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JUNE, 1889.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The records of another Annual Meeting are written: It was a grand and glorious convention. We feel like throwing up our hats and shouting "Glory to God, a long step has been taken in the right direction." All were encouraged by the conviction that something is being done by a portion at least of the Disciples in Ontario, worthy of the cause. This means something when we remember that many of the most earnest Disciples in the province despaired ever seeing much accomplished by our people in this country.

The report of the progress made in less than two years on Denison Avenue, Toronto, alone, is sufficient to dispel such gloomy forebodings and to beget the conviction that the greatest and best success is in store for us everywhere if we are only good enough, wise enough, and zealous enough to work for it, not growl for it.

The amount of good accomplished by the Co-operation at the places where the money has been expended is encouraging. The work is prospering at every point, churches are being built up, and the best of it is they will be missionary churches. They are partaking of the spirit of those brethren who are assisting them—the spirit of Jesus Christ; but this is by no means the only pleasing feature of the work. One of the most hopeful and beneficial results of our Co-operation efforts is seen in the reflexive influence of this work upon those who furnished the means. Their sympathies have been drawn out, their minds elevated and their hearts enlarged. They have been lifted higher, and have been made to participate more fully and sweetly in the fellowship of the Saviour. This is the Lord's work and blessed is the man who has fellowship with him in it.

It was refreshing to see the faces of brethren from the four quarters of the province, and to witness their zeal, their earnestness and their determination in the work committed to our hands. They came together with an object in view—the perfecting of our organization in the interest of the Redeemer's Kingdom. It was a joyful thing to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, and enjoy communion of souls.

The success of the meeting was no surprise. It could not be otherwise. It was the outcome of earnest efforts for three hundred and sixty-five days previous. Indeed it was only the tide rising another degree higher.

We were this year as we have been at our Annual Meetings for several years past, greatly assisted by our brethren from the States. The earnest and able discourses of Robert Moffett and A. McLean were highly appreciated and helped to fan into a flame the missionary spirit. Our gratitude goes out to those brethren for their words of counsel.

This article would not be complete without an allusion to the Christ-like spirit that characterized the deliberations. The period of discussion about methods is with us nearly a thing of the past. This was a necessary period, without which we could expect neither unanimity nor success in our work. It was encouraging to hear Bro. Moffett say, "they passed through the same experience." None need however to be afraid of discussion, even if it be warm. No harm will result from a frank and free discussion between earnest and honest men.

The Sisters, we are rejoiced to know, have reached high water mark in their work already. Their first year's work was satisfactory in the highest degree and indicated that the management is in wise hands. We have reason to expect great things from the special efforts of the Sisters.

May the Lord bless us abundantly and enable us to carry to our respective churches the enthusiasm enkindled at the meeting.

REPORT OF CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

Dear Brethren,

I herewith submit to you my report as Corresponding Secretary of the Board for the year now ended. We are most thankful to be able to report that the interest in Home Missions has greatly increased during the past year and that the work has taken deeper root. The contributions to the Co-operation have been liberal and the work at the mission points has progressed encouragingly. The blessing of the Lord has been upon us and a good degree of success has attended our efforts.

The recommendations submitted by the convention at Hillsburg one year ago have been kept constantly in mind and have been faithfully carried out as far as it was in our power to do so.

MUSKOKA.

The services of Bro. W. M. Crewson have been continued in Muskoka. In that district there are about eleven small churches, seven of which have been visited by him as regularly as possible during the past year. They are: Macaulay, Baysville, Ridout, Dorset, Brunel, Huntsville and Ceeche. Beside these there are bands of Disciples at Kenney, Carteret, Dunchurch and Nipissing.

The church at Macaulay was established four years ago. Their ranks have been much depleted by removals. This is a serious obstacle to the building up of strong churches in Muskoka. The present membership is 15. Those who are left are staunch Disciples. They have been encouraged by Bro. Crewson to meet every Lord's Day and to keep the fire alive upon the altar. Three have been added this year to the membership.

