

Presbyterianism of the Dominion to meet.

The choice of a new Moderator came next and is always an event of deep interest. Several members are usually waiting for the proper moment, like the waiting settlers around the borders of Oklahoma, ready to spring to their feet and nominate "their man." Dr. Cochrane, of Brantford, leader of the light infantry in the Assembly, a man who never "goes slow" with hand, foot, or tongue, and couldn't if he tried, was first on his feet, and nominated Principal Grant. Dr. Laing, of Dundas, who has done a great deal of work for the church in connection with the book of forms, was also nominated. The Principal was chosen, took his place in usual form, and without the ceremony of a speech assumed the duties of his office.

All that now remained of the first evening's duties was to arrange the hours of meeting. These, with the exception of the first day were to be from half past nine in the morning until ten o'clock at night, with intervals of two hours at dinner and tea, but with many of the members much of these hours as well as early morning and late at night would be occupied with meetings of Committee, so that the Assembly "has a mind to work."

On the second morning Assembly met at ten, and the first hour was spent in devotional exercises, and to all who realize how far reaching and important the work of the Assembly this hour is a solemn one, the Assembly looking to God to guide its proceedings and bless its work. Every session is opened as is fitting with praise, reading of the Scriptures and prayer, but the first morning more especially devoted in this way.

After these exercises are over the Assembly settles itself to work. The Committee on bills and overtures presents its report. This Committee has been in session the previous day and this morning. All the business to come before the Assembly has been submitted to it. It "sorts" the business, recommends the order in which it shall be taken up, and takes care that it is in regular form so that the work of the Assembly may be facilitated as much as possible.

The first item taken up this morning was the report of the Committee on the Book of Forms. It is now fourteen years since the union, and though the Rules and Forms of Procedure have been published as a useful guide, yet they are only in a preparatory state, which shows the great care that is being taken to have them as complete as extended experience and work can make them. It was recommended that the book in its present stage be printed "as a useful guide for members, office bearers, and courts of the Church in the transaction of business," and that it be referred to a committee for further perfecting.

The usual application from aged ministers for leave to retire from the active work of the ministry were a reminder to the Assembly that "the night cometh when no man can work." Those from the Maritime Provinces were from the Presbytery of St. John on behalf of Rev. A. F. Wylie, from the Presbytery of Halifax on behalf of Rev. John Cameron, and from the Presbytery of Miramichi on behalf of Rev. P. Lindsay.

On the other hand there were as usual a number of applications from ministers from other churches to be received as ministers of our church. There were fourteen in all. These were referred to a Committee who will no doubt deal wisely with the several cases. Sometimes the church receives a valuable addition to her strength in this way, getting some excellent workmen. Sometimes, well, the strength may not correspond with the numbers, and the Committee has to be very careful in all their examinations into such cases. Some of the present applications are from the Presbyterian churches in the United States and Britain, some from other denominations.

Of course the Jesuit Estates Bill came up for consideration at an early stage. It was brought before the Assembly by overtures from different synods and presbyteries, and, after reading one of the overtures, they were all much alike, the whole matter was referred to a Committee to prepare a deliverance to be submitted to the Assembly. The deep interest that is felt in this subject is everywhere apparent. Even when the Moderator in his opening