

plying with the regulations, the committee agreed to recognize them as exceptional, and to recommend the General Assembly to make grants to them, notwithstanding their inability to fulfil the conditions required of congregations on the list:—Kennebec Road, Arundel, New Glasgow, Hyacinthe, Aylwin and Deserit, McNab, Middleville and Dalhousie, Grand Bend; and that Hawkesville be supplemented as a mission station.

That in carrying out the instructions of the General Assembly regarding congregations in Manitoba, resolved, that the stipends of ministers duly inducted be supplemented in the first place to \$850 per annum, and participate in the surplus fund up to \$800 per annum—corresponding with the \$750 per annum and manse in the other Presbyteries of the Church—it being understood that where there is a manse \$50 per annum will be deducted from the supplement, but this shall not be applied so as to reduce the present salary of any of the ministers now settled in supplemented congregations. The congregations receiving supplement in accordance with this regulation be required to pay at least \$500 per annum: no supplement to exceed \$400 per annum.

That the salaries in cities, and in towns where living is exceptionally high, be supplemented in the first place to \$800 per annum, with allowance of \$100 per annum for house rent, and may, at the discretion of the committee, participate in the surplus fund up to \$1,000, with the same allowance for rent.

That congregations receiving supplement in cities or towns, in accordance with the above regulation, be required to pay at least \$500, and \$100 for house rent, before being put on the list: no supplement to exceed \$400 per annum.

That before a settlement takes place in any vacancy requiring to be supplemented, the congregation be visited with a view to increase the contributions of the people, and the result of the visitation reported to the committee.

That all congregations requiring aid shall be visited annually between October and March with a view to secure increased contributions to stipend, and the result of the visitation shall be reported to the committee.

THIRD DAY.

Friday, June 6.—The Assembly met at ten o'clock and was constituted.

Dr. Willis Beecher, of Auburn Theological Seminary, was introduced by Mr. Parsons, and was asked to take a seat on the platform. The consideration of Home Mission Committee's recommendations was resumed. After considerable discussion, in which a number of members took part, the motion relating to Recommendations, as amended, was then passed as follows:—

That the committee be empowered to withhold until next General Assembly supplement in cases where mission stations have been erected into pastoral charges, and where existing congregations have been divided, if in the judgment of the committee such action has been undesirable. The remaining recommendation, as follows, was then adopted: That, in cases where stipends are augmented to only \$700 per annum and manse (or in cities to only \$900 and manse) in consequence of the regulation that "no congregation shall receive from the fund more than \$300" (in cities \$400), the committee be empowered to increase the grant where there is exceptional liberality on the part of the congregation interested.

The following recommendations by the sub-committee were then agreed to:—

That the funds for Home Mission work proper and for Augmentation of Stipends be kept distinct, and that congregations be instructed to contribute separately to these two objects.

That the Augmentation Scheme be wrought, as during the past year, by a sub-committee of the Home Mission Committee, with a secretary appointed by the General Assembly.

That in view of the large and increasing amount of work in connection with the Home Mission and Augmentation schemes, Mr. R. H. Warden (who has been acting as secretary of the Home Mission Committee), be appointed secretary of the Home Mission Committee and of Sub-Committee on Augmentation of Stipends at a salary of \$400.

In the absence of papers relating to the division of the Manitoba Presbytery, the Assembly proceeded to the Langside matter. Papers were read. This is virtually an appeal by the Presbytery of Maitland, for the action of the Home Mission Board. The congregation is partly Gaelic and partly English, and so cannot be united with another charge having an English speaking minister. Mr. Dawson was heard on behalf of Langside congregation. He stated that the people were isolated and scattered, and unless they got aid they could not keep up ordinances. Some of the people do not understand English. Questions were asked when it was found that several congregations are within six or seven miles, one of which, South Kinross, has a Gaelic speaking minister.

Dr. Cochran made explanations on the part of the Board. Langside has been supplemented for eighteen or nineteen years. Attempts have been made again

and again to unite it with other charges, and the Committee believed that continuing aid was a waste of money.

