

Committee on the Rectories and Clergy Reserves. The Report was given in by Dr. Burns, Convener of the Committee. On the motion made and seconded, it was, without a vote, agreed to sustain the Report, and authorize the Moderator and Clerk to memorialize the Legislature in terms of the Report, in favor of a bill for the entire secularization of the Clergy Reserves.

The Synod called for the Report of the Committee on Statistics, which was given in by Rev. S. C. Fraser, Convener. The Synod agreed to sustain the Report, and ordered it to be printed in the *Record*, together with the Statistical Returns themselves, and further renew the injunction to Presbyteries to deal with congregations neglecting the stated collections, as they see fit, and on the first meeting of Presbytery after each collection, to inquire of each member whether the collection has been made or not.

On Monday evening the important subject of the Revival of Religion was taken up.

The Report was read by Mr. McLeod, Convener of the Committee. Each of the Presbyteries had given in a Report; these Reports had been compared and condensed, and the result was now laid before the Synod.

Mr. Smith, of Ramsay, on the call of the Moderator, gave a statement of some facts, illustrative of a hopeful movement, and of spiritual impressions made in the part of the country with which he is connected. Other ministers of the Presbytery of Perth, and one of the elders in the district noticed the same thing, and the Synod felt a call for grateful recognition of the hand of God in these symptoms, whereupon several ministers engaged in prayer and thanksgiving, and the Rev. Dr. Taylor, Professor of Theology in the United Presbyterian Church, also led the devotions of the meeting.

It was moved by Mr. Roger, seconded by Dr. Willis, and agreed to,

That the Report be received and adopted, and that the Synod record their sense of gratitude to God for every hopeful symptom of his presence and blessing; they also recommend that the interesting facts illustrative of these matters, may be published from time to time in the pages of the *Record*. They also instruct the members of the Presbytery of Perth, within whose bounds these symptoms have appeared to take a continued interest in the work, and make further inquiry as to its nature and results, and communicate the result of their inquiries to the Convener of the Committee.

On Tuesday morning the Synod took up the following overture from the Elders attending the Synod.

"Whereas the necessaries of life have increased nearly one-half in price, with every prospect of continuing at a very high rate, and as the present stipends of the Ministers of our Church, based upon former low prices, are wholly inadequate to their maintenance in a suitable and respectable manner, we, the Elders attending the present meeting, do respectfully overture the Synod to raise the minimum of Stipend from £100 to £150 per annum; and urgently to recommend to the different congregations of our Church an increased liberality in the payment of ministers, so as to enable them to meet the altered circumstances of the country.

And whereas we consider it of great importance that this duty should be recognized by the different congregations; we would suggest to the

Synod the desirableness of appointing deputations to visit each congregation, with the view of bringing the matter fully and faithfully before them.

(Signed) ANDREW SMITH, *Chairman*.
THOMAS HENNING, *Secretary*.

After hearing several members of the Court in support of the Overture, it was agreed

That the Synod approve of the spirit of the Overture, and acknowledge the kind consideration which has prompted this movement on the part of the Elders, declare that the altered circumstances of the country plainly call for an increase in the stipends of Ministers of the Gospel, appoint a Committee to issue an affectionate and urgent appeal to Deacons' Courts, Managers or Trustees, to consider their duty in regard to the support of Ministers, in an adequate manner, and remit to Presbyteries to adopt such measures, by visitation or otherwise as may tend to bring this matter fully before the notice of congregations: the Committee to consist of Messrs. Shaw, McMurrich, Henning, McLellan and Andrew Smith—Mr. Shaw Convener.

The Synod then proceeded to take up an Overture from the Presbytery of London on the subject of the establishment of a Weekly Newspaper. The Overture was read, and Mr. King and others were heard in support of it. The Synod adopted the following deliverance, viz.:

The Synod, while not prepared to take any action as a Synod in the establishment of a weekly paper of the character referred to in the Overture, is yet deeply sensible of the importance of such a paper, and would rejoice to see it in vigorous and successful operation.

