

THE BAPTISTS.

Action Taken on the Report of Corresponding Secretary.

The Dates Arranged for the Various District Meetings.

Reports on Temperance, and the Sabbath To Meet Next Year in Carleton.

SUSSEX, Oct. 1.—The evening session opened at 7.30 o'clock with the singing of Coronation, reading of scriptures and prayer by Rev. J. B. Daggett.

The roll showed 32 ministers, 10 licentiate and 19 lay delegates present, as follows:

Clergy—Revs. Joseph Noble, George A. Hartley, D. D. J. T. Parsons, J. N. Barnes, T. O. DeWitt, Elijah Gray, C. T. Phillips, John Henderson, W. DeWitt, W. Wesley Clarke, Henry Hart, John A. Robertson, I. J. Barnes, O. N. Mott, G. W. Foster, G. F. Currie, E. H. Nobles, W. H. Perry, O. B. Lewis, H. Allen, Russell, Lemuel A. Comand, David Long, Abram Perry, Irving Haxby, S. J. Perry, J. B. Daggett, E. S. Parker, F. A. Currie, D. Patterson. Licentiate—L. A. Fenwick, A. H. Williams.

First district—Isaac Gaunce, Second district—W. Gaunce, Third district—W. Williams, W. Seymour.

Fourth district—L. Col. Alexander, W. Kirkpatrick, Abner Mersereau.

Fifth district—G. J. Worden, James McHale.

Sixth district—G. W. Sharp, C. W. Weyman, Fred Killam, J. E. Sillp, T. G. Perry, Z. Gaunce, W. Burnett.

Seventh district—T. Robinson, C. B. Lockhart, M. F. P.

Rev. A. Lucas, field secretary of the Nova Brunswick Sunday School Association, was invited to a seat with conference, as was Rev. Mr. Hubly of the Sussex R. E. church.

The committee on nominations submitted the following list of committees:

Committee on absent brethren—O. N. Mott, Abner Mersereau, Isaac Gaunce, Jas. McRae, Fred Killam, Walter Williams, W. Marston.

Committee on collections—Rev. John Henderson, W. Seymour, G. W. Sharp, Zebulon Gaunce.

Committee on deceased brethren—Rev. J. J. Barnes, W. H. Perry, H. A. Bonnell, E. S. Parker, C. B. Lewis.

Committee on correspondence—Fred C. Hartley, G. J. Worden, Thos. Robinson.

Committee on appeals—Rev. J. N. Barnes, Wm. DeWare, Henry Hart, Jas. Noble, J. E. Sillp.

Committee on literature—Rev. J. B. Daggett, Rev. C. T. Phillips, Rev. J. Perry, Rev. D. Patterson.

Committee on meetings—Revs. S. J. Perry, E. B. Gray, Rev. J. T. Parsons, Wm. Kirkpatrick, Rev. G. W. Foster, J. E. McCready, Rev. David Long.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS. J. E. McCready submitted the following report of the executive committee on Sabbath schools:

We find 93 schools here reported, having in all 5,691 pupils, 460 teachers and 135 reported conversions during the year, which compared with last year's report shows an increase of 100 pupils, 400 teachers and 100 conversions, and a small increase in number of conversions. Each district reported as follows:

First district—5 schools, 178 pupils, 17 teachers, 2 conversions. Second district—10 schools, 367 pupils, 31 teachers, 10 conversions. Third district—15 schools, 321 pupils, 32 teachers, 15 conversions. Fourth district—13 schools, 533 pupils, 55 teachers, 8 conversions. Fifth district—9 schools, 339 pupils, 33 teachers, 11 conversions. Sixth district—10 schools, 1,841 pupils, 112 teachers, 3 conversions. Seventh district—11 schools, 1,372 pupils, 110 teachers, 23 conversions.

This is a gain in the first, second, third, sixth and seventh districts, while a loss is sustained in the fourth and fifth districts.

Your committee would first direct your attention to the fact that the seven additional schools reported this year are all evergreen schools, and that the number of such schools is constantly increasing. Still, a general remark remains to be done while 20 of our schools are closed in the winter, principally on account of the lack of earnestness on the part of church workers and members.

In this connection I might be permitted to add the sixth district has organized a convention, held annually at the time and place of district meeting, and semi-annually with some of the schools of the district in the winter season, where good is most likely to result from the meeting together of those whose hearts are in this work.

The amount of money raised for carrying on our work is steadily increasing, being this year \$1,514.13, or nearly \$400 more than the amount raised for the same purpose last year. Eighty-five schools out of the total of 93 schools are reported using lesson helps.

