

THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN.

SYNOD OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

(Continued.)

Dominion Presbyterian Special.

There are two Church and Manse Building Funds in the Maritime Provinces—the Hunter Fund, which restricts its benefactions to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island; and the Century Fund, which is administered by a New Brunswick committee and bestows its favors upon the churches of that province only. The Hunter fund has a capital of \$39,776.72 yielding an annual revenue of about \$2,000. The capital is loaned to churches at 5 per cent. to be repaid in easy instalments and the interest is given to feeble congregations as a free donation. The Century Fund has a capital of \$21,536 and disposes of the interest on investments in free grants to weak congregations who are erecting places of worship. Both funds were reported as in a favorable condition.

The Maritime Provinces have always stood in the front rank as regards Sabbath school work. A careful and complete printed report was laid before the Synod. The latest development of this department, the Summer School, has been remarkably successful. Of this branch the report says:

"During the summer three schools were held. The following statement is of interest:

Place.	No. of scholars enrolled.	Scholars represented.	Members present.
Woodstock.....	100	30	18
Glace Bay.....	75	17	15
Bridgewater.....	20	12

All the reports call attention to the fact that the attendance was much larger than the enrollment. At Woodstock at least 225 attended, at Glace Bay 175, at Bridgewater 100. The reports are unanimous in bearing enthusiastic testimony to the excellent character of the work done in these schools. This year they were conducted largely in the interests of Teacher Training. Principal Falconer lectured on The Gospels and the Life of Christ, Professor Magill on the Character of Jesus, Professor W. C. Murray on the Mental Growth of the Child, Principal Kennedy on the Teacher and His Work, and Mr. J. B. Calkin on Biblical Geography. In addition other subjects were considered, as Jesus and His Times by Rev. Gordon Dickie, Israel Before the Monarchy by Rev. A. H. Foster, The Use of the Blackboard by Mr. S. H. McFarlane, The Supplemental Lessons by Revs. J. G. A. Calquhoun and D. A. Frame, The Sunday School, Its Organization and Management by Mr. R. Reid. The Church has thus enjoyed a rare privilege and only the generous and consecrated service of these brethren has made these schools possible. All expense has been met by local support and the grant from the General Assembly's Committee. Next year it is proposed to continue these schools. Already requests have been made to meet at Campbellton and in Cape Breton.

Rev. Mr. Duncan is indefatigable in his effort to secure for our schools a quarterly which does not contain the lesson passage. He has the unanimous support of the Synod in this, as the following vote of concurrence in his overture to next General Assembly will show.

"That the synod respectfully overture the general assembly to instruct the Sabbath schools' publication committee to issue an edition of its lesson helps which, instead of having full scriptural text printed on the help, shall simply indicate in clear type at the head of the lead the place in the Bible where the day's lesson is found."

Foreign Missions naturally occupied

the interest and attention of the Synod to a high degree. Stirring addresses were delivered by the Moderator, Rev. Dr. Grierson of Corea, Dr. Coffin and Rev. Harvey Mortan of Trinidad. The report although covering the ground already traversed in that to the General Assembly was presented in a fresh and interesting manner. The Synod's devotion to the work abroad is not waning, but growing. The home-land of Dr. Geddie and the martyred Gordons will not forget its honorable precedence in missions.

The report on Home Missions was presented by Rev. S. Sutherland of Halifax. The success which has attended the appointment of Rev. James Ross as Superintendent of missions for the Presbytery of St. John, and subsequently the addition of the presbytery of Miramichi, thus giving him the whole province for his diocese, coupled with his admirable qualifications for the work, led to a motion that the whole field of the synod should be assigned to him. Much discussion ensued. Some thought that such an arrangement would not permit of visitation by him as often as would be necessary, and the question was sent down to presbyteries for more mature consideration. The H. M. committee also proposed the revival of the probationers' list and the following motion was carried.