Principal Grant moved that the action of the Board be sustained, and the congregation be recommended to the favourable consideration of the Board.

Mr. Forbes seconded the motion. Mr. N. McKay suggested that a clause be added instructing the Presbytery to bring about a union as early as possible.

Mr. Macdonnell spoke as to the effect of multiplying charges and making them a burden on the fund. He believed that a rearrangement of the whole field would secure two strong congregations instead of two or three that now receive aid.

Dr. Grant read his motion as amended in the way suggested by Mr. McKay. Several members spoke against the motion as amended, lest a door be opened to many others in like circumstances. The motion of Dr. Grant was carried by 111 to 73.

DIVISION OF MANITOBA PRESBYTERY.

The division of the Manitoba Presbytery was then taken up. The report of the Board was then read and its adoption moved. Mr. Gordon moved in amendment that the Presbytery be divided. He spoke of the extent of territory, 1,000 miles from east to west. When the Presbytery was formed there were four labourers and eight stations, now there were fifty-four ordained ministers and 250 stations. He spoke at length of the difficulties that stand in the way and how the Presbytery of Manitoba endeavours to dispose of them. The proposal is to make three Presbyteries, Winnipeg, Rock Lake, and Brandon. The Superintendent of Missions to be a full member of the western Presbytery, that of Brandon, and a corresponding member of the others.

A member asked what objection the Board took to the division, when it was explained that latterly the Board, instead of making grants to stations or ministers, gave a lump sum to be allocated by the Presbytery as a whole, but if a division took place that would be broken up. The counsel of Winnipeg would be shut out from the care of the vast field of the North West.

Mr. Robertson entered into details as to boundaries and the number of ministers and charges with stations. He stated that the Presbytery after consideration are unanimous in asking for division.

Dr. Cochran did not object to the division but he called attention to the difficulties, one of which is that a representative of each Presbytery at the Board, together with the Superintendent, will cost between \$500 and \$600 for travelling expenses alone. He also said that the difficulty in the way of division before was difference of opinion in the Presbytery itself.

The Assembly then adjourned.

At the afternoon meeting, after the Court was constituted, committees were named as follows: 1. To strike standing committees. 2. Loyal Addresses. 3. On Remits.

MANITOBA PRESBYTERY TO BE DIVIDED.

Consideration of the division of Manitoba Presbytery was then resumed. The motions were read. Dr. Cochran having withdrawn his motion, Mr. Gordon's amendment, now the main motion, was carried: that three Presbyteries be erected, entitled Winnipeg, Rock Lake, and Brandon, and that these constitute the Synod of Manitoba and the North-West.

Mr. Gordon then presented the rest of the scheme which was brought up by the Presbytery of Manitoba.

Mr. McPherson urged that the Home Mission work should be in the hands of a Synodical committee. Rev. Mr. Warden moved, and Rev. F. W. Farries seconded, that what remains of the schemes be remitted to a committee for consideration. Rev. H. H. McPherson suggested that the money still be sent in a lump sum and a central committee in the North-West allocate it to the congregations and stations.

Rev. D. M. Gordon contended strongly for the principle that the Presbyteries in the great West be on the same footing as Presbyteries in Ontario and elsewhere. The ministers there wish to act on the same laws. Rev. H. M. Parsons moved in amendment that the money be sent in a lump sum to the Synod of Manitoba as to the Presbytery hitherto. This was seconded by Rev. T. McPherson. Rev. C. B. Pitblado wanted to know how the lump sum was to be disbursed when it is voted; that he does not see at present.

Principal MacVicar said that what Mr. Pitblado desiderates will be supplied when the Synod is organized.

A vote being taken Mr. Parsons' amendment was carried.

Mr. Warden's amendment was then put to refer the matter to a committee, and carried by a majority. It was agreed to send the question of boundaries of Presbyteries to the same committee.

