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which we note two, namely the third that inasmuch as the fruit of vine or unfermented wine prepared for the purpose meets all requirements of the ordinance of the Lord's Supper, and inasmuch as its use would remove a stumbling block out of the way of some, and would not likely offend the conscience of any, the Synod recommends sessions to consider the propriety of using such wines in this sacrament. That the Synod instruct the committee on church life and work if circumstances shall warrant to approach by petition or otherwise the legislative body or bodies that shall be declared competent by the privy council to urge the enactment or enforcement of a prohibitory liquor law. The Rev. Peter Wright presented the

**AUGMENTATION COMMITTEE'S** report, and a deliverance was adopted with regard to the committee's report in which especial pleasure was expressed that so many congregations had during the year become independent of the fund, and that the average of grants required had been so small; also the hope that all would be encouraged to attain independence as soon as compatible with the efficient working of their respective fields. The fund was commended to the liberal and loyal support of the people.

**SABBATH SCHOOLS AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES** of Christian Endeavor were reported upon by Mr. W. M. Miller. The report stated that 171 schools had been reported during the past year, showing officers and teachers on the roll 1,234, an increase of over 200; number of scholars, including the Bible classes, on the roll 11,341, increase over previous report nearly 2,000, average attendance over 10,000; elders taking part in Sunday School work, 178; new communicants from the schools, 323; contributions for Sabbath Schools, \$7,719; raised for Home Missions and Augmentation, \$784; for Foreign Missions, \$416; for French Evangelization, \$119. Among recommendations of the committee which passed was the following:—That the congregations support and encourage the use of publications of the General Assembly's Sunday School Committee. The report on Young People's Societies showed 21 societies, of which 12 were union. The membership varied from 12 to 100. As evidence of the enterprise and zeal of the societies for mission work, contributions had been made of \$10 up to \$200. The report of the committee as a whole was adopted, and the convener tendered a vote of thanks. Rev. Dr. DuVal presented the report of the Committee on

**SYSTEMATIC BENEFICENCE.** A decrease in the givings for the general schemes of the church was shown. A comparison was entered into of the givings of a number of the Presbyteries during 1894 and 1895, as follows:—Contributions of the whole Synod, 1894, \$14,553; average per member, \$1.27; 1895, \$12,905; average per member, \$1.04; decline, \$1,648; decline per member, 23 cents. There had been an increase of membership, \$941. The gross decrease was a fraction over 11 percent. Probable reasons for the falling off were:—(1) The general financial straitness so sorely felt in 1894. (2) That the Presbytery of Winnipeg, which ordinarily gave about half the benevolence of the Synod, had been so extensively engaged in building and repairing churches as to rob the benevolence of an amount equal to about three-fourths of the decrease for the whole Synod. (3) The committee felt that there had been a grievous lack of interest in the Church's benevolent work on the part of many ministers and sessions. The one recommendation of the committee was that the Synod recommend to the Presbyteries that they urge the ministers and sessions of the Church in their respective bounds to see that their congregations are more thoroughly educated in the grace of systematic beneficence pressing upon them as part of the devout and sincere worship of God, and urging them to use every possible means to induce all the people to contribute something to the schemes of the Church. Rev. Principal King presented the report of the committee on the maintenance of the

## THEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT OF MANITOBA COLLEGE.

The theological department had held its third summer session; there had been 32 students, 12 or 13 in the graduating year, the same number in the second year and 7 in the first year. Three-fourths of the students had got their arts education in Manitoba College. Assistance next year was expected from Prof. McLaren, for the third time, in theology; Prof. Beattie, of Louisville, in apologetics; and President Patton, of Princeton. As to finances, the congregations had contributed more than had ever been done in any one year since the college was instituted. The receipts by the treasurer amounted for the year to \$5,562.52, an increase over the previous year of \$1,179.87.

The indebtedness of the fund, which in May, 1894, was \$1,167.23 had been reduced to \$665 in May 1895. The increase in contributions had been due to a great deal more general giving. Instead of 88 contributions from congregations in the previous year, there had been this year 129, being an increase of one-third. An annual contribution of \$4,000 from the constituency within these Synods was required to maintain the institution in efficiency. Rev. Dr. Robertson presented a statement from the

## CHURCH AND MANSE

building board, giving the following information: Twenty-seven churches and 4 manse erected; 1 church renovated. Synod of Manitoba and North West Territory 14 churches erected, 1 church renovated, 2 manses erected, cost \$17,050. Synod of British Columbia, 13 churches and 2 manses erected, cost \$6,000. Total cost for the two Synods \$23,050. Loans in the Synods of Manitoba and Northwest Territory 10; amount loaned, \$4,950 on buildings worth \$12,700. Loaned in the Synod of British Columbia, \$1,600, on buildings worth \$6,400. Total loaned in the two Synods, \$6,550 on buildings worth \$19,100. Thus the loans were about one-third the value of the buildings. In the Synod of Manitoba and North-west Territories there had been made 7 grants; amount \$685, on property worth \$4,350; in the Synod of British Columbia, 11 grants, amount \$1,380, on property worth \$9,600. Total in the two Synods, 18 grants, amount, \$2,065, on property worth \$13,950. The grants had thus been one-sixth less than the value of the buildings erected. The loans \$6,550 and the grants, \$2,065, made a total of \$8,615 disbursements of the year. The Church and Manse Building Fund had been in existence for thirteen and a half years; and had helped to erect 293 churches and 57 manses, in all 230 buildings; the value of this property was about \$450,000. The subject of