A large number of these reports using other than denominational quarterlies. This meeting might suggest some means of introducing our own publications where they are not already used. Much has been said and written regarding the matter of pastoral attendance. Forty-one schools are so blessed this year and the number is constantly growing less, and while your committee do not wish to find fault with the work or the performance of the duties of any, still a look into the statistics will show schools with pastorate attendance in advance of those not so situated. Therefore your committee would suggest that in cases where regular attendance is impossible that a children's service be held in the day time at least once in each school during the summer, for the encouragement of the children, and in aid to those who have the burden of this work. There are 23 schools reporting

the use of books, 21 papers, and 29 both books and papers. Much has been done. Still more remains to be done in the name of Him who said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not," press on in this good work, our efforts and our prayers united, and our motto "The children for Christ."

The adoption of the report was moved by Rev. L. A. Fenwick and seconded by C. W. Wayman in pointed and somewhat lengthy speeches. Rev. Mr. Lucas by invitation addressed the convention on Sunday school work, dealing particularly with the home department branch thereof. The report was then adopted. Adjourned till Monday at 10 a. m.

MONDAY MORNING'S SESSION. SUSSEX, Oct. 3.—An early morning meeting in Free Baptist church was addressed by H. S. Myers of Hillsdale, Michigan, general secretary of the F. B. Young People of the United States, and Miss Wile, returned missionary from India, as representing the Young People's societies of that land.

The conference re-assembled at 10 a. m., opening with the singing of a hymn, scripture reading by Rev. J. Wesley Clarke, and prayer by Rev. J. Wesley Clarke.

Rev. F. C. Hartley was elected moderator, and Rev. G. W. Foster, assistant moderator.

Rev. Mr. Swin made a brief but appropriate retiring address, and Rev. Mr. Hartley, in accepting the moderatorship, brought the warmest support of conference.

Rev. Mr. Foster, assistant moderator, also returned thanks for his election, and congratulated Bro. Hartley on having received the highest honor in the gift of conference.

Prayer was then offered by the Rev. Joseph Noble.

Rev. Dr. McLeod, delegate to the general conference of Free Baptists of the United States, reported as follows:

"The triennial conference was held at Ocochee, Ga., Aug. 25th to Sept. 1st. The conference is a delegated body. All the yearly meetings, state associations and like bodies having Free Baptist churches as their constituency, are entitled to be represented in the conference, of whom about 100 delegates present, of whom 14 were women. A full representation of the bodies entitled to send delegates would have given the conference about 130 members. Some of the more distant parts of the field, chiefly in the south, were not represented. The subjects dealt with by the conference are chiefly home and foreign missions and education. The reports showed that the total receipts for foreign missions were \$17,336; for home missions, \$7,483; for education, \$3,429. The members of conference, the slate included, gave very close attention to business, but meetings for worship were not neglected. The devotional spirit was marked and the services of praise and prayer were seasons of spiritual quickening and joy. Your delegates were earnestly received as the representative of the Free Baptists of New Brunswick, and was made to feel very much at home.

He presented the Christian greetings of this conference, and, as instructed, asked for a continuance of the fraternal delegation. Dr. Chubb, president of Bates' college, was appointed, whom conference has been glad to welcome."

The report was unanimously accepted.

Rev. J. J. Barnes for the committee on deceased brethren, submitted the following report:

"Praise is due to Almighty God for His goodness to His ministers during the year that passed. It is noticeable that our ranks have not been broken by death, and that even our aged brethren are able to be with us during this season of conference. The report was signed by J. J. Barnes, W. H. Perry, H. A. Barnhill, E. S. Parker and C. B. Lewis.

Rev. Dr. McLeod, from the committee appointed by resolution 34 of last session of the general conference, to have charge of the application to the legislative assembly of New Brunswick to change the corporate name of this conference, reported that the committee met three times, in St. John, Jan. 17th, and in Fredericton, 28th and 29th. At the meetings in Fredericton the general conference executive met with them. They had a bill prepared and introduced by Mr.

Carver, M. P. P. They appeared before the corporation committee and by Revs. G. A. Hartley and Joseph McLeod, presented before us. They took to such other steps as they thought necessary to acquaint members of the legislature with the nature of the conference's request, and the reasons for it. The bill passed the house March 3rd. By the slight change in the corporate name effected by this legislation, this conference is in name, as it has been in doctrine and spirit, one with the Free Baptist body on the continent."

The report was signed by G. A. Hartley, J. W. Clarke, W. H. Heine, A. C. Smith, C. T. Phillips, Joseph McLeod, and was adopted by unanimous vote of conference.