Mr. Warden then moved a deliverance completing the Home Mission business as follows:—

That the General Assembly adopt the report of the Home Mission Committee as amended, express heartfelt gratitude to God for the large measure of success achieved in both departments of the work, and especially for the success attending the Augmentation

Scheme adopted by the Assembly last year, whereby a minimum stipend of \$750 and a manse has for the present been secured: cordially thank the Committee, and especially the Convener and the Convener of the Sub-Committee on Augmentation for the services they have rendered: commend anew the Home Mission work to the hearty sympathy and liberality of the congregations of the Church. And the General Assembly recognize the desirability of union of the eastern and western sections of the Church in Home Missions and Augmentation work, and remit to the Committee to consider during the year the practicability of such union to report to the next General Assembly.

The motion passed with acclamation.

The Moderator thanked Dr. Cochran, Messrs Macdonnell, Aull, and Warden in the name of the Assembly.

It was now announced that Mr. Gordon, of Winnipeg, would preach in the morning of next Sabbath, and Mr. McNeill, of St. John's, Newfoundland, in the evening.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

Rev. W. T. McMullen then presented the report on Sabbath Observance. The report detailed the efforts during the year in conjunction with other bodies in the direction of seeking legislation.

After explanations with respect to points in the report it was moved by Rev. H. M. Parsons, and seconded by Mr. John Charleton, M.P., and resolved as follows:—

That the report be adopted, and that the Assembly express its strong disapprobation of the various forms of Sabbath profanation mentioned therein, especially the running of unnecessary trains, making up of mail matter, holding funerals unnecessarily, etc., and the Assembly hereby urge on persons within the Church to abstain from and discountenance these several forms of Sabbath profanation.

Mr. Parsons referred to the increase of excursions by rail and steamboat. He spoke of the growth of these things in the United States, referring to things that are now in vogue in large cities where they were not possible some years since. He urged the Assembly to do what in it lies to stem the spread of Sabbath profanation. He read an account of the action of the General Assembly at Saratoga on this question.

Mr. Charlton spoke at length on the subject. He gave the history of the legislation of last session and the cause of failure. He said the bill of last session applied to Ontario, and he thought that if a bill be introduced again, it should apply to the Dominion. He said that it would encounter the opposition of Quebec no matter what the side of politics. It should aim at the stoppage of all traffic on railways. He had been in conversation with the manager of the Michigan Central Road, who said he was most anxious to stop all trains on the Sabbath, but until the Government interferes he cannot help himself. He said that an Act is needed in Congress as well as in Parliament to get all that is desired. He is hopeful as to the success of a moderate bill.

Principal Caven felt that this is one of the most important subjects that come before the Assembly. We have reached a crisis in this matter. This vast system of railways is worked in defiance of the Sabbath, and the Canada Pacific Railway was carried on as if there was no Sabbath. The work of construction on the last named road is proceeded with on that day as on other days. We have not shown ourselves as if in earnest; our remonstrance has been feeble. There is no use in teaching what the Sabbath is in our theological seminaries while all this goes on. The question is, are the teachings of the Christian world on this subject right? The question is not what is in line with mercantile requirements? but what is the law of God? We cannot keep our people right by silence. If the breach goes on, the consciences of all, especially the young people, will be demoralized. He had no words to express the importance of the subject.

Rev. W. D. Armstrong suggested that throughout the country electors should send deputations to wait upon their respective members before the session of Parliament, asking them to support the legislation asked for in this matter.

A resolution on the same subject from the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew was read, after which the Assembly adjourned.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The Assembly convened in Knox Church on Friday evening, when the Foreign Mission work of the Church came up for consideration. The meeting was all the more interesting on account of the presence of four of the missionaries who addressed the large assemblage present. After devotional exercises

Dr. Wardrope, Convener of the Foreign Mission Committee, presented the report for the western section. He adverted to the increased interest manifested in this important part of the Church's work. It was as life from the dead. Sympathy was awakened, energy enlisted, and liberality of resources was evoked. The best men are required for the Foreign Mission field. It used to be thought that failures at home might make successes abroad. This was now understood to be a huge mistake. At home, ministers had the support of good elders and managers, Sabbath school teachers, and a sympathizing and praying