We may mention that several meetings were held by those friendly to the establishment of a Newspaper, advocating the principles of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, and that there is the likelihood of such a paper being soon in operation.

On Tuesday evening the Synod had under its consideration an overture from the Presbytery of Montreal, on the subject of Foreign Missions. The overture was read, and Mr. Fraser was heard in support of it.

On motion made and seconded, it was cordially agreed.

To approve of the overture, and to appoint, as the Synod do, Dr. D. Fraser, Mr. Inglis, Mr. W. B. Clark, Dr. Burns, Prof. Young, Dr. Bayne, Mr. Scott and Mr. Reid, Ministers, and Messrs. Redpath, Court, Richardson, McMurrich, and Shaw, elders, Mr. Fraser, Convener, to be a Committee on Foreign Missions, instructing them to use all diligence in selecting one or more ministers, preachers, or students, who may be qualified and willing to go abroad, and labor in the foreign field, it being understood, that in the event of the Committee being led to select any locality where missionaries of the Free Church of Scotland, the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, or the Presbyterian Church of England, are laboring, any laborers sent forth by this Church, be instructed to co-operate with such missionaries.

The Synod then called for the Report of the Home Mission Committee. A verbal Report was given in by Mr. Uré, Convener of Committee, who stated, that the consequence of Presbytery Clerks not having given in Reports, he had not been able to frame any general Report.

The Synod directed the Convener to collect from Presbyteries, information in regard to their Home operations, and digest these Reports for publication in the *Record*.

Rev. W. King presented to the Synod a special Report on the subject of the Buxton Mission.

The Synod, on motion made and seconded, agreed,

To sustain the Report, and record their thanks to Mr. King, for his faithful and zealous services in connection with the Buxton Mission, and pledge themselves to encourage and sustain Mr. King in the work in which he is engaged.

Dr. Burns, on the part of the Committee appointed in the matter, reported the draft of a reply to the communication from the Presbyterian Church in the United States.

The Synod sustained the Report, and ordered the letter to be signed by the Moderator and Clerk, and transmitted to the proper quarter. The Synod further appointed a Committee, consisting of Dr. Burns, Convener, Dr. Willis, Mr. McLaren, Mr. Henning, Mr. Kennedy, and Mr. McMillan, to correspond further with the Free Presbyterian Church in the United States, with the view of obtaining more definite information in regard to their position and operations.

On Wednesday morning, the Report of the Sabbath Observance Committee was given in by Mr. R. F. Burns, Convener. The Report was sustained, and its recommendations adopted; and the Synod agreed to petition Parliament for the abolition of Sabbath labour in the Post Office. The Synod recorded their thanks to the Convener, and reappointed the committee.

The Synod also called for the report of the committee on Sabbath Schools, which was given in by Mr. Gregg, Convener. The committee was reappointed and instructed to publish, in a separate form, a series of lessons for Sabbath Schools, and adopt such other measures as they may see to be best for promoting the efficiency of Sabbath Schools throughout the church.

The Report of the committee on the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund was also before the Synod on Wednesday. The Fund is, on the whole, in a satisfactory and encouraging condition, although it appeared that several Ministers had not connected themselves with it, and not a few congregations had either failed to contribute, or had contributed very inadequately to the Fund. The Synod appointed Mr. Reid to superintend this Scheme along with the other Schemes of the church, and directed Mr. Reid and Mr. McMurrich to prepare for publication a statement of the present condition of the Fund.

An Overture on the subject of Intemperance was brought forward by several members of the Synod. The Synod adopted the overture and, in terms thereof, recommended to all the ministers, office bearers, and members of the church, the duty of acting on, and advocating the practice of total abstinence from intoxicating drinks, on the principle of christian expediency. The Synod farther resolved to petition the Legislature in favour of a law for prohibiting the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks as a beverage.

On Wednesday afternoon, the Synod took up an overture from the Elders, on the importance of congregations bearing the expenses of ministers in attending meetings of Presbytery and Synod. The Synod approved of the overture