

brighter. He regretted the half-heartedness which so many Protestants seemed to entertain towards the work. Dr. Mowatt then moved the following resolution:

"Whereas we are now approaching the fourth centenary of John Calvin and it would be appropriate to commemorate the occasion in harmony with the life and work of the great reformer; resolved, that the general assembly be asked to authorize the board to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Calvin's birth in a manner that will be in the best interests of French evangelization."

Principal Mackay, who goes to Westminster hall, Vancouver, was sorry his new sphere of duties would take him away from his work among the French. He said that he believed there was coming a revolt against the Roman church in Quebec similar to the recent anti-clerical movement in France.

Rev. Mr. Ducloux of Valleyfield seconded the motion for adoption in a speech on John Calvin, who was judged a Scotsman by many Canadian Presbyterians. Mr. Ducloux argued for a Calvin memorial in Canada to be erected next year—the 400th anniversary of the birth of the great Genevan.

Principal Brandt of the Point-aux-Trembles schools, a man of rare charm of character, supported a motion in a fascinating speech which was applauded to the echo.

In the afternoon the senior clerk read a report from the committee on the status of minister evangelists and catechists. It recommended that they should be requested to attend meetings of the presbytery within the bounds of which they labor and to report on their work; to receive direction and encouragement. The committee considered it inadvisable that they should be accorded seats in the church courts.

A second recommendation was that the bestowing on them of power to marry and to dispense the sacraments be not understood as equivalent to ordination to the full ministry. The committee also recommended that the matter be sent down to the presbyteries.

The adoption was moved by Rev. Dr. Campbell, seconded by Judge Forbee, and was unanimously carried.

#### Student Evangelists.

Rev. Dr. Gandier presented the second part of the report on student evangelists. The first clause was agreed to, that Rock Lake Presbytery be not granted the right to ordain Mr. Wilson, as he has not completed the full course required.

The second clause was passed, that W. H. Chalmers and G. H. Findlay be given full status, having spent four years in mission work since their ordination as missionary evangelists.

The item that the Kamloope Presbytery be not authorized to ordain W. J. Allen, as he has served only three years out of the four required since his ordination as minister evangelist, was brought up.

Rev. George A. Wilson, superintendent of missions in British Columbia, moved in amendment that the ordination be authorized. He spoke of the need of the large Caribou district, 150 miles in extent, and the efficient work done by Mr. Allen.

The recommendations of the committee were sustained, and Dr. K. Allen, of the Presbytery of Kamloope, was given full status, having spent four years in the work.

For the present the salary of Rev. Dr. Shearer, secretary of the Committee on Moral and Social Reform, has been fixed at \$2,500, besides travelling and other expenses incurred in the work.

#### Social and Moral Reform.

Dr. Pidgeon presented the report of the committee on this important subject:

The receipts during the year were \$2,377.56 in contributions, and disburse-

ments amounted to \$201.17 less. The report reviewed the work of organized education in connection with which special reference was made to the arrangements for "Patriotic Sunday," June 28, which it is intended to make the occasion of a great pledge signing campaign among young and old alike throughout the church in the interests of temperance, and of education and appeal in the interests of abstinence from the use of tobacco among the young and of other reforms claiming the attention of the committee, also legislation as to temperance, gambling, Lord's Day observance, workmen's compensation and child labor, further as to administration or securing respect for legislation bearing upon moral or social reform and evangelistic effort. In the latter connection it reported having asked Rev. Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman, at the head of the evangelistic movement of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, to visit and address the Assembly. The committee suggests that its name be changed to "Board of Moral and Social Reform," and asks the Assembly to appeal to the Church for not less than \$10,000 for the coming year, as of the \$5,000 asked for last year almost the whole of what was received, \$2,377.16, was expended on four months' work.

Rev. E. A. Henry, Regina, who, seconded, mentioned a number of drastic features in the temperance bills now before the Saskatchewan Legislature, and added a recommendation approving these advanced measures.

