

the speakers took their places; the opening psalm was announced by Rev. F. P. Sym, the pastor offered prayer, addresses were given by the Rev. Messrs. Towell, Magee, Edwards, Churchill, of Lion's Head, McLean, of Kemble, and Dr. Jackson. The choir sang with fine effect several excellent selections. The dedication services were continued the following Sabbath, when the Rev. C. L. Bolton preached in the forenoon, and Rev. Mr. Mowatt, of Allanford, in the evening. The collections on the occasion amounted to the handsome sum of \$450.

PRESBYTERY OF PETERBOROUGH.—This Presbytery met at Port Hope on the 22nd March. There were present thirteen ministers and five elders. The Rev. William MacWilliam, LL.B., was appointed Moderator for the next six months. The principle of a summer session was affirmed to be held at Winnipeg for not less than three years. It was recommended that said session shall embrace all the subjects of the theological curriculum, that students of two years' standing may be licensed or ordained, but not eligible for calls, until the course is completed, and that the increased expense in giving effect to the scheme be a charge on the Home Mission Fund. The next meeting of the Presbytery was appointed to be held in St. Andrews Church, Peterborough, on the 5th of July, at 9 a.m. The committee on the supply of the Millbrook and Garden Hill pulpits was authorized, if necessary, to appoint a minister to supply the pulpits for six months consecutively. The reports of the delegates to the Augmented congregations were duly considered, and, as based upon these, a report to the Home Mission Committee in Toronto prepared and forwarded. Mr. Cleland tendered the resignation of his position as convener of the Presbytery's Home Mission Committee, and the Rev. E. F. Torrance was appointed in his stead. The Rev. John Hay, of Cobourg, was recommended as the representative of the Presbytery on the Assembly's Home Mission Committee. The following were elected as delegates to the General Assembly, to meet in Montreal in June next, viz.: Messrs. Carmichael, Thompson, Hay, McEwen, McLeod, Hyde and MacWilliam, ministers, all by rotation, and Messrs. William Archer, Millbrook, Israel Payne, Springfield; G. Paton, St. Andrews, Peterborough, Wm. Mathieson, Havelock; David Tully, Lakevale; George Rutherford, Castleton, and James McNeill, Keene, elders. The Clerk, as usual, was authorized to correspond with the delegates elect and to fill up vacancies in the case of any who may decline their appointments. Reports were submitted on the subjects of Sabbath Schools, State of Religion, Temperance and Statistics. These reports were all successively adopted, with their recommendations. These recommendations are the following: State of Religion: First, the setting apart of a particular time in each week, say at family worship, for prayer for the baptism of the Holy Spirit on our congregations and on every branch of the Church's work; second, the faithful and prayerful exposition of God's Word at all our diets of public worship; third, the seeking out and the training of suitable persons to be teachers in our Sabbath schools, and that Sabbath schools be under the control of Sessions; fourth, the use of the liberty given to ministers to hold meetings for instruction in our public schools; fifth, the explanation of the ten commandments, say, once a quarter at the public service on the Lord's Day and at Sabbath schools; sixth, that a sermon be preached once a year on the necessity of family worship and the instruction of the young in Biblical truth. Temperance: first, that, since Christ alone can uplift and bless the race, purify and save society and make us a temperance and peaceable people, that He be continually held up in our pulpits, schools and families as the only Saviour from sin and the only guide to true character; second, that the Bible be used as the great text book for instilling temperance principles and that care be taken in our homes and Sabbath schools for the memorizing of passages of Scripture pointing out the dangers of intemperance; third, that advantage be taken, as far as possible, of the provision for public school instruction on Scientific Temperance; fourth, that parents be exhorted to prevent, as far as possible, their children from gathering on the streets at night, and especially boys from loitering in the vicinity of hotels; and further, that parents make home life attractive for their children so as to remove temptations to form associations that are beyond parental control; fifth, that earnest effort be put forth by personal interest in young men to lessen and remove their exposure to temptation; sixth, that every effort be made by legal restraint, moral suasion and Christian love, to rescue and save the intemperate; seventh, that we rejoice in the decrease of intemperance and that we urge upon our people to use all Scriptural, constitutional and righteous means to work for the entire abolition of the evil. The Rev. R. P. Mackay was nominated as the secretary of the Foreign Mission Committee.—WM. BENNETT, *Pro. Clerk*.

