

particular had transpired; but that the matter had been before the Dominion Parliament, when the Minister of Public Works intimated that as little labour as possible had been done on the Government Lines. That which has been done, your Committee trust is that which shall be done, and that no regular traffic on the Lord's Day will be allowed on any part of the extending Railway Lines of the enlarging Dominion.

Amidst much that is encouraging, your Committee remind the Synod that continued cause for humiliation, watchfulness, and effort exists in the fact that much pleasure-seeking on the Lord's Day is still practised, and that a large amount of indifference to the public and private worship of God on His own day, prevails in some parts of the Church, and is exhibited by some of its members and adherents. As means of improving this low state of Sabbath observance, your Committee have but to reiterate and urge former recommendations. The sin of desecrating the Lord's Day should be frequently referred to by the preachers of the Word. Its hurtful effects on Christian life and enjoyment, and on the hearts and consciences of all, should be freely and fully presented to the hearers of the Gospel. The young and the indifferent should be instructed, encouraged and assisted by pastors, Sabbath school teachers, and parents, to remember, and act accordingly, that they are placed under the law of the Sabbath for their own good and the Divine glory. Let the attractiveness of holy joy be diffused in the hearts of Christians on the Lord's Day: let the blessedness of true worshippers be exhibited by those who love this day; and with precept and example thus combined, good impressions may be produced, and desirable results may undoubtedly be expected to the glory of God.

Former recommendations as to watchfulness on the part of members of Synod residing in the centres of population, appear to be as much required as ever. In addition to these your Committee see cause to invite the attention of ministers and elders residing at seaports to the duty of watching the movements of managers and crews of ships in port as regards labor on the holy Sabbath. The reported unloading of some steamers on the Lord's Day, is sufficient to prompt the suggestion, even though the circumstances connected with the labour are not fully known by the Committee. During the season of the "shad fishing," a considerable amount of work is engaged in during the sacred hours of the Sabbath by some connected with this business. All such labour should, if possible, be prevented as wrong in itself, and as a bad example to the crews of smaller vessels, and to

farmers and mechanics. Our farmers, who rigidly abstain from farm labour on the Lord's Day, have on many occasions just as good an excuse for such work as seamen in port and fishermen. When earnest Christian and prayerful efforts and influences fail in securing cessation from such labour, magistrates may be asked and encouraged to cause these labours to cease by the exercise of the authority vested in them.

In closing the Report nothing appears to be necessary beyond reminding the members of Synod of the duty and privilege of striving to maintain and promote with increasing devotedness and zeal the sanctification of the holy Sabbath. Unless the hearers of the Gospel give some degree of attention to the Word, and shun amusements on the Lord's Day, the Gospel is not likely to come with power to their souls. Only when Christians allow the Spirit of God a quiet opportunity of operating on their hearts, as on the hallowed hours of the Sabbath, can they confidently expect growth in the graces of the Spirit. The chosen occupation of holy time in amusements, indifference or slothful indulgence, is directly opposed to the necessary work of the Holy Spirit in regenerating and sanctifying the soul of man. Let all pastors, therefore, who desire to see the pleasure of the Lord prospering in their hands, earnestly and prayerfully endeavour to secure for the precious souls under their care the proper use of the time which "God requires to be spent as a holy Sabbath to Himself."

All which is respectfully submitted by the Committee.

ROBERT LAIRD, *Convener.*

The Report was received and adopted, and the following motion agreed to:

That the Synod authorize the Convener to open correspondence with similar Committees, in connection with other Churches, with a view to secure co-operation in efforts to preserve the sanctity of the Lord's Day.

#### Rules and Forms of Procedure.

The Committee in charge of the Rules and Forms reported. The book as a whole was adopted unanimously, as a useful exhibit of the Law and practice of our church courts.

It was then agreed that at least 1000 copies be published; and it was remitted to the original Committee of three, with the addition of the Synod Clerk and Mr. R. Murray to secure the publication on the most reasonable terms, and so to arrange the price and form as to prevent its becoming