## HOME MISSIONS

was introduced by Rev. Dr. Robertson. He first read a synopsis of the report of the Home Mission Committee of the General Assembly, and proceeded to address the Synod, further elucidating the subject presented. Reference was made by Dr. Robertson to the change in the method of the Assembly's Home Mission Committee in allocating a lump sum to the Synod of Manitoba and the North-west Territories instead of to each mission field separately. The sums voted for the two western Synods this year were, \$17,000 to the Synod of Manitoba and the North-west Territory, and \$13,000 to the Synod of British Columbia. These figures are to include all expenses except the salary and expenses of Superintendent of Missions and the travelling expenses of students and others to and from their fields of labor. It is expected that the sum allowed by the General Assembly's Committee will prove sufficient. The saving in the two Synods for the half year as compared with expenses is \$3,427.60. Changes have also been effected in the way of reducing salaries, to an extent which the speaker said he feared was too sweeping and already its effect is seen in the greater reluctance with men to accept appointments as missionaries. The figures for the two Synods are: Attendance, 15,608; families, 5,539; single persons, 2,324 and communicants, 5,978. The number of missions in both Synods is 170, and stations 256. Services were conducted in six different languages last season. In this Synod there are twelve or thirteen fields unsupplied this winter, and seven in the Synod of British Columbia. This is not satisfactory, especially considering that the classes in eastern theological colleges were never so large, and yet never was so much difficulty experienced in getting young men to volunteer for winter service. He urged that every aid possible be extended to Manitoba College, as the Church must depend largely upon its own young men in Manitoba for the supply of properly qualified missionaries. He thought no work paid better than that of Home Missions. When he became Superintendent of Missions fourteen years ago, the Church had 167 preaching places; last summer the gospel was preached in 782 places; then there were 1,153 communicants; now the number was well on to 17,000 or 18,000; the revenue then was \$15,000, now it was \$268,000, which was one-fourth the revenue of the Church at the time of the union. Rev. Prof. Hart presented the

## FOREIGN MISSION

committee's report. It stated that marked improvement was to be observed in the Indian missions. Summarizing the facts, the reports stated that the work was carried on in twenty-two reserves, and at fifteen mission centres. There were six ordained missionaries and thirty-five lay workers. Services were held at fifty-two places in four different languages. There were seven boarding and industrial schools and three day schools, with an enrollment of 304 pupils. The work was carried on at a cost \$19,667. The report was adopted on motion of Rev. W. Rochester, who with several other ministers made most interesting addresses upon Foreign Mission work. Rev. C. W. Gordon presented an overture to be transmitted to the General Assembly praying that a

## CENTRAL EV. LIVER

be formed through which all the reports of the various committees should pass and be adjusted to each other, and to the whole work of the Church. After some discussion the matter was laid over to be brought up again at a later stage. Upon the report of a committee to which Mr. Gordon's overture was referred, it was agreed to transmit an overture to the General Assembly in terms as follows:—Whereas the administration work of the Church involving the raising and expenditure of money is carried on by several committees and boards which holding no stated conferences and acting independently of one another; and

whereas, the General Assembly receiving and dealing with the reports in succession is not thus in the best position to give that wise and effective direction to the policy of the Church which with its whole work and resources in view it might be expected to give; and whereas, as the result of this mode of action the resources of the Church are apt to be called forth rather by the special activity and methods of a particular committee or board than by the comparative needs and merits of the respective branches of the work as determined after a well considered view of the whole situation by the Assembly; now, therefore, the Synod of Manitoba and the North-west Territories humbly overture the venerable, the General Assembly, to take these premises into consideration and to constitute a committee in which the various committees and boards of the Church should have representation, whose function it should be to take the whole work of the Church into consideration and to make such suggestions to the General Assembly as might aid in giving greater unity and consistency to the policy of the Church and to discharge such other duties as the Assembly may prescribe.

## THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

At an early stage of the Synod's proceedings Rev. Principal King gave notice of the following motion on this question, in which not only the Province of Manitoba, but the whole Dominion is so much interested. After full discussion the motion was unanimously adopted.

1. This Synod being opposed on the one hand to an absolutely secular system of public education, and on the other to the bestowment of public moneys in support of denominational or sectarian schools embraces this occasion to express anew its general approval of the unsectarian public school system as now in operation in this province.

2. The Synod would strongly deprecate any interference with the existing system by the Federal Government, or any legislative action on the matter of public education in this Province by the Parliament at Ottawa, even if constitutionally competent, on these grounds: First, that the subject of education belongs properly to the provincial legislatures; second, that any such action, besides probably failing in the accomplishment of the end contemplated, is certain to endanger to an extent not easily calculated the peaceful relations which should exist between the different portions of the Dominion; and, third, that it cherishes the hope that the provincial legislature, when left to deal with the whole question freely and on its own responsibility, will endeavor to satisfy all reasonable demands of any section of the people.

3. The Synod, while deprecating any legislative interference on the part of the central government, would rejoice to see an effort made to settle existing difficulties by a conference between the authorities of the Dominion and the Province, and would not despair of a solution in large measure satisfactory as the result of such an effort.

4. The Synod would be glad to see provision made for such fuller moral and religious instruction in the public schools as might be found consistent with the maintenance of the general system, and in view of the great importance to the community of the moral and religious character of the teacher, the Synod, while gratefully acknowledging the high character as a body of the teachers of the Province, would especially urge the members of this Church to have constant and large regard to character in the appointment of teachers.

For a report as full as our limits will this week allow of the speech by which Dr. King supported his motion we refer our readers to page 782.

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