"The bill changes the name to 'The Free Baptist General Conference of New Brunswick,' and drops the word 'Christian,' contained in the former title."

Rev. J. B. Daggett submitted the report on Literature, which was taken up by section, and freely discussed, the burden of the speeches being the necessity of using in the services of the church only Free Baptist hymn books. It came out in the course of the discussion that some churches used Methodist and Baptist hymn books, Spiritual Songs, etc. The Psaltery stood as officially recognized by conference. It was prepared by the United States Free Baptists some thirty years ago. Watts' Hymns were used before the Psaltery. Some trouble seemed to be that the churches wanted a hymn book that could be used at all services.

Rev. C. T. Phillips said that a hymn book which did not contain "Hymns of the Light" and "Nearer My God, Thee," did not meet the popular demand. The Psaltery had 1,200 hymns, all good, but it was not a book that could be used in prayer meetings. It was too expensive. He believed there ought to be a change.

Rev. Dr. Hartley said his church used the Psaltery for the Lord's day services. A better book could not be found, but it was expensive. The General Baptists of England had published a book recently that he thought might be the best needs of the Free Baptists of New Brunswick.

"President Chase of Bates' college, speaking by request, said that very generally Spiritual Songs were used in the United States. There was an abridgement of that book, called 'The Hymns,' which cost 50 cents. It contained the music as well, and was bound in cloth. A hymnal to be representative of progressive Christianity must grow. The consensus of Christian taste and sentiment among American people is in favor of the abridged book. He had seen in England the hymn book spoken of by Dr. Hartley and was much impressed with it.

Rev. B. H. Nobles would like a cheaper edition of the abridged American hymn book, and to send copies of the same to the churches in the United States. President Chase believed the Century Co. would gladly publish such a book as the N. B. Free Baptists wanted.

Rev. Mr. Parker of Moncton read extracts from the large American hymn books mentioned in the preceding papers, showing infant baptisms. Major Vince would not condemn the Spiritual Songs of 1880 because the Century Co. had added some possibly objectionable hymns in its edition of 1885.

Hon. Mr. Foster pointed out that to get a cheap book they must hit on one used by a large constituency, as, for example, the Free Baptists of United States. He suggested the appointment of a committee to correspond with similar committees across the border.

Rev. F. C. Hartley said the Fredericton church had been corresponding about the latest and best book, 'In Excessis,' published by the Century Co., and was in much use by New York and Philadelphia Baptists. He suggested that we should look to uniformity. The whole was finally adopted as a report, as follows:

"We would reiterate the sentiments of the conference in the past, that much depends upon the class of literature that is found in the homes of our people. There cannot be a robust, vigorous spirituality when there is no religious literature there. We perceive a great danger in this age, as never in the past, from the advent of cheap books and papers. The country is being flooded with a class of cheap, flimsy papers, some of which are low in moral tone and ideal, others of which are not openly vicious; nevertheless, against both we would protest. Against the first class because of the evil influence on every page, against the other because we believe the time spent in their perusal is wasted. It is labor for which there is no profit, and which leaves the reader poorer and weaker intellectually.

"We would once more endorse most heartily the Religious Intelligence. We are far from satisfied with the extent of circulation, and we are positively dissatisfied with the fact that so many subscribers are far in arrears. It takes cash to pay the Intelligence's bills. Upon the pastors and delegates we would urge that they bring it prominently before our people. "Your committee also regret the lack of uniformity in our churches in the use of hymn books. It is known to your committee that there is in use at least a half dozen different kinds of hymn books. We feel that this is to be regretted. Some hymn book should have the endorsement of the body and be recommended to the churches.

Once more, we would recommend our people to the Sabbath school literature, that none be admitted which in any way conflicts with the faith and practice of the body."

This report was signed by J. B. Daggett, Abram Perry, David Patterson, J. W. Black and C. T. Phillips.

On motion of Hon. Geo. E. Foster, conference appointed a committee of five members to take into consideration the subject of a hymnal, and to report at the next annual session. Adjourned till 1.30 p. m.

Monday Afternoon. Conference re-assembled at 1.30, hymn 737 was sung, and prayer offered.

The special committee on hymn books was, on motion of Hon. Mr. Foster,

constituted as follows: Moderators and secretary of conference, and Revs. J. T. Parsons, Dr. S. Parker and C. T. Phillips.

Consideration of the report of the corresponding secretary was then taken up. Dr. McLeod first explaining that the statistical returns were far from complete, by re-examination, Mr. Foster regretted that owing to Rev. Mr. Parsons' report having been mislaid after reading, it had not appeared in his (Dr. McLeod's) report. Reports from Rev. Mr. Carpenter and Licentiate J. A. H. Williams had only come in since conference opened.