PRESBYTERY OF BARRIE.—This Presbytery held an adjourned meeting at Barrie on Tuesday, April 19, to dispose of business left over from March 22. Dr. Robertson, Superintendent of Missions, and Dr. Harper, of the Methodist Church, being present, were invited to sit with the Presbytery. The resignation of the pastoral charge of Knox Church, Oro, was first taken up. Messrs. W. McNabb, W. McArthur and Donald Gilchrist, commissioners of the congregation, were heard; after them Mr. McKenzie, who desired the resignation to take effect. The Presbytery agreed that the resignation be accepted, and that Mr. McNeill, of Leavelle, etc., be Moderator of the vacant Session, and preach the pulpit vacant on or after the first Sabbath of May as may be convenient. A resolution was adopted warmly appreciative of Mr. McKenzie's labours, and expressing the hope that a door of usefulness may be opened before him. The call from First Presbyterian Church of Victoria to Dr. Campbell, of Collingwood, was next taken up. Commissioners from the Session and congregation were heard. Dr. Robertson, representing the Presbytery of Columbia, pleaded

for Dr. Campbell's translation. A letter was read from Dr. Cochran, who was also appointed to represent that Presbytery, intimating his inability to attend, and stating at some length the pleas for translation which he would have offered if present. Dr. Campbell was heard, and intimated his acceptance of the call to Victoria. It was then agreed to translate Dr. Campbell, to declare the pulpit vacant by Mr. Leishman on the first Sabbath of June, and to appoint Mr. R. Moodie Moderator of Session during the vacancy. A resolution was adopted highly commendatory of Dr. Campbell's character and labours in Collingwood, and expressing the hope that his services in his future charge will be of great benefit to the Church. A letter was read from Mr. J. A. Ross, M.A., late of Meaford, intimating his acceptance of the call to Churchill. The Presbytery thereupon agreed to meet at Churchill for the induction of Mr. Ross on May 24, at two o'clock in the afternoon, and appointed Mr. J. J. Cochran to preside, Mr. Hewitt to preach, Mr. I. Smith to address the minister, and Mr. Carswell to address the congregation. Some other items of business of less interest were transacted, and the Presbytery adjourned at two o'clock, to meet at Barrie on Tuesday, May 31, at eleven a.m.—ROBERT MOODIE, *Pro. Clerk*.

SYNOD OF HAMILTON AND LONDON.

The Synod of Hamilton and London met in Knox Church, Stratford, last week. A large number of ministers and elders and of the general public were present. The retiring Moderator, Rev. Andrew Tolmie, of Southampton, preached the sermon. The Synod was then constituted, and the Clerk, Rev. Dr. Cochran, called the roll. Rev. Hector McQuarrie, Wingham, was elected Moderator for the ensuing year, and was duly installed, after which the Synod adjourned.

At the meeting on Tuesday morning Rev. W. Burns presented the case of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, of which he is agent, and urged that steps be taken to complete the raising of \$200,000 for endowment. The claims of the fund and its administration were fully discussed. A resolution was passed commending the work to Presbyteries and congregations.

In the afternoon an overture was presented from the Home Mission Committee ancient the Augmentation Fund. Dr. Cochran presented and explained the overture, which asked that the Synod take oversight of augmented charges within its bounds and revise all Presbyterial applications for grants before they are forwarded to the committee. Dr. Laing reviewed the history of the Augmentation Scheme, and emphasized the pressing need for immediate and effective action.

