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The Maritime Convention.

P. Y. P. U. Meetings.

The meeting of the Convention on Saturday was preceded by meetings of the Maritime B. Y. P. U. and the Baptist Institute on Thursday and Friday. The Board of Governors of Acadia University held its first session on Wednesday evening, and there were other sessions of the Board on Thursday and Friday. The first meeting of the Union was a devotional service at 6 a. m. Thursday, led by Rev. G. O. Gates. From nine to ten an educational meeting, led by Rev. J. D. Freeman, was held. An excellent address on "The Formation of Christian Character" was delivered by the leader.

At the close of this meeting the first business session of the Union was held. President A. E. Wall, of Moncton, was in the chair. After singing, reading of the Scripture by Rev. Dr. Carsey and prayer, the meeting proceeded to business. Rev. G. A. Lawson was appointed assistant secretary. The principal matter before the meeting was the Constitution, which, having been carefully considered during the year by the executive, was reported to the Union for adoption. The constitution defined the name and object of the organization, its membership, officers and committees with their duties, also provisions for amendments to the constitution and for the raising of funds. For the most part it was adopted with but little discussion. The main point at which differences of opinion found expression was in Article VI, Section 6. The recommendation that associational secretaries should assist, so far as possible, in the organization of local B. Y. P. U.'s was objected to by some on the ground that it discouraged the organization of Christian Endeavor societies in churches which might prefer to organize their societies under that name. This, it was held, was not in harmony with Article III. of the constitution, which admitted all local Y. P. societies in Baptist churches to membership in the Union, nor with the genius of the movement which aimed to be a federation of Y. P. societies of whatever name in connection with Baptist churches. On the other hand it was held that the Maritime Union, though it should welcome C. E. societies existing in Baptist churches, ought, as a distinctively Baptist organization, to encourage the organization of local B. Y. P. unions rather than C. E. societies in churches. After a lengthy discussion it was decided by a small majority to amend the section so as not to discriminate against the organization of C. E. societies in churches preferring that form of organization.

Sec. 3 under Article III. having reference to members of the Maritime Union in their own right, was criticised on the ground of its giving an undue representation in the Union to one particular denominational interest. The section, as submitted, read as follows:

"Members in their own right shall consist of the Executive Committee, Pastors of said Churches and the Faculty of Acadia College and affiliated Institutions."

After some discussion it was decided to strike out the section, the effect being that the members of the Union will consist entirely of delegates elected by the churches or local Unions.

At the evening session of Thursday the large audience room of the Main Street church was completely filled. After music by the Main Street quartette and the singing of "All Hail the Power of Jesus' name" by the choir and congregation, Rev. Geo. B. Halsey, of Bangor, Me., read the 143 Psalm and Rev. Z. L. Fash, of Liverpool, N. S., offered prayer. Mayor Robertson welcomed the delegates of the Union to the city, impressing in the course of his remarks the importance of religious and moral character and the value of Christian fraternity and organization in the promoting of national life and unity. The Mayor was followed by Dr. Roberts, President of the St. John Union, in a brief address of welcome on behalf of the city Unioners. To these addresses of welcome Rev. Dr. Steele, of Amherst, responded in appropriate terms, acknowledging the very courteous and hearty welcome extended. He also defended the B. Y. P. U. organization as essentially Scriptural, in line with Sunday Schools, missionary societies, etc., and as of great value as a means of educating the young people in the study of the Bible and other Christian literature. President Wall extended a welcome to Rev. Dr.

Chivers, the General Secretary of the Baptist Young People's Union of America, in the following address:

ADDRESS.

MY DEAR MR. CHIVERS.—On behalf of the B. Y. P. U. of Maritime Canada it is my pleasing duty to extend the hand of welcome. Politically we belong to two nations, but religiously we are one. We represent a monarchy and a republic, but we are here to-night as members of a church which is a Monarchy and a Republic in one; for our head is the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, while we belong to a household of faith wherein all are brethren. Whatever our political opinions may be we are unanimous in the conviction that the venerable Fawcett, the Baptist preacher, was right when he wrote:

"Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love:
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above."

