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NEWFOUNDLAND CONFERENCE.

The fourth annual meeting of the Newfoundland Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada, commenced its sittings in the new and beautiful church at Carbonear, on Wednesday, June 13th, 1877, at 9.30 a. m. The President, the Rev. James Dove, in the chair.

After the singing of hymn 478, the Secretary, Rev. J. Goodison read the 103 Psalm. The Rev. W. E. Shennstone and the Rev. T. Watson Smith of the Nova Scotia Conference engaged in prayer.

The Roll was then called, and the Conference proceeded to elect its chief officers for the present year, and with the following results: For President, Rev. John Goodison; for Secretary, Rev. Jos. Pascoe; for Journal Secretary, the Rev. J. G. Currie. The Revs. G. H. Bryant, F. G. Willey, and Thomas W. Atkinson were chosen as the Sub-secretaries.

The President on taking the chair, briefly, fittingly, and with suppressed emotion, acknowledged the vote in his favour, and asked the prayers of his brethren on taking this important office.

The Secretary and Journal Sec'y. in brief speeches thanked the brethren for their confidence in placing them in their offices of trust. The following resolutions were unanimously adopted by the Conference:—

1. That the thanks of the Conference are due and are hereby presented to the ex-President, the Rev. James Dove, for the very efficient discharge of the onerous duties of the Presidential office during the past year.

2. That the cordial thanks of the Conference be presented to the Rev. J. Goodison, Secretary of the Conference, to the Rev. Joseph Pascoe, Journal Secretary, and to the Subsecretaries for their very efficient services during the past year.

These votes were acknowledged by the brethren concerned and suitably replied to.

The rest of the session was employed in forming the several Conference committees. It was determined that the hours of Conference session be from half-past 9 a. m., to half-past 12; and from half-past 2 to half-past 5 p. m. Conference adjourned till 3 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Conference commenced by singing the 428th hymn. Bro. G. S. Milligan, M. A., engaged in prayer. The Missionary Committee and that for the examination of candidates for the ministry were appointed. On motion it was resolved to adjourn until Thursday morning, meantime the Missionary Committee met and transacted business. The examination of candidates was also proceeded with. The first draft of Stations was laid on the table.

Session closed with benediction by the President.

SECOND DAY, JUNE 14.

Session opened by singing 406th hymn. The Secretary read 4th chap St. Paul's 2d Epis. Cor. Bro. Harris led in prayer.

It was decided on motion that the Conference adjourn, and resolve itself into the Missionary Fund committee, and proceed at once to business. At noon the Conference prayer meeting was held. Several brethren engaged in prayer. It was a time of refreshing to our souls. The Master was felt to be eminently present and precious. May the petitions for Zion's prosperity be answered.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Session opened by singing the 640th hymn. Bro. Thomas James engaged in prayer. The work of the Missionary committee being incomplete it was resolved on motion to adjourn Conference until Friday morning.

At night the Missionary meeting was held, the President in the chair. The speakers were Revs. Thomas Harris, John

Pratt, G. H. Bryant, George Boyd and James Nurse. The Report was read by the Secretary, the Rev. S. B. Dunn. The receipts were in excess of last year by some \$600. The speakers spoke to topics, and each seemed to vie with the other in advocating the claims of missions. The collection was good considering so many of the people of this circuit are away at Labrador.

THIRD DAY, JUNE 15.

Session opened by singing the 415th hymn. Secretary read 2nd chapter Eph. Bro. John S. Peach engaged in prayer.

The Conference adjourned on motion until 3 p. m., to allow the several committees to meet.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Session opened by singing 503 hymn. Bro. Charles Ladner led the Conference in prayer. On motion it was resolved that brethren Alexr. McGregor and Wm. R. Tratt be sent to Sackville Institution. The oral examination of the candidates for ordination was fixed for Saturday morning. After other business had been disposed of, the second draft of Stations was laid on the table, and the President having pronounced the benediction the session closed.