"That ministers without charges send their names to the home mission committee; that clerks of presbyteries furnish this committee with a list of their vacancies; that a probationers' list be kept by the agent of the church to be furnished when desired to vacant congregations when desired to vacant congregations, and that clerks of presbyteries and moderators of sessions, as far as possible, secure supply for vacancies under their care from ministers on this list."

Lieut. Governor Fraser of Nova Scotia spoke on the college report and made a forcible and eloquent plea for its liberal support. His speech was a splendid illustration of the modern parliamentary style applied to a church question—clear, logical, well-put and without unnecessary rhetorical embellishments. The speaker was forgotten in his subject. At the beginning he laid down the propositions which he intended to establish.

"First, that they believed that God is building His kingdom in the lower provinces as well as all over the world. Secondly, that they realize that He has permitted them to be co-workers together with Him in the building of that kingdom and give to the full extent of their ability. Third, that the Lower Provinces need this college and that no other college in Canada or elsewhere can supply the demands necessary for the lower provinces, except this college. No other college can and no other college, he said, must intervene to make the men to preach to us in these lower provinces."

If every congregation could have heard his address the \$8,000 asked for would be easily obtained.

The temperance report was presented by Rev. H. R. Grant of New Glasgow, who has proved himself "a terror to evil-doers" in Pictou county. He spoke to a sympathetic audience. The synod is of one mind regarding the enforcement of the Scott Act and ultimate prohibition.

The least pleasant item of business was an appeal of the veteran church lawyer and scribe, Rev. Dr. Sedgewick from a decision of the Wallace Presbytery in what is known as the Amherst case. The Doctor was not present when the finding of the presbytery was arrived at and protested against the confirmation of the minute containing it at the next meeting in the following terms:

"I protest and complain against the approval of the minute in question because such approval sanctions an action which is alike illegal and unrighteous, and if suffered to pass unchallenged, is fitted seriously to shake our people's confidence in the courts of the church."

It is a question for church lawyers, whether such an appeal is admissible. "Approving" of the minutes means simply declaring that they are a correct record of what was done, the wisdom or unwisdom of any finding can only be questioned by a motion to reconsider, or, by one in Dr. Sedgewick's position, by a memorial to the Synod. The appeal was, however admitted, and after a discussion in which youth and old age were in painful evidence as an opposite sides, the Synod came to the following resolution:

The Synod sustains the protest and complaint of Dr. Sedgewick in so far as it finds irregularity in the proceedings of the meeting at Amherst in not recalling the parties to the bar, thus depriving them of the regular opportunity to exercise their rights in the case, and also in publication of the finding before the time for giving reasons of appeal had elapsed. The Synod recognizes the desire of the presbytery to do justice in the case and to secure the best interests of all parties. The Synod in view of all the circumstances, declines to reopen the case and counsels all parties to seek peace and the highest welfare of the congregation at Amherst."

This was assented to by all parties and closed the unpleasant incident.

The report of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' fund was presented by Rev. Anderson Bozer of New Glasgow and that of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund by Dr. Sedgewick of St. John. The claims of both were eloquently presented. Judge Forbes of St. John used special attention to the former fund and regretted that so many congregations failed to appropriate its importance.

Readers of the Dominion Presbyterian will remember the petition of Mrs. Susan Campbell to the General Assembly three years ago regarding which the assembly decided that nothing could be done by it to relieve her. Certain money had been devised by her husband to the church which she thought ought to be handed over to her. This was found impossible. The Assembly was subjected to very harsh criticism by the secular press and some of its correspondents. Last year a petition was presented in her behalf and the Synod appointed a committee to consider what relief could be given her, and to open a subscription list so as to afford her sympathizers an opportunity of coming to her help. The committee reported at Moncton, that they had received nothing and, having learned the facts, did not see their way to press for subscriptions. Sympathizers sometimes talk loudly, but not always in the language of money.

The fact is there is no injustice done, nor real hardship in the case.

The Synod meets next year at Halifax.

The jubilee of Finnieston U. P. church, of which the late Dr. Andrew Bonar was the first, and for many years the esteemed minister, is to be commemorated early in December.

A large seal was shot in the Forth, near Stirling, on the 23rd ult.

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