#### Dr. Pringle on the Yukon.

Rev. Dr. Pringle led in the discussion, and gave an outline of the efforts he had made to secure improvement in the administration of justice in the Yukon. In 1902, he said, he had written a letter to the Department of the Interior complaining of the state of affairs in a general way; but there was no result. In the fall of the same year he had discussed the situation with Mr. Smart, Deputy Minister, in Dawson. In 1904 he had a long interview at Ottawa with the Minister of the Interior and the Postmaster-General separately, and had told his story in the strongest possible way. He declared the administration of Dawson has been and was up to the time he left a few days ago managed in the interests of the worst elements of social life. He had written some hot letters to Ottawa, and had told the story to Mr. Oliver at the Commissioner's office in Dawson. Nothing was done then, and, although he wrote to fifteen Ministers, he received acknowledgments from only three. He wrote the Governor-General, threatening to appeal to the people of Canada, and received a promise that his letter would be considered at a Cabinet Council. He had never heard of it again. He wrote again last July, making specific charges against two officials. Dr. Pringle gave a resume of the proceedings in connection with the investigation, and quoted Hon. Frank Oliver's letter declining to give the Commissioner power to examine witnesses under oath. He closed a sensational address by quoting statistics and other information relating to immorality and corruption in Dawson.

Rev. Dr. Shearer closed the debate with an excellent review, showing every disposition to keep the moral and social issues separate from political issues, and deprecating the unfair use which the party papers were making of Dr. Pringle's information. He read the following letter:—

The Premier to Dr. Shearer.

Ottawa, May 22, 1908.

Dear Dr. Shearer: I have received your favor of yesterday's date, in which you call my attention to a former letter of yours, dated April 23 last, wherein you make a special request that you should be authorized to say to the Christian people of Canada whom you had the

privilege of representing in this matter, "that the instructions under which the police in the Yukon are now acting do not put upon private citizens the responsibility of instituting proceedings in the enforcement of law."

Permit me to say that the instructions under which the police in the Yukon are now acting with regard to the enforcement of law may perhaps be more fully appreciated by a quotation from a letter of Mr. Alexander Henderson, Commissioner of the Yukon, dated the 14th February last, which was published a short time afterwards. I quote from the letter of Mr. Henderson as follows:—

"You will doubtless recollect that some months ago I informed you that 'it was my desire that vice should be repressed and that my best efforts would be exerted and directed towards attaining that end.' I assured you that any complaint made by you, or anyone else, would be fully investigated, and prosecutions would be instituted without delay on obtaining evidence sufficient to warrant a conviction."

"Moreover, immediately after the session of the Yukon Council last summer I gave specific and unambiguous instructions that every infraction of the law regarding immorality and the suppression of vice, including infractions of the liquor ordinance, must be prosecuted with the utmost vigor. Not only this, but in addition I placed at the disposal of the police a secret service fund to assist in obtaining necessary evidence."

"I impressed upon those charged with the enforcement of the law that they should proceed upon the principle that enactments were made to be obeyed, and that I was prepared to accept the fullest responsibility for the instructions given."

"These officials know where I stand. I have made no secret of my position or policy in the matter."

With reference to the instructions of the Commissioner, as above indicated, I take pleasure in informing you that they have my hearty approval, and I have the authority of the Minister of Justice to inform you that he also as heartily approves. Believe me, as ever, dear Dr. Shearer, yours very sincerely,

(Signed) Wilfrid Laurier.

Dr. Shearer expressed the opinion that the conditions of the Yukon, as described by Dr. Pringle, were about as bad as could be. At the same time it was difficult to enforce the law under the conditions which prevailed there. Private citizens should not be required to do work which the constabulary was paid. Members of the Assembly would give hearty approval if the conditions were now being made right. He read another letter from Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in which the Premier stated that all applications for prosecution under the act shall be passed on by the Commissioner at once.

#### Another From the Same.

Ottawa, May 29, 1908.

Dear Mr. Shearer: In answer to your favor of the 21st inst., with regard to the enforcement of the Lord's Day Act in Yukon Territory, I understand that after a conference between the Minister of Justice and Mr. Henderson, Commissioner for the Yukon, it has been arranged between them that all applications for prosecutions under the act shall be at once passed upon by Mr. Henderson, and that he will immediately notify the Minister of Justice by wire of all those in which he thinks proceedings should be taken. This, I understand, will be satisfactory. Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) Wilfrid Laurier.

Rev. Dr. J. G. Shearer, Toronto.

Dr. Shearer maintained justice should be done in all parts of the Dominion, and the Yukon was not the only place where the law was not being enforced. The report was adopted.

Continued on page 12.