

The Assembly would therefore deplore any attempt to interfere with the freedom of Manitoba in determining and regulating its own educational affairs. Such a course, in the judgment of the Assembly, could result only in evil, and is not, we believe, demanded by any supposed compact between the Province and the Dominion, or between different classes of people in the Province itself. (4) The General Assembly hopes that this view will prevail with the authorities of the Dominion, and would rejoice should conference between the Province and the Dominion lead to a proper and harmonious adjustment in accordance with the view above expressed."

Loud applause greeted the reading of this resolution. Amid more applause Principal Grant briefly seconded the resolution, and it was unanimously carried.

Circumstances that have come to light in connection with the whole subject since this discussion, have invested it with a yet deeper and more vital interest. At such a time it behoves the leaders of the people, not in the political ranks mainly, to be calm and self-restrained; to avoid haste in speech and action, and to seek to be animated by motives of the highest patriotism, as well as by those also of true Christian toleration and confidence in the final triumph of what is just and true and right.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY NOTES

THE appointment of a professor to fill the vacancy in Knox College caused by the death of the late Professor Thompson is a subject in which the Church and especially the alumni of the College feel the deepest interest. Now two appointments fall to be made owing to the acceptance, by the Assembly, of the resignation of Dr. Gregg. The nomination by the Board of Knox College of the name of the Rev. Dr. McIntosh for appointment to the chair was brought before the Assembly and strongly supported in a speech by the Rev. Dr. Lyle, of great weight both by reason of the matter of it and its admirable spirit and temper. Delay, on the other hand, was urged very forcibly and supported by many strong reasons which weighed with the Assembly. These, too, were presented in an excellent spirit and with all due respect for the College Board. Except for a single remark dropped, nothing was said of Dr. McIntosh but what was commendatory and kind in feeling. The reasons which influenced the Assembly to delay immediate action were evidently the shortness of the time allowed to carefully look out for fit men to nominate, and that a re-arrangement to some extent of the subjects to be taught by the professors in the College was contemplated. It was gratifying to see that while, other things being equal, a Canadian would be preferred, yet that which was above all desired was that the best men possible and available should be secured, come from where they may. The motion of the Rev. Dr. Cochrane, which was an amendment to an amendment, carried, recommending the Board and Senate of Knox to consider the re-arrangement of chairs, so as to be able to announce to the Presbyteries what chairs were to be filled, no appointment to be made until next year.

If the announcement of the Senate and Board is early made to the Church, as it ought to be, of the re-arrangement of subjects, Presbyteries will have the whole of the remainder of the year to make enquiry and a selection of right men. Should Dr. McIntosh, after full enquiry made, be found to be the best available man, his not being a Canadian will be no barrier in his way, and if he is then appointed he will be welcomed and supported heartily as being the intelligent choice of the Church. No man, we are sure, would wish the appointment except on these conditions.

London gave the commissioners to the General Assembly a very hearty welcome. The city is unrivalled for its magnificent array of maple trees, as well as for the number of comfortable homes within its borders. Owing to the wealth of foliage everywhere, the streets were comparatively cool, notwithstanding the high temperature which ruled during the sessions of the court.

The London papers reported the Assembly as fully as could be expected in view of other pressing

claim on their columns. The *Advertiser*, whose editor was a member, gave a very comprehensive account of the proceedings, and its enterprise in this connection was the subject of much favourable comment.

An onlooker at the General Assembly could not be impressed with the high average ability displayed by the ministers and elders present. A field night in the Canadian House of Commons could not have evoked an abler or more spirited debate than was witnessed at London when the Manitoba School Question was up for discussion. Indeed we question whether the Ministerial or Opposition ranks at Ottawa could put up an equal number of such skilled, intellectual gladiators as Principals Caven, Grant, King and Forrest, not to mention Drs. Sedgwick, Thompson, Campbell and Prof. Bryce. For public speaking of the highest order the Supreme Court of our Church can easily take a first place.

In the haste of reporting the proceedings of the General Assembly we regret that in noticing the work of our Church within the Presbytery of Algoma we unwittingly did injustice to other Christian brethren at work in the same region by saying that: "In a distance of 300 miles is scattered a thin population with no representative of any Protestant church to look after them but our own." What was intended to say was, "That our people in this district had no one of their own to look after them."

The statement made by the Rev. Principal King to the General Assembly, in the most quiet and unassuming way must be most gratifying to the whole Church, and especially must have been so to himself, that he had just received from Sir Donald Smith, of Montreal, his cheque for \$5,000 to complete the payment in full of the extension to our college buildings in Winnipeg. By this donation as the finishing touch, Dr. King informed the Assembly that the Church was now in possession in Winnipeg of a property worth from \$80,000 to \$90,000 absolutely free of debt. At the Assembly which met in London twelve years ago Dr. King was appointed Principal of this College, then drowned in debt. At this Assembly he had this gratifying announcement to make. It is not given to very many to be able to point to such tangible, visible evidence of the successful result of twelve years' patient, wise and fruitful labour. The College will long remain a noble monument to the zeal, skill, wise administration and devotion to the Church of Principal King. This College, standing as it does at the door of our great North-West, has in its capabilities of untold blessings for generations to come for that whole vast region. It will be the hearty and earnest desire of the whole Church that he and his fellow-workers may be enabled long to carry on the work which now they are doing so well.

