

## OWEN SOUND PRESBYTERY.

At the March meeting of Owen Sound Presbytery, among other important items of business, St. Paul's, Brooke and Cruickshank, a mission for two years, on the western suburb of Owen Sound, was granted the status of an augmented charge, with Rev. G. A. Woodside, Owen Sound, as interim moderator.

Desboro, Williamsford and Holland Centre, another mission group, becomes a self-sustaining charge, with Rev. J. A. Black, Massie, as interim moderator.

Shallow Lake charge has called Rev. Wallace Johnston, whose induction is set for March 18th. The charge has been not quite four months vacant.

Remits from Assembly were carefully considered. The plan recommended to Assembly for appointment of standing committees was approved, with modifications, of which the following are the principal. The Assembly annually to appoint a convener, only, and each synod to appoint two members, thus making a committee of seventeen. This committee to meet at the place of meeting of the Assembly, and long enough before to have its draft of standing committees ready for presentation, in print, at opening of Assembly.

It was agreed to approve the placing of ordained assistant pastors, appointed for one year or longer, on rolls of Presbytery. Also, to preserve balance of pastors and elders on rolls, it is recommended that all congregations of 800 members and over be entitled to send an additional elder as representative to all church courts.

In re travelling expenses of commissioners to Assembly, it is recommended that the fare of all commissioners be paid to a point within 500 miles of place Assembly meets, and that a sufficient rate per communicant be levied through Presbyteries, from year to year, to provide necessary funds. Presbyteries so disposed may pay fare of their commissioners from their homes to the 500 mile point.

Rev. W. W. McLaren, Birle, Man., was nominated to the vacant chair of Church History in Pine Hill, Halifax.

Standing committees of Presbytery were appointed for the year ensuing after the meeting of Assembly. This was done to permit of the publication of the names of conveners in the appendix to minutes of Assembly.

Mr. Woodside, of Division street church, Owen Sound, was appointed moderator for ensuing year. Mr. Woodside has "made good" in Presbytery, as well as in his congregation and the town.

In the discussion of Church Union in Hamilton Presbytery, Dr. Lyle urged that Church Union would do away with sectional feeling and the lack of charity that existed and promote the spreading of the Gospel. He also claimed that the Church was not doing what it should in the way of paying stipends to some of its ministers, some of whom were scarcely able to keep out of debt on what they received. Rev. Dr. Smith was opposed to Church Union, claiming that it would promote bad feeling, and that it would do away with the advantages that existed. He also felt that it would mean the sacrifice of many of the traditions of the Presbyterian Church, and intimated that he would introduce a resolution against organic union of the churches. Rev. J. D. Cunningham and Rev. John Muir thought there would have to be spiritual union before there could be organic union. Other members took part in the debate, and a resolution to the following effect was carried by a majority of one: That members of Presbytery are convinced that organic union of the Evangelical churches in Canada is desirable, but that in order to maintain peace in the Church of their fathers, and to further its best interests, no union should be contemplated unless it would be acceptable to all the congregations.

## MONTREAL PRESBYTERY.

The Rev. W. D. Reid, B.D., moderator, presided over a large attendance at the quarterly meeting of the Presbytery of Montreal, which met in Knox Church.

The Rev. Dr. Campbell submitted a motion to the effect that the Presbytery endorse the plan put forth by the Governor-General for making the battlefields of Quebec into a national park, which met with hearty approval.

Dr. Barclay read a letter which had been received from Dr. Carmichael, the Bishop of the Diocese, asking that a deputation be appointed to join with the Anglicans in the endeavor to secure a Protestant female jail. A committee was appointed to consider the matter and report later.

The Rev. W. D. Reid announced that Mr. Budge, of the Y. M. C. A., had called a meeting for to-morrow, to consider what steps should be taken in regard to meeting immigrants arriving during the coming season. Mr. Budge had asked him, he said, to mention the matter to the Presbytery, and suggest the appointment of a delegate to attend the meeting. Other denominations were doing this, the idea being that economy and effectiveness might be secured by all the denominations uniting forces and appointing one man to meet all immigrants and allot them to the different denominations, as well as help them in being placed in situations. The moderator and the clerk (the Rev. James Paterson) were appointed a deputation to attend the meeting.