Dr. McLeod opened and Hon. Geo. E. Foster urged having all the contributions of the church collected by one set of collectors, provision being made in the collection sheet for designating the particular funds to which the giver desired to devote his contribution. Mr. Foster felt that one of the most energetic members of conference should be set apart to look after non-reporting churches. The home mission field should be carefully cultivated on business principles, if the church desired to hold its own.

Dr. McLeod heartily endorsed this suggestion. Unless some such thing was done the church would continue to lose ground, and the work would be a painful process of weakening was evident in the fifth district. Other parts of the field were just the same, but perhaps not quite so marked. Where there is a will there is a way. We were particularly true in church work, and he felt that the conference could grapple with this work.

Rev. Dr. Hartley was in full accord with all that had been said with regard to the importance of home mission work to the denomination. Monday was needed to carry out the suggestions just made, and that money should be raised by securing the co-operation of the men of the church, who could increase their contributions.

Rev. J. B. Daggett wanted a better pastoral system for the protection of the weak fields. He had little faith in the permanent benefit to be derived from sending out a general home missionary.

Rev. Joseph Noble did not think the settled pastors did their full duty in looking after the outposts. The motion of Dr. McLeod, after a stirring address by Rev. Mr. Francis.

Miss Wilde, by request, addressed the meeting for twenty minutes, giving a most interesting account of her personal experience in the mission field in India.

Rev. J. W. Clarke submitted the report of the treasurer of the home mission executive, showing a balance of \$232.15 on hand. The report was referred to another.

Rev. D. Long presented the report of the corresponding secretary of the home mission executive. The report set forth: We convened twice during the year, once in November and May. At each session executive gave thoughtful consideration to the applications from the different parts of the field.

Nothing has been done in general missionary work. Having a number of circuits which are not in themselves self-sustaining, your executive made small grants to enable them to have pastoral care. Aid has been given to some of our weak churches in order that they may be able to prosper and to be able to give to the church. (Here followed a list of the churches and pastors aided.)

The report called the attention of conference to "the necessity of a general missionary, one of good executive ability, who would have an oversight of the work. To carefully look into the needs of weak circuits and churches requiring help, and to present the claims of those upon the stronger, so as to arouse more executive interest in their behalf. No executive can do the home mission work of the denomination to be satisfactory and beyond criticism with the meagre knowledge and limited funds at their disposal."

The adoption of the report was moved by Rev. G. A. Hartley, who emphasized the importance of home missionary work to the church. If the tree is to bear fruit, the root must be healthy and prosperous. If they did not begin at Jerusalem, that is, at home, they would never reach the uttermost parts of the earth.

Rev. Dr. McLeod seconded the motion in a humorous speech, and the report was adopted.

SUSSEX, Oct. 4.—Towards the close of last night's session, Hon. George E. Foster, from the committee appointed to prepare resolutions summing up the expression of conference in reference to the suggestions made by the corresponding secretary in his report, submitted the following:

This conference recommends: 1. That all contributions for conference purposes be regarded as belonging to a general fund, the distribution to be according to the preference of each subscriber, when such preference is indicated, and where not so indicated, according to the schedule adopted by the conference.

2. That a committee be appointed by each church, which shall act under the supervision of the pastor, or, in his absence, of the clerk of the church, whose duty it shall be to keep trace of and conduct correspondence with absent members of the church.

3. That a general secretary be employed, whose duty it shall be, under the supervision of the executive of home missions, to visit the various sections of the denominational field with a view: (a) to establish church interests in new and hitherto unoccupied territory; (b) to re-occupate and strengthen such interests as have already been established; (c) to encourage better methods of organization and business work and report the same to the proper officers of district and conference meetings; (d) to investigate and gather information and report

Geo. F. Currie, corresponding secretary of the foreign mission executive, submitted a pretty lengthy report. It showed that the foreign missionary work which the Free Baptist bodies of the United States, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are connected with occupied a territory in India situated in the southern part of Bengal, with a population of 3,610,905 by the census of 1882. The report recapitulated the work done in this field since the start through this mission was baptized. To Balasore church during the past year 4 have been added by baptism, and the total membership is now 144. A great change was taking place in the attitude of the Hindus towards Christianity. "The weeds of this and other superstitions are dying more and more rapidly under the fresh air and

