

CHURCH
WORK

Ministers and Churches

NEWS
LETTERS

SYNOD OF MONTREAL AND OTTAWA.

The annual meeting of this synod was held at Pembroke last week. A strong sermon on the duty of a Christian was preached by the Rev. John Hay, the retiring moderator, who took as his text, a verse from John ix.: 'I must work the works of him that sent me while it is day: the night cometh when no man can work.' Christ, said the speaker, although he always had the consciousness of a great life before Him, never forgot His humble duties. This was the secret of every successful life, the doing of little things while possessing a great spirit. Christ, whose work was to bring salvation to mankind, always chose as His helpers humble working-men. Once upon a time it was thought bad taste on the part of a clergyman to call for hospital subscriptions from a pulpit; now it was part of the church's work.

The sermon over nominations for moderator were then in order. The Rev. Charles E. Tanner, Windsor Mills, Que., was put in nomination from the floor by the Rev. D. D. Miller, Hawkesbury, Ont., seconded by the Rev. N. H. McGillivray, Cornwall, Ont. In proposing Mr. Tanner, the Rev. Mr. Miller dwelt on his forty years' experience as a missionary among the French Canadians. It would be a high appreciation of home mission work were the Rev. Mr. Tanner to be given the honorable position. His father had been a missionary before him, and his two sons were following in his footsteps. The other nominees Rev. Dr. D. M. Ramsay, Ottawa; Rev. D. Currie, B.D., Perth; Rev. John McDougall, Spencerville, and the Rev. Hugh Cameron, Morrisburg, Ont., then withdrew, and the Rev. Mr. Tanner was declared elected.

A hearty vote of thanks was moved to the retiring moderator, on motion of the Rev. Dr. Ramsay, of Ottawa, seconded by the Rev. Mr. Oxley, and the meeting adjourned with the benediction.

Second Day.

During the forenoon attention was given to the subjects of systematic beneficence, French evangelization, the Ottawa Ladies' College and Sunday schools. In connection with the first of these subjects approval was given to the acceptance of a definite amount for missionary work as asked for by the Laymen's Movement, and by understanding with the Committee on Missions. More than ordinary satisfaction was expressed with the outcome of the year's work at Point Aux Tremblans and with the French missionary progress generally. Mr. Menzies, the travelling agent, was recommended for reappointment for another year.

The Church Treasurer in Toronto will be called upon to make a monthly statement to the Montreal office of all moneys sent in for French work.

A Sunday in July next was set apart to suitably honor the memory of John Calvin. In connection with the commemoration the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Charles Chiquay was in the thought of the Synod.

Considerable time was devoted to the treatment of the report on Church life and work. The city of Quebec and the town of Cornwall were offered as places that would gladly welcome the Synod of 1910. Inasmuch as the place of meeting for this year is at the extreme western part of the Synod bounds it was deemed inadvisable to go so far east as Quebec next year. Cornwall was,

therefore, chosen, and the second Tuesday in May was decided upon as the date.

The citizens of Pembroke shared with the Synod in a conference at the evening meeting. The subject for the Conference was "A Presbyterian Brotherhood," which was introduced in the absence of the Convener of the General Assembly Committee on Social and Moral Reform by the minister of the church in which the Synod is holding its meetings. Several members of the Synod participated in the discussion, which was followed by the concluding theme of the evening, "The Home Missionary operations as conducted within the Presbyteries of Quebec, Montreal, Glengarry, Brookville, Lanark and Renfrew and Ottawa."

Third Day.

The third day and closing day of the Synod was entered upon with a discussion over the appointment of a superintendent of missions for the district covered by this Synod, but more particularly for the Presbyteries of Quebec and the new districts of the Province of Quebec, that are opening up through railway traffic and the use of the magnificent water powers that are scattered here and there so numerously in that part of Canada. It was determined to overture the General Assembly next June with a view to such an appointment, and Rev. J. A. MacFarlane, of Levis, Dr. Armstrong, of Ottawa, and Dr. Mowatt, of Montreal were appointed to support this overture.

