their quickest, best, and only way to pass up and down the line is on foot. The best the district afforded was always at my disposal, whether pork and beans, a bed on the dining-room table, a drink of water out of a shovel, were freely given and all thankfully accepted.

BRITISH COLUMBIA is reported from by Rev.