At night the Educational meeting was held. The President in the chair. The speakers were Rev. Charles Stewart, D.D., of Sackville, Rev. G. S. Milligan, M. A., Revs. James Dove, ex-President, and F. George Willey. The Rev. G. J. Bond, A. B., read the Report. The meeting was largely attended by a very attentive people, who seemed to fully appreciate the object for which the meeting was convened.

FOURTH DAY, JUNE 16.

The session began by singing the 352 hymn. The Sec'y read 2 chap 2 Timothy. Dr. Stewart engaged in prayer. Dr. Stewart was requested by the President to take a seat on the platform and assist at the deliberations of the Conference. On motion it was resolved that the Report of the Theological committee of Sackville College be received and considered.

Resolved that Bro. J. P. Bowell be permitted to remain at Sackville another year.

The recommendation of the committee in reference to the return of Bro. Edgar Taylor was under consideration for some time, and the Conference felt that such were the exigencies of our work that it was unable to comply with the desire of the committee in this respect.

After the oral examination of the candidates for ordination, the sitting closed with the Benediction by Bro. George S. Milligan, M. A.

THE AFTERNOON SESSION

Opened by singing 343 hymn, Bro. Jeremiah Embree engaged in prayer.

A letter of resignation having been received from Rev. James Alexander, on account of his health failing. It was resolved that the resignation of Bro. Alexander be accepted, and that letters of recommendation be given him expressive of the regret of the Conference at the occasion of this act, and also of the best wishes for his future happiness.

On motion it was resolved that a service for the ordination of candidates be conducted in this church on Monday evening, and that similar service be held in Wesley Church, Harbor Grace, on Tuesday evening.

The Rev. T. Watson Smith was requested by the President to take a seat on the platform and assist in the deliberations of the Conference.

On motion it was resolved that the following brethren be received into full connexion and ordained, viz.: George Boyd, George H. Bryant, Robert Wright Freeman, Jabez Hill, Joseph Parkins and John Pratt. Sitting closed with Benediction by Dr. Stewart of Sackville.

The Sabbath services will long be remembered by those who had the pleasure of attending them.

The morning service in the Conference church was conducted (by request of the President) by the Rev. T. Watson Smith, of the Nova Scotia Conference, who founded his remarks upon John xv. 5, "For without me ye can do nothing." It was evident that God graciously assisted our dear brother in speaking from these words. They were indeed blessed to the souls of those who heard him. The Conference forenoon service was one of the best ever attended. At night we were favored with a very lucid exposition upon Titus

2nd chap. from 11th to 15th verses, by the Rev. C. Stewart, D.D., of Sackville. Seldom have we heard any thing to equal the very able, earnest and eloquent manner in which the Dr. treated his subject. But the best of all was that God was felt applying his word to the hearts of those who listened, and we have no doubt great good was effected. After the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered, and thus closed a high day to the inhabitants of Carbonear, and to the ministers assembled in their annual Conference.

FIFTH DAY, JUNE 18.

Session commenced by singing 389 hymn. Sec'y read 61st of Isaiah. Bro. S. B. Dunn engaged in prayer.

After other business of the Conference had been attended to. It was resolved on motion that the following circuits be divided:—

1. Grand Bank. Fortune to be the head of the new circuit. 2. Brigus. Cupids to be the head of the new circuit. 3. Blackhead. Western Bay to be the head of the new circuit. 4. Hants Harbor. A mission to be formed of Hearts Content, Hearts Delight, New Pelican and Scilly Cove, and that Lance Cove be taken from the Old Pelican circuit and placed to the Hants Harbor circuit. Sitting closed with Benediction by President.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Session opened by singing 143 hymn. The Sec'y engaged in prayer.

On motion it was resolved that Bay St. George be added to the Channel Mission.

On motion it was resolved that Bergeoe be added to the Petites Mission.

On motion it was decided that Savage and Happy Adventure be included in the Musgrave Town Mission. On motion it was resolved that Quirpon and the French Shore Westward be included in the Flower Cove Mission. St. Anthony to include Ingale.

The Question. Who have died since last Conference was then asked.