Principal Scrimger presented the report of the committee on Sunday schools, which showed that steady progress was being made in all departments. The total number of schools in the Presbytery was 101, while there were 1,086 teachers, 8,674 scholars enrolled, 6,206 in average attendance, 571 on the cradle roll, and 269 in the home department. The total amount of contributions was \$10,501. As compared with five years ago, the figures for the past year showed an increase of 107 teachers, 474 scholars, 390 in average attendance, 92 in the home department, and an increase of \$3,533 in total contributions. These increases were not large, but they showed that in spite of diverse influences the schools were more than holding their own, the losses in the country districts being more than made up in the city. There were 16 Chinese Presbyterian schools in the city, with an average of 290 scholars and 270 teachers. The contributions of these schools for the year were \$961, the great bulk of which was given for missions. The increased head-tax was evidently reducing the number of Chinese finding their way to the city, but among those remaining in the schools, the interest in mission work among their own countrymen had evidently deepened. The number of scholars making a profession of faith during the year was 417—a good congregation in themselves. The committee made the following recommendations: (1) That the Presbytery take steps to secure the organization of all schools obliged to close in the winter months as home departments. (2) That the use of the teacher training handbooks in Bible classes be improved and encouraged as constituting a valuable advanced course, and that members of these classes be advised to take the examination for diplomas. (3) That pastors be again urged to keep in close touch with the schools by visiting, by persuading parents to send their children, and by impressing on scholars the duty of a personal decision for Christ and a public confession of faith in some way or other before the regular communion service. (4) That a Sunday school field secretary be appointed as soon as the necessary financial arrangements can be made, and apply to the General Assembly committee for such grant as may be necessary. The report was confirmed and all the recommendations adopted, Mr. Walter Paul,

who heartily supported the last recommendation, remarking that in the Presbytery itself there was sufficient work to employ the whole time of a diligent secretary.

The report from the committee on Young People's Societies stated: Your committee think that a great deal should be left to the judgment of each individual society and congregation as regards this matter. On three points, however, your committee think that strong suggestions should be made to the various societies; namely, that mission classes should be formed wherever possible; that the funds raised should pass through the ordinary financial channels of the church, unless in very exceptional circumstances, and that the constitution of each society should, fundamentally, be a spiritual one. If these three suggestions be urged, then your committee consider that each society of young people may be safely left, under the guidance of the session, to work out its own work.

Your committee rejoice that so much good work is being done by our young people's societies, that the sick are being visited, the poor cared for, and strangers welcomed and brought into the church; that much money is being raised by our young people for the schemes of the church, and that so many are engaged in studying the Bible and missions. Your committee are only sorry that so many sessions seem not to avail themselves of this source of power in the church. And they urge the members of Presbytery to consider whether it would not be possible to have a young people's society in every congregation of the church.

Your committee arranged for the visitation of as many as possible of the young people's societies by members of Presbytery during the winter, and they desire to express their thanks to these gentlemen for undertaking this work. They would especially mention the help of Principal Scrimger, of Professor MacKenzie, and Professor Frazer. The committee are fully possessed of the good work which was done by these gentlemen; they only regret that this work could not be carried on more fully and systematically.

The following are the recommendations of the committee:

1. That, if possible, each session within the bounds should consider carefully the advantage of uniting their young people into a society to work for Christ and the Church.
2. That all young people's societies be urged to send in reports to the convener.
3. That all societies be urged to donate the funds they allocate through the ordinary financial channels of the church.
4. That, whilst the utmost freedom be given to each society in choosing its own line of work, its constitution be fundamentally a spiritual one, and that, wherever possible, the General Assembly's Course of Study on Missions be adopted.

Rev. T. A. Watson, B.D., of Thamesford, has been elected Moderator of London Presbytery.

A Young People's Guild has been organized in Chalmers Church, Fiesherston, with officers as follows: Honorary President, Rev. G. C. Little; President, Mr. Charles Stewart; 1st Vice-President, Miss Mabel Thistlewaite; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. F. Tucker; Secretary, Miss Celia Van Dusen; Treasurer, Mr. Cecil Legate; Devotional Committee, Miss Binnie, Miss Bella Loucks, Mrs. Tucker, Mrs. Williams; Social Committee, Mrs. Hattie, Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Beutham.

The church choir of Dulverton, Somerset, have gone out on strike rather than adopt antiphony singing.