A long discussion followed, in which Drs. Proudfoot, Fraser, Laidlaw, McMullen and Fletcher, and Messrs. Cuthbertson, Tully, Cockburn and others took part. Current objections and difficulties were stated. The following resolution, moved by Dr. Cochran, was unanimously carried: "That the Synod expresses its satisfaction with the results of the Augmentation Scheme in aiding and developing weak congregations until they have become self-sustaining. It deeply regrets the deficits that have arisen during the last few years in the fund, and earnestly commends the Scheme anew to the interest and liberality of the Church at large. The Synod approves generally of the suggestions made in the overture of a synodical committee which shall revise the applications of Presbyteries for grants for augmentation before being presented to the General Assembly's Home Mission Committee, and will support any other well-devised measures that the Assembly in its wisdom may see fit to enact. Further, the Synod is of opinion that the applications for grants from the Home Mission Fund should in like manner be revised by the Synodical Committee before being transmitted to the General Assembly's Home Mission Committee."

The rest of the afternoon seditur was spent in discussing a reference for interpretation and advice from the Presbytery of Hamilton in the matter of the Synod's decision in the Henderson case of last year. The Session of St. Pauls Church, Hamilton, appeal to the Synod against the decision of the Presbytery in granting a certificate of Church membership to Mr. Henderson, a member of St. Pauls Church, to whom the Session, for reasons stated, refused a satisfactory certificate. The Synod in London last year found the Presbytery's action irregular, and after a prolonged debate remitted the matter back to the Presbytery with instructions to cancel the certificate, and that Mr. Henderson be referred to the Session of St. Pauls Church to repeat certain expressions of penitence made to the Presbytery and Synod, and to receive from the Session a regular certificate. The Presbytery now appeared, asking the Synod to interpret its instructions of last year, and to advise further in the matter. After long discussion the reference was sustained.

The evening seditur of the Synod was spent in hearing and considering reports. Standing committees for the year were appointed, the following being the Conveners: State of Religion, Rev. John Ross, Brussels; Temperance, Rev. A. Beamer, Petrolia; Sabbath Schools, Rev. J. Ballantyne, London; Sabbath Observance, Rev. John Young, Niagara.

The Committee on the State of Religion for the past year presented its report through Rev. H. McQuarrie. The reports from the various Sessions and Presbyteries were summarized, and the committee was disposed to take a not altogether hopeful view. The evil effect of social and political corruption was referred to. Objection was made to the public recognition through Parliament of the saints' days in the Roman Catholic calendar. Political debauchery, indicated by the Gentryman Acts and election frauds, was condemned.

Rev. E. Cockburn, Paris, presented the annual report on Temperance, which recommended that members and adherents be urged to use all fair means to secure the election to school and municipal boards, the Legislature and Parliament of men

known to favour and who will vote for the restriction and prohibition of the liquor traffic.

The Sabbath Observance Committee's report was read by Rev. L. Musgrave. It urged strongly that in all ways the Church instruct and lead the community in securing the due observance of the Lord's Day.

Rev. J. C. Tibb read the Sabbath School Committee's report, which was encouraging. The Committee recommended that the duty of contributing to mission schemes be impressed on Sabbath schools; that careful oversight of Sabbath school libraries be exercised; and that due attention be given to the retaining of young men in the school and Church. Favourable mention was made of the boys' brigade.

On Wednesday morning the Synod resumed business at nine o'clock. The reference from the Presbytery of Hamilton, received and considered the previous day, was the first item.

Dr. McMullen, Woodstock, whose resolution became the finding of the Synod last year, defended the language of that resolution against the charges of ambiguity involved in the Presbytery's reference, and presented a motion interpreting last year's instructions.

Dr. Proudfoot seconded the resolution and urged the dropping of proceedings.

Dr. Laidlaw, as pastor of St. Pauls Church, objected and claimed that Mr. Henderson should be sent back to St. Pauls Session. He disputed his standing as a member of the Church.