We bid you welcome. We strike hands as loyal Baptists and give unhesitating allegiance to the receipt of good will and good wishes. It is well that you have come as official leader of the great host marching under the banner of the B. Y. P. U.

It is well that we each look into the face and clasp the hand; and hear the voice of him who henceforth will be to us a personality as well as a name. We, representatives of the B. Y. P. U. movement in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, give you hearty greeting in the name of this Baptist brotherhood. It is well that you have come, conveying, as doubtless you do, the good wishes of our brothers and sisters associated in Christian work across the line and receiving, as assuredly you will, the heartiest kind of welcome we can impart.

It is well that you have come to visit us and thus evidence to all that this B. Y. P. U. movement is continental rather than national—broad enough to cross mountains, prairies and rivers; and strong enough to unite men of varied opinions in loving allegiance to Christ, his church and his word.

It is well that you have come. You will not return less of a Baptist than you came. We are a hospitable folk, and will give you three square Canadian meals a day with an English supper thrown in—if you so desire. You shant get any thinner by attending this convention. You shall see as you mingle among us, and we are privileged to meet with you, that we can grow sound loyal Baptists in these provinces by the sea. We are of a good stock as Baptists. Great names are emblazoned on the pages of our past, and we are accustomed in these provinces to spell the word Baptist with a big B. Close-communication, Calvinistic, Baptists, our fathers called themselves, and we are not a bit ashamed of the name.

It is well for us that you have come. Your position makes certain the fact that suggestions and warnings from your years of experience will be of great use to us and help us to do the work assigned to us by the Eternal, in a less unsatisfied way. And be you assured that your presence in this, our Seventh Convention, is to us a cause of great rejoicing and a fact for which we are sincerely thankful.

So now, in the name of the B. Y. P. U. of Maritime Canada, I have to say to you, as we sometimes say to our Pastors. Come often and stay just as long as you can, and feel perfectly at home with us.

Dr. Chivers on rising expressed his hearty appreciation of the cordial welcome which had been extended to him. Some might be interested in knowing that he had been born under the monarchy, and among those staunchest Baptists of rugged Wales. Continuing, Dr. Chivers spoke of the Young People's movement. When the ecclesiastical historian comes to write the history of the nineteenth century he will rate that movement as the most remarkable feature of the century. Alluding to the inception of the Christian Endeavor movement in the Williston Street church, Portland, Me., fifteen years ago, and its marvelous extension, the students volunteer missionary movement, originating a little later at Northfield, and the Epworth League movement later organized in the Methodist body, Dr. Chivers proceeded to speak of the organization of the B. Y. P. U. of America at Chicago six years ago. The Baptist Young People's movement, he said, was not animated by any spirit of antagonism or rivalry toward other organizations. It was born of the conviction that there was need and room for a work to be carried on within denominational lines. While it does not antagonize the larger fellowship of the C. E., it inculcates loyalty to the church and each Union regarding itself as an arm of the church, and seeks to knit the Unions in closest fellowship with denominational interests. There are three words, Dr. Chivers said, which denote the character of the B. Y. P. U. movement. These are: 1. *Federation*. The aim is to secure the organization of Young People's society in each local church, leaving to the church the particular form and name of the society, and to federate those societies with

the B. Y. P. Union of America.

2. *Education*. This aim differentiates the movement from others. Early in the history of the B. Y. P. U. the educational idea was introduced. It is of great importance. Christianity is a child of the light. It allies itself with all the powers of man and calls them into the service of Christ. Intellectual sincerity is the basis of moral sincerity, and he who plays fast and loose with his intellect will soon be playing fast and loose with his conscience. One feature of the educational work of the B. Y. P. U. is the study of the Scriptures. This, also, the speaker showed, looks to service. Obedience to the Word is a Baptist doctrine of the first importance. The "come" and the "go" of Jesus gather unto themselves the spirit of the New Testament. Those who know that Word and are loyal to it will not be satisfied with having come to Jesus, but will go at His command to give His gospel to the world.