blessed sunlight of God's truth. Baptists established in 1830, and a total membership of 20. It is one of these small Christian communities adjacent to Midnapore, where for five years there has been shortage of crops, and that account the people have become discouraged and many have moved away. Balasore has a total membership of 225. During the year 16 have been added by baptism, and on the whole seems to be a strong and vigorous church. Bhudruck has a membership of 25, and some additions had been made by letter and otherwise. Charabell was established in 1858. Five were added to this church last year. The total membership is 30. Jallasore has a total membership of 48. There were no additions this year, but the outlook is good. Midnapore has a membership of 35 and was established in 1853. Two were added by baptism this year. Midnapore, established in 1863, has now a membership of 109. In the past year six have been added by baptism. This church has had a good year. Santipore during the year has had increase by letter and otherwise, and its total membership is now 83. This church was established in 1867. "Here also the native church has shouldered the burden of self-support. Ujda church during the year has had increase by letter and otherwise, and its total membership is 13. "This church, above all others in far away India, should enlist the interest of every New Brunswick Free Baptist. It was here our missionary, the late Rev. A. E. Boyer, worked so successfully for Christ that he was the means of establishing this Christian church in the midst of the most dense heathenism. Miss E. L. Gaunce, the missionary of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of New Brunswick is now in charge of this work there."

Reports showed that 32 persons professed faith in Jesus in the past year and declared it by baptism. The executive expressed regret that this denomination has had during the year so small a share in the foreign missionary work. "The conviction forces itself on us that we are not pleading with God for laborers as we should." The report closed with an earnest appeal for workers in the field and a more generous contribution to foreign missions."

Sick and aged ministers—Gideon McLeod, theas; Revs. G. A. Hartley, Jos. Nobles, T. S. Vanwart, F. G. Francis, C. T. Phillips.

Board of managers—Rev. G. A. Hartley, E. S. Palmer, W. H. Heine, E. J. Clark, J. E. Good, A. C. Smith.

Committee on education—Rev. J. B. Daggett, E. S. Parker, G. F. Currie, L. Cozman, D. Patterson.

Committee on Sabbath—Rev. D. Long, J. E. Good, J. N. Barnes, T. O. DeWitt, G. J. Worden.

Committee on Temperance—Rev. G. W. Foster, E. B. Gray, A. G. Downey, Wm. DeWare, G. W. Sharp.

Corresponding delegate to the Nova Scotia conference—Rev. G. F. Currie; substitute—J. J. Barnes.

DISTRICT MEETINGS. The committee on district meetings reported as follows:

1st district meetings convene with the church at Bath, Carleton Co., the 4th Saturday in June, 1899. To attend, Revs. J. Noble, E. B. Gray, J. B. Daggett, C. T. Phillips, John Henderson.

2nd district meeting convene with the church at the 3rd Saturday in June, 1899.

3rd district meeting to meet with the church at Kingsclear, York Co., on the 3rd Friday in September. To attend, Revs. E. B. Gray and Gideon Swin.

4th district meeting will convene with the church at Waasiss, Sunbury Co., on the 2nd Friday in Sept., 1899. To attend, Revs. G. W. Foster and S. J. Perry.

5th district meeting will meet with the church at the 1st Friday in July. To attend, Revs. G. W. Foster, John A. Robertson, O. N. Mott, B. H. Nobles and J. W. Clark.

6th district meeting to convene at Moncton on the 2nd Friday in July. To attend, Revs. J. T. Parsons, C. B. Lewis, J. W. Clarke, and Rev. Dr. Hartley.

7th district meeting convenes with the church at Chocolate Cove the 3rd Friday in August. To attend, Revs. J. T. Parsons, T. O. DeWitt, J. J. Barnes, and Rev. Dr. McLeod.

The report also recommended that Rev. J. Noble be appointed to attend all the district meetings if practicable.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE. Rev. A. G. Downey submitted the following report:

This denomination has always taken a position of determined opposition to the liquor traffic, and both by resolutions adopted at its general conference and by the efforts of its ministers and laymen, in home and vicinity work, labored for the total abstinence of the individual and the prohibition of the traffic.

Your committee believe that the resolutions passed at the 187 session of this body in reference to the traffic were a fair expression of the sentiment of all people of large, as has been demonstrated by the intense interest taken by our ministers and members, and the efforts put forth by them to secure the polling of a large vote as possible in favor of prohibition.

We mention with special satisfaction the foremost position taken by our denominational organ in the campaign and feel proud of the unsparing stand taken by its editor since the beginning of the traffic.

We contemplate with pleasure the prominent position taken by the marriage laws in new and hitherto unoccupied territory; (b) to re-occupate and strengthen such interests as have already been established; (c) to encourage better methods of organization and business work and report the same to the proper officers of district and conference meetings; (d) to investigate and gather information and report

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