

had long wanted a bicycle, and expressed his gratitude for the confidence, loyalty, and love that had inspired the presentation.

During the absence of Dr. Cochrane in Britain, Home Mission correspondence will be attended to by Dr. Warden, clerk of the committee.

Synod of Toronto and Kingston.

The Synodical Conference, which precedes the synod, opened in Collingwood on May 11, in the First Presbyterian church.

At the morning session Dr. Robertson presided. Principal Caven, of Knox College, in a short address, introduced the subject. "Are the present methods of training in our theological hall, preaching by students during session, and the summer months included, the best obtainable for development of the natural qualification for candidates for the Gospel ministry?" Dr. Dickson, of Galt, introduced the subject. "The reciprocal influence of pulpit and pen in promoting and sustaining spiritual life in our congregations." Considerable discussion followed both addresses.

At the afternoon session the Rev. D. D. McLeod, of Barrie, presided. Dr. Somerville, of Barrie, made the opening address, in which he discussed "Is it necessary to combine what are usually called special or evangelistic services with the work of the pastoral in order to promote the spiritual life of the Church?" A debate followed in which many of the ministers and laymen expressed their views. The effect of Young People's Societies upon the spiritual life of the Church" was brought before the gathering in an able manner by the Rev. Dr. McTavish.

On Tuesday the 12th, at 8 p.m. the synod proper was opened. The Rev. J. B. Mullan, the retiring moderator, presided to a large congregation.

On Wednesday a.m. the first business session was opened in the usual form. The Rev. J. F. McLaren, the new elected Moderator presiding.

At the beginning of the morning sederunt Rev. Mr. Gilray of Toronto read the report of the Brantford Ladies' College. At the conclusion of the report Rev. D. D. McLeod moved a resolution expressing the approval of the Synod of the work done by the college and the motion was unanimously passed. An appeal from the Algoma Presbytery relating to the allocation of some mission stations was referred to a committee.

Rev. H. Douglas Fraser of Bowmanville then presented the report of the Committee on Young People's Societies. Reports had been received from 197 societies in 115 congregations. Of these societies 174 had been Christian Endeavor Societies, 167 Young People's and 7 Junior. It was estimated that there are about 270 of these societies in all. The total membership was 8,728, an average of about 45 per society. Of the members 2,670 were young men, 4,745 young women, 333 boys and 351 girls, while 661 were not classified. The total receipts were \$1,511, of which \$1,267 went to defray running expenses, \$1,684 went to congregational objects, and \$1,916 went to schemes of the church, \$479 for foreign missions, \$638 for home missions, and the remainder for other objects. Of the membership 4,650 were in full communication. Mr. Fraser spoke in high terms of the movement, characterizing it as earnest, busy, thoughtful and loyal and a grand training school. The Synod heard the report with satisfaction, and on motion of Principal Caven Mr. Fraser was thanked for the work he had done.

The case of the Whitby Presbytery, which recently elected a ruling elder as its Moderator was next considered. The question of the legality of this proceeding was referred to the General Assembly. The following motion submitted by Principal Caven, was unanimously passed:—"In view of the fact that certain constitutional questions seem to be involved in the determination of the matter of a ruling elder presiding in a Presbytery or other court of the

church, it is desirable that the General Assembly, as representing the whole church, should itself take action; in view also of the fact that another Synod of the church has agreed to submit the same case to the General Assembly, this Synod prefers not to pronounce on the merits of the question as to the presidency of elders, but to refer it to the General Assembly to meet in Toronto next month. In order that a decision may be brought in the proper constitutional way."

At the opening of the afternoon sederunt Rev. Dr. Robertson, the Moderator of the General Assembly and the Superintendent of missions in the west, spoke on the work there. The last time he had addressed the Synod, he said in beginning, the remedial order has been under consideration. It had been followed by the remedial bill, which he was glad to say was dead. In that case he thought that killing was no murder and he hoped that the bill would stay dead and never be resurrected. He felt like thanking the members for Ontario for the gallant fight they had made against coercion, and he felt ashamed of the members for the west for their stand on the question. He would say that to their face, and said it there. Dr. Robertson then turned to the discussion of the work in the west. The past year on the whole had been a good one, he said and the outlook was cheerful. He especially spoke of the needs of Manitoba College, where the sum of \$1,500 is needed for the summer session of that college, which is very important in the work there. The sum of five cents per member would secure that. He then spoke at length, of the west giving a glowing account of the possibilities of that region and urging that special efforts be made to capture it for Christianity in its infancy.

Rev. J. B. Mullan of Fergus, seconded by Rev. J. L. Simpson of Thornbury moved a resolution thanking Dr. Robertson for his address and expressing special sympathy with the summer session. The motion was passed after a short discussion.

St. Andrew's Church, Lindsay, was chosen as the next place of meeting, on invitation of Rev. J. W. McMillan. The time will be the second Tuesday in May.