3. *Denomination*. Denominationalism is a fact, and is likely for many years to come to afford the channel through which the religious life of the world shall find expression. A denomination has the right to exist so long as it is the custodian of truth not wrought into the consciousness of the church at large or fully expressed in its practice. This, it was shown, was the reason for the existence of the Baptists as a denomination, and the aim of the B. Y. P. U. was to educate and train the young people of the churches to an intelligent and loyal acceptance and assertion of the truths and principles for which the denomination stands. Dr. Chivers was heard with a great deal of interest. His voice is strong and pleasant, his language simple, his manner deliberate, his points are made with clearness and precision and the impression he makes is that of a man earnest in spirit and thoroughly sincere and honest in speech.

At the close of Dr. Chivers' address, Rev. G. B. Halsey, of Bangor, spoke briefly, giving some information as to the Young People's movement in his State and expressing the pleasure it gave him to be present.

An address from Rev. W. B. Hinson was upon the programme for the evening, but as it was now nearly ten o'clock, Mr. Hinson considered that it would not be merciful to keep the congregation longer, and his speech was accordingly reserved to enrich the programme on the following evening.

At the afternoon session on Thursday the President read his annual address, the report of the Secretary-Treasurer was presented, also the report of the Associational Secretary of the N. S. Western Association, Rev. Z. L. Fash, a report from the N. B. Southern, reports of transportation committee, of the editors of the B. Y. P. U. department of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR and the report of the Executive. We have not space at command for any extended report of this session. President Wall received the thanks of the Union for his excellent address, which dealt with the importance of family worship. The Secretary's report showed a successful year. Of the 122 societies enrolled, 81 had sent in statistics, showing a membership of 3,395 active members and 785 associate members. Fourteen new societies were organized during the year, making 130 in the Union, with a total membership of 6,380.

On Friday morning the Nominating Committee submitted the following names as officers of the Union for the year: President, A. E. Wall, Moncton; Vice-Presidents, Hugh Cox, Bear River, N. S., and John Gordon, Charlottetown; Sec'y-Treas, Rev. H. G. Estabrook, Petitcodiac; Asst. Sec'y-Treas, Rev. G. A. Lawson, Halifax; Auditor, F. E. Flewelling, St. John; Associational Secretaries, Rev. B. H. Thomas, Digby, for the N. S. Western Association; Rev. J. B. Morgan, of Aylesford, for the N. S. Central; Rev. G. P. Raymond, of New Glasgow, for N. S. Eastern; Albert Weidon, of Albert, for N. B. Eastern; W. J. Porter, of Fredericton, for N. B. Western; Dr. W. F. Roberts, of St. John, for N. B. Southern; R. H. Jenkins, for Prince Edward Island; Transportation Leaders, Dr. W. F. Roberts, L. G. Lusby, J. K. Ross; Editors, Rev. J. D. Freeman and Rev. G. R. White. This report was adopted.

At the evening session a very large congregation was again assembled to listen to addresses by Rev. W. B. Hinson and Dr. Chivers. These were of excellent quality. Mr. Hinson's theme was, "Our Young People United." Dr. Chivers spoke on, "Missions; an Apologetic."

—There are in attendance upon the Convention a fairly good number of delegates. Quite a number of visiting brethren have been present. Among these are Rev. Dr. Morehouse, of New York; Dr. Osterhout, of Providence, Dr. Chivers, of Chicago, Dr. Halsey, of Bangor, Dr. Goodspeed, of Toronto, and Rev. W. A. Porter, of London, Ont. The weather for the most part has been very pleasant, a boon to be highly appreciated in a summer in which there is so much weather which is extremely otherwise. Harmony has prevailed in discussions and good progress has been made with business up to the time of our going to press, though much still remains to be considered. The report of proceedings will be concluding in our next issue.