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The N. B. Western Association.

The N. B. Western Association convened in its 30th annual meeting with the Second Cumberland Bay Church. The section of the country where the Association met is called the Range, a fine strip of country lying along the upper end of the Grand Lake. It is reached from St. John either by the I. C. R. and the Central railway, leaving the latter at the Cumberland Bay station, or by the steamer May Queen, by the way of the St. John River and the Grand Lake. The first session of the Association was held Friday afternoon June 25th. The number of delegates from the churches present at this session was very small. This was owing entirely to the lack of convenient travelling accommodations. Those travelling by steamer must come either on Wednesday or Saturday, and those who came by train on Friday could not reach the Range until evening. As the steamer was the only convenient means of reaching the place for those living in the up river Counties, and the steamer days were so inconvenient, very few delegates came from York and Carleton Counties and the Association did not therefore represent the full strength of the churches.

At the Friday afternoon session some time was profitably spent in the prayer and religious conference. The officers of the Association were elected as follows: Moderator, H. U. Clarke, Esq.; Clerk, Carey N. Barton, Lic.; Assistant Clerk, R. W. Demming, Lic.; Treasurer, Nathaniel Branscombe.

The evening session was devoted principally to the subject of missions. In the absence of the usual reports, owing to the absence of the brethren appointed to prepare them, addresses were heard from brethren representing the Home, Foreign and Grande Ligne departments of mission work. Rev. J. W. S. Young presented the claims of the H. M. work. He spoke of the needs of the work. He had never felt these needs so much as during the past year. Bro. Young spoke of his visit last winter to the Tobique country where much that properly belonged to Baptists had been taken possession of by others. His labors in that part of the country had resulted in the organization of the Tobique Valley church. At Cloverdale, some ten miles from Woodstock, a church had been organized with the advice of neighboring churches. Another church had been organized at Northampton about eight miles below Woodstock. The great need in connection with our H. M. work is more men and more means to support them.

Rev. A. Freeman speaking on the same subject expressed his firm belief in the great importance of our H. M. work. Baptists, he held had a special mission to give the whole word of God to the people and to this mission they should be faithful. What we need is a spirit of deep consecration to this work.

The Foreign Mission interest was represented by Rev. J. W. Manning in an earnest and effective address. The work of missions has for its aim the salvation of men, and has behind it the authority and power of God. Victoria rules over a great and powerful empire, but she is one of many earthly rulers. The only world-wide kingdom is Christ's, and it is the mission of His servants to bring all the world to acknowledge His sway. Mr. Manning pleaded earnestly on behalf of the two million Telugus to whom the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces have undertaken to give the gospel.

Rev. E. Bosworth, Field-Secretary of the Grande Ligne mission, was present and addressed the meeting in the interest of that work. Mr. Bosworth spoke with great

earnestness, giving a very interesting account of the work of Grande Ligne mission school and the evangelistic work in Quebec province. He spoke of the prospect as full of encouragement. Events which had taken place during the past year showed that the authority of the Bishops over the people was no longer what it once was, and he believed the people were likely to assert their freedom in political and in religious matters more and more. The speaker referred especially to Mr. Schutt, a young man educated at Grande Ligne now laboring in St. Francis, N. B. and commended him to the confidence and sympathy of the brethren.

SATURDAY MORNING.

The business session of Saturday morning was preceded by an hour very profitably spent in prayer and religious conference. At nine o'clock the business of the session was resumed. The report on Denominational Literature was presented by Rev. A. Freeman. The report had evidently been very carefully prepared and it was so highly esteemed by the Association that its publication in the MESSENGER AND VISITOR was requested. As we shall be pleased to comply with the request, no abstract of the report will be attempted. The Editor of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR was invited to address the Association in connection with this report, and was heard very kindly as he attempted to show that the paper aimed to be a friend and helper to all Baptist families and Baptist churches and to give a hearty and unselfish support to the important enterprises in which the denomination is engaged.

Rev. Geo. Howard also addressed the Association briefly on the same subject, endorsing the excellent report, emphasizing the importance of good literature in the homes and schools and expressing very hearty appreciation of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR. The remainder of the session was devoted to the reading of letters from the churches. The information contained in these letters was not of so encouraging a character as to evidences of spiritual prosperity and increase in membership as could be desired. The number of baptisms is less, we fear than an average and is certainly considerably less than in some recent years. Letters having been received from the Tobique Valley and Cloverdale churches, organized during the year, with requests to be received into the Association, at the request of the Moderator, Rev. Geo. Howard, on behalf of the Association gave the hand of fellowship to Rev. J. W. S. Young who represented the churches named.

At the afternoon session the report on Sabbath Schools was presented by Rev. Geo. Baker. The report emphasized the importance of S. S. work and noted the encouragements to labor along that line, alluded to the N. B., A. S. S. Convention, as having been formed in response to a real need of our people, endorsed the helps of the American Baptist Publication Society and the appointment now under consideration by the convention, of a Field Secretary to promote Baptist S. S. work in the province. The report was discussed by Revs. J. Coombes, W. E. McIntyre, J. H. Hughes and Bro. C. W. Barton. Among the points dwelt upon by the speakers were the importance of S. S. work to the cultivation of piety in the young, the importance of Baptists carrying on their S. S. work on Baptist lines, the importance of having lesson helps which present the truth as Baptists believe it, and the disadvantage to Baptists of uniting in interdenominational associations.