Several motions were offered, but one by Dr. Cochran, sending the matter to a committee to prepare a deliverance, was carried. This committee consisted of Rev. Drs. Proudfoot, McMullen, McDonald, Rev. Messrs. W. A. McKay, John Gray, and A. McLean, ministers; and Messrs. Ross, Bell, and Symington, elders. It was given power to call all the parties and report.

In the meantime the Synod proceeded with business. Dr. Cochran presented the annual report of the Brantford Ladies' College, reviewing the work of the year. The report was highly satisfactory, and after addresses commendatory of the work done in the college by Rev. E. Cockburn, Dr. Fraser and Dr. Fletcher, the following motion was adopted: "The Synod receives the report, and expresses gratification at the largely increased attendance, the growing popularity, and the high state of efficiency of the college, and the excellent character of the work done during the past year. The Synod expresses satisfaction that the college still enjoys the valuable services of Dr. Cochran as governor, and that the staff of instructors in every department is complete. Moreover the Synod cordially commends this institution to the ministers and congregations of the Churches as one in which young ladies find a religious home and receive a thorough Christian training. It appoints the Moderator, Rev. H. McQuarrie, Wingham, as visiting director for the ensuing year."

The Synod decided that the Synod treasurer collect from each Presbytery a sum of one-half cent for each member on the roll, leaving the Presbytery treasurer to levy the rate on each congregation, and that the sum of \$200 of the balance now on hand be paid to the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund.

Documents were presented relative to the organization of a new Presbytery comprising certain congregations and stations in the Presbyteries of Barrie and Bruce. The petition was granted, and Dr. Laing and Dr. Cochran were appointed to support the petition at the General Assembly. The new court will be known as the Presbytery of Algoma.

An overture was presented from the Presbytery of London, asking the General Assembly to rescind or amend its action of last year in the matter of an extramural session by theological students, and also requiring ministers from other Churches to give a year in the mission field before being eligible for a call. The overture was adopted and Dr. Proudfoot and Dr. Laing appointed to support it before the Assembly.

At the afternoon seditur the committee on the Hamilton reference case reported their unanimous finding. The report is as follows: "The Synod regrets that the Presbytery should have difficulty in interpreting the decision of last year. The court now gives the following interpretation of the decision in question, viz.: That the cancelling of the certificate would have been fulfilled by declaring it cancelled and making intimation thereof to the parties concerned, and referring the memorials to the Session of St. Pauls with a certified extract to that effect and a copy of the Synod's decision was all that the Presbytery was required to do in order to fulfil the duty laid upon it by the Synod in that particular. The Synod regrets that this course was not taken by the Presbytery. In view, however, of all the circumstances, the Synod is of opinion that no good would result from further prosecution of the matter, and therefore enjoined all parties to follow after the things that make for peace." It being understood that Mr. Henderson is regarded as under the care of the session of the church in which he now worships, the session of St. Pauls Church having cordially consented to this in terms of section fourteen of the Book of Forms, the committee further stated that their finding was communicated to the Presbytery of Hamilton and to the representatives of St. Pauls Session, and that all parties agreed to the proposed deliverance. The Synod unanimously adopted the finding of the committee.

At the suggestion of the Moderator, the Synod was led in prayer by Dr. Proudfoot, giving thanks to God for the satisfactory settlement of this case.

On motion of Rev. R. V. McKibbin the Synod resolved to ask the Dominion authorities to close the Canadian section of the Chicago Exposition on the Lord's Day. Congratulations of the Synod were extended to Rev. A. D. McDonald, Scaforth, on receiving the degree of Doctor of Divinity from the Presbyterian College, Montreal.

The Synod unanimously agreed to hold next year's meeting in Knox Church, St. Thomas. Votes of thanks were passed, and the Synod adjourned, the Moderator pronouncing the benediction.



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