The President gave out the 735th hymn, after which the Rev. G. S. Milligan, M. A., engaged in prayer. It was then announced that Bro. John Dixon had died during the year. Several brethren feelingly referred to our late brother, expressing their high estimation of his character and talents. It was resolved that the minute of the St. Johns District referring to Bro. Dixon be recorded and published in the Minutes of Conference.

Arrangements were then made for the Ordination Services. On motion it was resolved that Day School business be the order of the day on to-morrow.

Sitting closed with Benediction by President.

The ordination Service at night was one of deep solemnity and much hallowed feeling. Brethren Jabez Hill, Joseph Parkins, Geo. Henry Bryant and Geo. Boyd were publicly set apart for the office of the ministry by the imposition of hands. The charge was delivered by the Ex-President and was founded upon part of the 20th verse of the 5th chapter of 2 Cor., and was a very able earnest and eloquent description of the duties, trials and rewards of the ambassadors of Christ.

SIXTH DAY, JUNE 19.

Session opened by singing hymn 569. Secretary read Psalm 19. Brother John Reay led in prayer.

The candidates for the ministry were informed by the President that they were received on trial.

On motion it was resolved: "That a Colporteur be immediately employed in connexion with our work in this Island. After this the Conference resolved itself into Day School Committee.

The afternoon session opened with singing hymn 213, Brother Solomon Matthews engaged in prayer.

On motion it was unanimously resolved "That the thanks of the Conference be presented to the ex-President the Rev. James Dove for the faithful, earnest and eloquent charge delivered by him to the newly ordained ministers in the Methodist Church, Carbonear on the evening of Monday June 18th and that he be requested to publish it. To this the President briefly replied.

The Stationing Committee having to meet, the discussion on the matter of Colportage was deferred. Conference adjourned till 4 o'clock. Conference having resumed its session, the final draft of Stations was laid on the table.

Sitting closed with Benediction by President.

The ordination of Brethren Robert Wright Freeman and John Pratt took place this evening at Wesley Church Harbor Grace. Dr. Stewart of Sackville delivered the charge which was founded upon 28th verse 20th chapter Acts of the Apostles. The church was well filled. The congregation gave rapt attention during the whole service. Everything conducted to make the service a success and we believe its memory will linger long with those who were privileged to attend. Never has it been our privilege to listen to a better charge than the one delivered by our esteemed and highly educated Theological Professor.

SEVENTH DAY, JUNE 20TH.

Session opened by singing, hymn 399. Secretary read 15th chapter St. Johns Gospel. Brother Swann engaged in prayer.

Dr. Stewart, according to previous requisition was invited to address the Conference on Educational matter during the afternoon session.

The Statistical Returns then came under review.

The ex-President brought before the notice of the Conference a communication from the Rev. Dr. Pickard relating to the Amalgamation of the Supernumary Fund. It was under consideration for sometime when a very satisfactory conclusion was unanimously adopted.

On motion it was unanimously resolved that the sincere thanks of this Conference be presented to Rev. Charles Stewart D.D., Theological Professor at Sackville College, for the faithful, able, affectionate and eloquent charge delivered by him to the newly ordained ministers in the Wesley Harbor Grace Church on the evening of Tuesday, June, 19th and that he be requested to publish it. To this the Dr. suitably replied thanking the Conference for its appreciation of his services, but sorry that he could not comply with the request.

On motion it was resolved that a committee be appointed to consider the distribution of the whole of our Conference work into three Districts and report at an early day next Conference.

By ballot the Rev. Thos. Harris was elected the chairman of the St. John's District, and the Rev. Joseph Pascoe was appointed Financial Sec'y of the same.

Rev. Charles Ladner was appointed the Financial Sec'y of the Carbonear District.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Session opened by singing 320 hymn. Bro. James engaged in prayer.

Dr. Stewart addressed the Conference upon the claims of our Educational Society, and upon motion it was resolved, That this Conference recognizes the importance of the work in which he and others are engaged, and assure them of its hearty sympathy.

The Colportage committee was then formed and the names given adopted by the Conference.

The vote by ballot for the member of the Central Missionary Board resulted in the election of Rev. T. Harris, and that for the Transfer committee on the election of Rev. James Dove.