The church in Baysville, and the one also in Ridout were established in 1885. The membership of the former is 25 and of the latter, 15. These churches have been much weakened also by removals. The presence of an Evangelist is needed constantly among them.

The membership of the church in Brunel is 26. The brethren there have five Sunday Schools. One in the Hall and another some distance out in a School-house. Twelve have been added to their number this year. The building of a meeting house is in prospect.

Special attention has been given by Bro. Crewson to Huntsville this year. This is an important point. A meeting house has been built there this year and the foundation laid for future usefulness.

This brief reference to the condition of some of the churches in Muskoka; and to Bro. Crewson's work is sufficient to convince us of the urgent need of strengthening the cause there by sending other faithful laborers to assist in carrying on the work in that broad field. Muskoka is a difficult field to cultivate, especially in the winter season. Brethren Baker and J. B. Lister gave Bro. Crewson valuable assistance at the commencement of the year.

Bro. Crewson's labors have been much interrupted by sickness in his family, yet much good work has been done. The churches have been greatly strengthened and twenty-eight have been added to their numbers.

COLLINGWOOD.

Assistance has been continued to the church in Collingwood. Bro. C. Sinclair has spent the year in labor at that place, and by his faithful efforts the church has made encouraging progress. The church there was organized in December, 1881, with fourteen charter members, the most of whom were unable to give much financial assistance to the cause.

They struggled against great odds, but since they have been assisted by the Board to keep a man to labor constantly among them they have made considerable progress. Their present membership is 46, fourteen of whom were added this year.

Their church property is worth about \$1300, against which there is an indebtedness of \$600. Taken all in all, the prospects are favorable, if assistance could be continued, it is not likely it would be long until the church would become self-supporting.

TORONTO.

We call your attention with no small degree of pardonable pride to the work done and being done on Denison Avenue, Toronto. If that work was all that had been accomplished this year it alone is sufficient to justify the efforts put forth through the board.

The undertaking of work of this kind—the centralizing of our efforts in a place like Toronto—was a new departure and was viewed by some with evident disfavor, besides this, the changes in the method of work which we as a weak body were required to make, produced some little friction as changes generally do, but all has been lovingly overruled in the interests of the good work and to the glory of God.

At the expiration of Brother Gaff's first year's work in Toronto satisfactory arrangements were made to the board for his re-engagement for another year. It is proper to state that this was unanimously recommended by the Church there.

The success which has been achieved there this year is most encouraging. The number of members on church roll one year ago was 137. The number on church roll at present is 180, being an increase of 43. Eleven of these were by primitive obedience, two from another body, and thirty by letter. This is certainly a good showing. Just think of it! In about two years a little band, a small nucleus, has grown into an active church, with 180 members. This is an example of what organized and continued work will accomplish, and should put forever the quietus on those who are in favor of doing a little here and a little there and not much anywhere.

The next thing most needful to promote the interests of the work there and to ensure its permanency, is a suitable church building of their own. To this end the brethren there have purchased a lot in a desirable locality for \$7200. The church there has given evidence of encouraging liberality, and the building of a house is among the probabilities at an early date.

MANITOULIN.

The few brethren on Manitoulin Island have been raising the "Macedonian cry." A young man—a professor in Bethany College—has been engaged to spend a few months the coming summer in this field. He will begin his labors the latter part of this month. The services of another young man from Bethany have been engaged for the summer. He will spend the greater part of his time with the Minto and Walkerton churches. These churches and others for which he may labor will be responsible for his remuneration.

GENERAL FIELD.

The amount of Evangelistic work done in the general field during the past year is most encouraging. A great many protracted meetings have been held, and the number added to the churches is larger than for several years.

The following are some of the churches which held profitable meetings:

Downmanville,	Welland,
Beamsville,	Mosa,
Walkerton,	Warton,
Erin Centre,	Erin Village,
Garafava,	Collingwood,
Guelph,	Selkirk,
Rosedene,	Mimosa.