Rev. W. Farquharson of Claude read the report of the Committee of Sabbath Schools, stating that there were in the 459 schools which were reported 41,498 students enrolled with 4,746 officers and teachers. Of the attendance 27,299 are in their places every Sabbath. The total contributions were \$22,445 as against \$25,866 last year. Three recommendations, advising the use of the home-study leaflets of the Assembly's committee, advising that steps be taken to secure more efficient instructions and training of teachers, and enjoining more regular attendance of the young on the several days of public worship, were carried by the Synod, the subject being discussed at some length.

At 4 o'clock the Synod adjourned, and, accompanied by a large number of the Presbyterians of Collingwood went for a most enjoyable excursion on the bay, in the steamer City of Midland.

In the evening the important report on church life and work was read by Rev. D. James of Midland, in place of the Convener, Rev. J. F. McLaren. The report was a careful summary of the extensive field afforded by the subject and gave an excellent sketch of the condition of Presbyterianism at present in the Synod. It concluded with seven recommendations. One of these urged that due prominence be given in preaching the Sabbath observance. Another was that Presbyteries in whose bounds are harbors be requested to use every legitimate means in their power to suppress Sunday steamer excursions. Another recommended that efforts be made to encourage the introduction of temperance text-books in schools. Yet another was that as there is great need of a text-book of Scripture history for use in our Public Schools, the Synod take such steps as it may deem necessary to secure the authorization and adoption of one of the schools of this Province. The recommendations were adopted, after speeches had been made supporting the report by Rev. R. D. Fraser, Rev. Dr. McTavish, Rev. Dr. Jackson and Rev. Dr. Somerville and others.

Synod of Montreal and Ottawa

The Synod of Montreal and Ottawa opened its twenty-second session in Erskine Church, on Tuesday evening, the 12th inst., at eight o'clock. A large number of members was present. The citizens also were fairly represented.

The opening sermon was preached by the retiring moderator, the Rev. James Cormack, of Maxville, Ont., from John 8:12. "I am the light of the world." After the calling of the roll the Rev. Jas. Floek, of Knox Church, Montreal, who had been nominated by three Presbyteries, was unanimously elected to the chair. The rest of the business for the evening was mainly routine. Among other items, however, was an application, Jas. Fleet, of Knox Church, Montreal, to receive on trials for license the fourteen students who had completed their course in the Presbyterian College at the close of last session. Their names are: I. D. Anderson, B.A., W. E. Ashe, E. H. Brandt, J. S. Gordon, B.A., G. Gilmore, J. Lindsay, A. MacCallum, D. D. Millar, T. A. Sadler, B.A., J. B. Sinclennes, J. C. Stewart, B.A., W. M. Townsend, B.A., E. F. M. Smith, B.A., and G. A. Woodside. The application was granted.

The first hour of the opening sederunt on Wednesday morning, was spent in devotional exercises. The Rev. Dr. Campbell presented the report of a Committee appointed last year to press upon the attention of the Government the claims of Presbyterians to a larger representation on the Council of Public Instruction. The Government had so far recognized their representations that Mr. H. B. Ames, a member of the American Presbyterian Church, had been appointed to fill the only vacancy at the time. The Committee was reappointed to watch future appointments.

The Rev. Dr. Scrimger then presented a report on Public Education in Quebec and Ontario, based largely on the official reports of the two Governments. In Quebec the figures showed an increase since 1891 of 317 schools and 22,794 pupils. The Committee was pleased to notice that in the report for 1895 the new Superintendent, Hon. Mr. de la Bruere, had, without delay, seized upon some of the weak points of the system, and had expressed a desire to bring about improvements as early a date as possible. He also called attention to the unsatisfactory condition of the elementary schools in the Province, and to the imperfect qualifications of the teachers. Only a little over 11 per cent. of the lay teachers in the Province had Normal School certificates to show that they had had any training whatever. The Superintendent urged the establishing of additional Normal Schools for girls who constituted the majority of the teachers, and suggested that these schools might be established in connection with some of the teaching religious institutions. He did not, however, call attention, the report stated, as he might have done, to the fact that the position of these establishments was very unsatisfactory. They furnished no guarantee to the public as to the teachers' qualifications. The teachers were not expected to secure certificates, and any attempt to bring these institutions under the control of the Council of Public Instruction, was strenuously resisted. The Superintendent further neglected to note the fact that 15 per cent. of the lay teachers had no diplomas of any kind, and that owing to the beggarly salaries allowed to be paid, only a small proportion of these teachers continued in the profession beyond a single year. The annual salary of all teachers, apart from religious orders was \$142.65, an increase of \$2.40 since 1891, and it was humiliating to think that there were over 700 teachers whose average salary was only \$77 per annum. The detailed reports of the inspectors abundantly bore out the conclusion that the great bulk of the schools throughout this Province were doing almost nothing for the intellectual awakening of the young. Beyond enabling them to read and write imperfectly and to repeat their catechism, the schools seemed to have no other aim. It was generally assumed by educationists that about 25 per cent. of the population should be in the schools, but so far as statistics showed in this Province the percentage was only about 19. Of