A series of resolutions was passed upon a report on social and moral reform submitted for the consideration of the Synod by Rev. J. W. Tanner, of Lancaster.

Another series followed Dr. Ramsay's presentation on the augmentation scheme, after which on a report presented by Rev. N. H. McGillivray, of Cornwall, the Synod appointed fourteen standing committees to take charge of the same number of departments of work for the current ecclesiastical year.

A report prepared by Rev. A. H. Scott, of Perth on the funds for aged and infirm ministers and widows and orphans was considered. In the terms of the recommendations contained in the report the Synod was asked to endorse an equitable and adequate apportionment by which the fund for aged ministers might be made increasingly efficient. It is expected that the new interest displayed through the Laymen's Movement will affect for good the aim that the Presbyterian Church has in view in making the evening of life as comfortable as possible for its aged ministers. Encouragement was given to the endeavor to improve the endowment of the fund for the widows and orphans of ministers, so that each widow should receive a minimum annuity of two hundred dollars.

The reports on ecclesiastical co-operation, public education and foreign missions were received and dealt with in a hurried way towards the close of the Synod.

A few minutes were devoted to the obituaries of the year, and then the Synod Treasurer presented a satisfactory report.

The Rev. A. J. Sutherland, Kingsbury, Que., presented the report of the committee on home missions. Fifty-five fields and ninety-one preaching stations were worked last year, with an average attend-

ance of 4,500 and 2,150 respectively. The Synod had disbursed \$14,700 during the year, with \$11,000 from the home mission funds of the Church.

The Montreal Presbytery failed in its giving to missions, although having the high average of \$1.98 per family, only four churches out of twelve contributed. A hundred and fifty-seven thousand five hundred dollars had been given to home missions last year, but there remained a deficit of \$16,500. An appeal for \$195,000 would be made this year.

A recommendation of this report, which caused considerable discussion was that regarding increase to student missionaries. The report asked that the Synod recommend to the General Assembly that the salaries of student missionaries be increased, but on motion of the Rev. Dr. W. D. Armstrong, Ottawa, the matter will be referred to the home mission committee of the General Assembly, at its next meeting.

In view of the prevalence of the gambling spirit, the committee on Church life and work, through its convener, the Rev. E. W. McKay, Smith's Falls, Ont., at yesterday afternoon's session, asked the Synod to express its disapproval of the prominence given to betting and wagers in the sporting columns of many daily papers.

The Rev. Orr Bennett, Almonte, convener of the Sunday-school Committee, reported that a field secretary had been appointed for the coming summer. The Synod approved. The Rev. Mr. Bennett announced that special efforts would be made in all Sunday-schools to arouse an intelligent interest, and that provisions would be made for systematic giving to the mission schemes of the Church. Teacher training classes would be established wherever possible.

OTTAWA LADIES' COLLEGE.

Rev. Dr. Armstrong, president, presented the report of the Ottawa Ladies College.

Of a total attendance of 146 pupils, 72 were in residence. Those taking music at the Canadian Conservatory numbered 34, students in elocution totalled 42, while the domestic science class included 25. A new department in psychology had been started and of its 21 members all passed the difficult test set from Toronto, 16 with honors.

A debt of \$9,000 remains on the building and the time for wiping off the mortgage was extended one year.

The splendid work of the lady principal, Miss M. Boyd, was specially mentioned. The national scope of the institution was also emphasized, the school being the only one of its kind maintained by the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Pupils are in attendance from every corner of the Dominion, from Vancouver to Glace Bay, Cape Breton.

The Synod passed a hearty vote of concurrence in the report and recommended the institution to the confidence of the Church.

The putting down of new carpet and matting in the Loring church has greatly improved its appearance.

The Eganville Leader says:—The congregations of Douglas and Scotch Bush have introduced the weekly envelope system for the general revenue of the congregations and session schemes of the church. The indications so far are for increased interest and larger revenues. By this simple method a large number of persons are contributing more systematically than formerly.