Sitting closed with Benediction by Bro. Harris.

OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

SABBATH DESECRATION.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—There is a party, principally under the leading of Mr. P. A. Taylor, M. P., and made up of a few clergymen, and prominent men in various departments, persistently urging year after year, for the opening of Museums and Picture Galleries on the Sabbath. They manifest zeal worthy of a better cause, and by means of public meetings and the press, continue to get up an appearance of importance and weight altogether out of proportion to their real strength. They continue to have the question annually debated in Parliament, and avail themselves of that opportunity to bring forward their great men, and to ventilate the arguments which are most likely to tell in their favor. We trust that notwithstanding all these indefatigable efforts they are not making any decided advance, or have any reliable prospect of success. In a recent division in the House of Commons they were beaten by a very large majority, and for another year at least the question is settled, but the warfare will be kept up and the people of God who desire the sanctity of the Sabbath maintained, will have to watch the movements of those men and reso-

lutely meet them and their oft-repeated arguments.

JOHN WICKLIFFE.

It is just 500 years since this great and good man, "the morning star of the Reformation," was denounced by the Pope, and his work condemned. The event is being duly remembered in England, and commemorative services are being held. Sermons have been preached in which ample justice has been done to the memory of the grand old sturdy Reformer. The public meeting in Exeter Hall was not successful. The attendance was meagre. Earl Shaftesbury and other celebrities did not appear. Dr. Cuthers, who is secretary of the Christian League and Systematic Benevolence Society was the organizer of the meeting, and endeavored to utilize the occasion in some way to promote the objects of his own project. He did not make himself quite sure of the celebrities whose names he published, and the result was failure and disappointment. It was a great pity that the efforts was not more vigorously taken in hand and made a grand success at this time when attempts are being made in many quarters to deny the works of the Reformers, and to neutralize the blessing they secured for the English nation.

THE BURIALS BILL.

is still the most prominent and exciting topic of the day. In all circles it is being warmly discussed, and the papers teem with contributions on both sides of the question. The clergy cling to their present monopoly of the churchyards with a strange pertinacity, and will not, until actually forced by a Parliamentary power yield an atom of their privilege. It is asserted that in four days they were able to secure to a petition or declaration to the House of Lords over

11,000 CLERICAL SIGNATURES

in which they reassert all previous claims and manifest unyielding hostility to any concession to the demands of the Nonconformists. But the loud protest and alarmed attitude of the clergy produced no effect upon the House of Lords. The amendment of Lord Harrowby conceding freedom of interment with religious observances to all Christian communions, was actually carried in opposition to the Government by a majority of 16. This was a crushing defeat both to the clerical party and to the conservative government. The further discussion of the measure was postponed for a week to give time for consideration. It will be not much surprise, if the Bill is entirely withdrawn for the present. It will be a terrible humiliation for them to be compelled to combine the objectionable clause in their Bill, and they cannot now pass it without so doing. They can defer it for a little, trusting to the future to mitigate the severity of defeat. The question will not be allowed to rest even if the Lords decline present action. Notice has already been given that a resolution will be moved in the House of Commons, in the event of their Lordships' Bill not being sent down. In fact it appears that the victory is won. It is only a question of time as to when the concession will come into operation.

THE WAR

has already dismembered Turkey, for Roumania has declared its determination no longer to pay tribute, or yield obedience in any form. This was fully to be expected from the reception granted to the Russians. It will curtail the Turkish dominion, and be suggestive to other Principalities to catch at the present opportunity of Turkish embarrassment and preoccupation to free themselves from suffering and oppression.

THE GREAT CAMPAIGN

proceeds slowly. In Asia the advantages are with the Russians who are surely advancing and making their positions safe as they progress. On the Danube the immense preparations and the falling of the water indicate the near approach of the terrible adventure. It is a fearful task, but the Russians will accomplish it regardless of life or cost. A few days more will probably determine the great issue of the war, for if the Turks are thoroughly beaten at this stage of the conflict, they have not the means at their command, or spirit enough to make any lengthened or formidable resistance to the hosts of the invader, but will in all probability sue for peace.

June 28, 1877.