A report on the Grande Ligne Mission prepared by Bro. C. W. Townsend and commending the interests of the Mission to the sympathies of the body was read by Rev. J. W. S. Young.

The report on education was called for and not being ready Dr. Trotter was called to the platform to give an address on that subject. He succeeded at once in establishing the most friendly relations with his audience. Information was given concerning the educational work being carried on at Wolfville, reference being made especially to the large spiritual blessing enjoyed during the year. Acadia was prepared to receive a larger number of students than now attend, and Dr. Trotter urged pastors and all the friends of education to look out young men and women and encourage them to go to Wolfville for education. Alluding to the large responsibilities which he had undertaken in accepting the presidency of Acadia, Dr. Trotter said that his trust was in God, he was full of

hope for the future and earnestly asked the brethren to sustain him with their prayers and sympathies. While asking the support of the brethren in this province for the institutions at Wolfville under present conditions, he pledged himself to give his cordial sympathy and support to the revival of Baptist academic work in New Brunswick, whenever the brethren in N. B. might agree upon that as best. Dr. Trotter said he would not go into the discussion of the financial situation, as it was not perhaps desirable to anticipate the financial policy which the Governors of Acadia would submit for the approval of the convention at its approaching meeting in St. John. The address of which we are able to give here only a meagre abstract evidently received a very sympathetic hearing.

A resolution moved by Rev. W. E. McIntyre was adopted, conveying the thanks of the Association to Dr. Trotter for his address and pledging the sympathy of the Association to the educational work which he represents.

Rev. W. E. McIntyre offered a resolution presenting the claims of Mont. McDonald, Esq., in connection with the N. B. Seminary and urgently requesting the churches of the Association to take prompt measure to raise the \$3,000 necessary to liquidate this debt. The motion was supported by earnest speeches from Revs. W. E. McIntyre, J. H. Hughes, J. W. S. Young, S. McC. Black, and unanimously adopted.

The subject of Systematic Benevolence was brought before the Association in a very earnest and effective address by Rev. C. Henderson, who emphasized the importance of money in carrying on the Lord's work, and advocated the giving by every Christian of a tithe of his income to religious purposes. Those who had adopted this plan had found that the Lord blessed them according to their faithfulness.

A church that has recently been organized at Northampton, Carleton County, was, on motion of Rev. J. W. S. Young, received into the Association. It was explained that this was known to be the wish of the church.

Bro. Moses Hall introduced a resolution calling for the appointment of a committee on ordinations, with which any church contemplating the ordination of a candidate should be requested to confer before proceeding to call a council of ordination. After some discussion of the matter the resolution was adopted and at the evening session the committee called for by the resolution was appointed as follows: Revs. T. Todd, W. E. McIntyre, C. Henderson, Geo. Howard and W. J. Bleakney.

The Saturday evening session was devoted to the subject of Temperance. No report had been prepared, but the meeting was addressed on the subject in earnest and effective speeches by Messrs. R. T. Babbitt, Z. O. Wilson and Rev. Geo. R. Baker.

Votes of thanks were presented to the church and people of the community for the generous hospitality extended to the Association and to the Moderator for the courtesy and ability with which he had presided over the meetings. The Moderator and Clerk were appointed a committee to arrange for the place of the next annual meeting of the Association.

The associational sermon was preached on Sunday morning at 10.30. The day was bright and pleasant and the house was filled, while another large congregation was gathered at a service two miles distant, at which Dr. Trotter was the preacher. The preacher of the associational sermon was Rev. A. Freeman. His text was Luke 10:42, "But one thing is needful, and Mary hath chosen the good part which shall never be taken away." The preacher dwelt upon the three persons whom the text and context bring into view—Mary, Martha and the Lord Jesus—the home at Bethany and "the one thing needful," presenting many beautiful thoughts and valuable lessons. The sermon was delivered with impressive earnestness and was heard with much interest and profit.

In the afternoon a meeting was held under the auspices of the sisters of the W. B. M. U. The members present much more than filled the house. Mrs. M. E. Cox, Provincial Secretary, presided. Two excellent papers were presented by Mrs. M. McLean and Mrs. Crandall, and interesting addresses were delivered by Rev. E. Bosworth, on the Grande Ligne work, and Rev. J. W. Manning, on the Telugu mission. Some further report of this meeting will probably appear in the W. B. M. U. department of this paper.

In the evening Rev. Geo. Howard preached to a good audience an excellent discourse from Gal. 6:2, "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ." After the sermon, short earnest addresses were delivered by Revs. J. H. Hughes, E. Bosworth, H. D. Worden, Bro. C. N. Barton and others. A tender spirit pervaded the meetings, and it is hoped that good impressions of a lasting character were received. It was announced that Brethren Worden and Barton would remain for an evening or two and continue meetings. We should not omit to mention that the singing furnished by the choir, at all the public meetings, added much to their interest. The general feeling of the visitors, as they turned their faces homeward on Monday morning, was that their visit to the Range had been most enjoyable, and that the Association, in spite of the small attendance of delegates, had been a very pleasant and profitable one.