Among those who did the preaching are:

E. Sheppard,	C. Sinclair,
J. R. Gaff,	Geo. Munro,
Jas. Lediard,	F. W. Baughman,
W. D. Campbell,	J. B. Lister,
H. Brown,	W. M. Crewson,
T. L. Fowler,	

During the year several new houses of worship have been built and a larger number repaired in various parts of the Province, adding greatly to the interest of the cause by increasing facilities for usefulness.

Several of the churches which were among the most liberal contributors to the Co-operation have done little or nothing this year on account of increased expenditure at home. These churches found it necessary in the interest of the cause to turn their attention and devote their attention and devote their means to the building up of the work in their respective fields. Many of the churches are beginning to realize the necessity of doing the same thing. This has turned a considerable amount of money into another channel which would have flowed into the treasury of the Board.

A significant an encouraging feature of the cause in Ontario which calls for special mention is the increasing demand for faithful, efficient and consecrated preachers.

We are thankful to be able to say that our ranks have been increased this year by the add-

ition to them of T. B. Knowles and F. W. Baughman.

Another hopeful feature is the increasing number of young men in our Province who are preparing themselves for the most important work of preaching the gospel. There are no less than three young men in College now from the church in Everton.

THE OUTLOOK.

It is found necessary in similar enterprises in order to the greatest success to pay particular attention at times to one feature of the work. There is wisdom in such a policy. The same wisdom is required in the successful prosecution of the work of the gospel.

The special feature of our work which the interest of the cause requires us to emphasize at the present time is that of *Home Missions*.

I know how the most of you feel upon this question. We do not wish by any means to call a halt in any other department of church work. We advocate retrenchment nowhere. We ask you not to love your own church or the Foreign field less but to love the home field more. It is wisdom, we believe, to do so now.

The increasing demand for preachers and the difficulty experienced by some of the churches in securing competent men call for serious consideration and prompt action.

It should be evident to all that if we would succeed in this country we must produce our own preachers. This is a principle recognized by all religious bodies in every country. This is-by no means a reflection upon those brethren from the other side of the lines who are laboring successfully in our Province. We are certain that they will be among the first to sanction the soundness of this doctrine. Let us then not lose sight of this, that to succeed we must produce our own preachers.

To this end we would recommend:—

- (1) That the spiritual status and christian activities of our churches be such that young men might be impelled by a holy desire to become preachers of the gospel.
- (2) We would further recommend that the preachers and elders of our churches especially, would give the matter their prayerful consideration, and that they would do all in their power to foster in our young men this holy ambition whenever it manifests itself.

Believing it to be in the interests of the cause that our young men should be educated in our own country, we would recommend:—

- (3) That something should be done to encourage them to take advantage of our own educational institutions.

We deem it worthy of mention that so many of our regular pastors have been engaged this year in Evangelistic work. This is as it should be. We would recommend:—

- (4) That every church where the cause is established would grant its preacher the liberty of holding one or more protracted meetings each year for another church or churches. Let the churches feel that all the preachers in the Province are available and can be counted upon for one or more protracted meetings. In this way we can join hand in hand for a general and grand movement all along the line.

- (5) We would recommend also the continuation of as liberal assistance as possible to those mission points now on hand, and the opening up of the work at as early a date as possible in some other important centre.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

REPORT OF MISSIONS.

1st—Your Committee desire to say they are much pleased with both the spirit and the matter of the Corresponding Secretary's able report of the work of the board and that relating to the work done in the general field by the preachers of the Province.

2nd—For the future we recommend that Toronto be assisted as fully as the Board in their judgement think fit, and that help can be continued to the other points now under their special care; also your committee recognise the strong claim of Hamilton, Welland, Galt and Guelph, and would recommend that they be assisted if the Board think it advisable and practicable. We would also request the Board to direct their attention to Manitoba and the North West.

JAS. LEDIARD, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS.

Your Committee on resolutions beg leave to report as follows:—Resolved—

- 1st—That the President of this Convention appoint two brethren as Delegates to the *General Christian Missionary Convention* which