The impression made upon the Assembly on the whole subject of the preservation and better observance of the Sabbath by the report of the Sabbath Observance Committee, the speeches of Messrs. Charlton and John A. Paterson, Secretary of the Toronto branch of the Ontario Lord's Day Alliance, was manifestly deep and real. Nothing is more certain than that the danger is great and immediate, of the sacredness of the Sabbath and the keeping of it as a day of rest and worship, being seriously infringed upon; and that along with this many things vital to the well-being of the nation in all its best interests will be endangered. The question really lies with the professing Christian people of all denominations. If they unitedly will take a high stand upon this subject and stand together in teaching its sacredness and Divine authority, often from the pulpit, in the family and Sabbath-school, and teach this by practice as well as by precept, the danger will be averted. But if there is lukewarmness, apathy and compromise, what will happen is a foregone conclusion, and for the irreparable loss, professing Christian people will be to blame.

The thoroughly manly, yet deferential respect which the General Assembly shows to all its officers is one of its most becoming features. This is especially seen, as it should be, towards its senior officer, the venerable Dr. Reid. It was a touching

episode in the last meeting when he asked the court, on account of his increasing years and infirmities, and the great amount of business, to appoint a committee to confer with him as to arrangements to be made in the future, for the effective conduct of the Church's business, and his ultimate retirement altogether from the office he has held for upwards of forty years, and with such entire satisfaction to the whole Church. And still more touching was it, when this committee reported, and the Doctor, who had hitherto kept seated when addressing the court, rose, and, with a voice trembling with emotion, and strong suppressed feeling, thanked the Assembly for the report which had been presented, and was entirely to his mind, and which was cordially adopted. Gently the Assembly asked him to be seated, but bravely he stood, and while the court was hushed to unwonted stillness, he deprecated the too high encomiums which had been passed upon him with broken voice, by the Rev. Dr. Gregg and others, confessed failures that he was himself conscious of, but that he had always done his best for the Church he loved, and expressed his desire still to serve it as far as was in his power, and give all possible assistance at all times to his successor whoever he might be. Not often can the Supreme Court witness such a sight. The choice of the Assembly for this most important position, in several respects the most onerous and responsible in the Church, fell upon the Rev. Dr. Warden, who has asked time, which the Church has granted him, before giving an answer on a matter so grave to himself, and which involves such great responsibility to the whole Church. It may be hoped that Dr. Warden, who combines all the qualifications required for this high office, having been called to it, may accept of it. Should he do so, the Church will have in him a worthy successor to one whose name must ever live in our Church's history, and hardly could a better wish be expressed for Dr. Warden, or whoever the successor of Dr. Reid may be, than just that he should be indeed a worthy successor.

It would have a good effect upon the praise of our General Assembly to appoint the Rev. M. H. Scott, of Hull, as precursor to the Supreme Court. Until he appeared upon the scene, although those who led no doubt did the best they could, the praise recalled the days of long, long ago, or what may yet be found in the most rural of rural congregations. Seeing that the first hour of the first business day is spent in devotional exercises, it would be well if either the Assembly authorities, or the pastor of the Church in which the Assembly meets, should make some provision so that from the very first this might be done in the most happy and effective manner possible.

The Rev. James Robertson, D.D., made an excellent Moderator. As the London *Advertiser* remarks: "He was voted a thorough success. He has a vigorous, off-handed, good-natured style, and proved a model presiding officer." In this connection the Winnipeg *Tribune* says:

The election of the Rev. Dr. Robertson to the moderatorship of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church at London on Wednesday is a compliment not only to Dr. Robertson, who, as one of the stalwarts in the Presbyterian cause, deserves the honor, but to the North-west in which Dr. Robertson has labored so long, so earnestly and effectively. As superintendent of the missions in the North-west Dr. Robertson has done herculean work in advancing the cause of Presbyterianism and Christianity in this new land.

The Canadian General Assembly has been well ruled in its presiding officer for many years, and in a long line of moderators it is not too much to say that Dr. Robertson occupies no secondary position.

Complaint was made by some, and to a certain extent with reason, provided the thing could be avoided, that intimation could not be given beforehand of the bringing up at the Assembly of important matters in which the whole Church and commissioners especially are interested. This is not always possible, especially in matters of a personal kind, and in any case, delegates to the Assembly should come prepared to remain, unless unforeseen circumstances prevent, until the business is finished, and then every delegate could make his influence felt by his voice or vote on every subject which comes up.