

annuitants on the application of the Presbytery of Kingston. The report of the eastern section of the fund was presented. It appeared that the receipts had been, including balance \$624.50, \$2,312.65. The fund had been enriched by a bequest of \$20,000 by Mr McLeod, of Halifax. The report was adopted.

Afternoon Session.

WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.

The report of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund of the branch formerly in connection with the Church of Scotland was taken up. It appeared that the total assets were \$104,653, the receipts \$41,470, and the expenditure \$24,000, with \$17,000 cash in hand.

By the report of the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund of the late Canada Presbyterian Church it appeared that the receipts were \$30,281, and the assets \$101,877. Three annuitants had been removed from the list by death and three added. \$19,321 had been invested, and there remained \$1,559 balance in hand.

The eastern section report was read. It showed that the amount in hand of the two funds (those of the Presbyterian Church in the Lower Provinces and the Church of Scotland), which had now been united, amounted to \$59,000. This sum included a bequest of \$20,000 from the late Mr. McLeod, of Halifax.

The reports were adopted.

STATISTICS.

Rev. R. Torrance presented the report of the Committee on Statistics. It appeared that there are in the Church 799 pastoral charges, an increase of 9 on last year; there are 122 vacancies, 3 more than last year; mission stations, 109, last year 101, but the returns are incomplete; congregations and stations 1,011, last year 903; the total number of churches and stations supplied by pastors 1,493, or adding mission stations 1,714, a decrease of 26. The families reach 69,507, an increase of 1,328; of communicants there are 219,603, an increase of 2,725; sittings in churches 350,432, an increase of 16,097; mansees 434 and 65 rented houses, an increase of 1 manse and 3 rented houses. The total amount of stipend promised by congregations was \$547,579, an increase of \$18,478; stipend paid, \$553,393, \$5,814 of an increase; raised for the schemes of the Church \$167,384, a falling off of \$55,085. The total income of the Church was \$1,422,783. The average contribution per family throughout the Church for stipend was \$7.96, last year \$8.06; per communicant \$4.62, last year \$4.65; for all strictly congregational purposes the average per family was \$17.15, last year \$16.87, and from communicants \$596, last year \$57.72; for the schemes of the Church the average per family was \$2.40, last year \$3.38, and per communicant \$1.40, last year \$1.05; for all purposes the average per family was \$20.67, last year \$21.48, and per communicant \$12.01, last year \$12.38. In only one item of the averages was there an increase.

MANITOBA COLLEGE.

Rev. Principal MacVicar took the chair.

The report of the committee on Manitoba College was presented by Rev. Principal Grant. He stated that the financial burden on the college was heavy—not too heavy considering the work done—and it made it a serious matter the increasing of the financial responsibility. The proposal really was to form a new theological college. Reviewing the whole case, the committee had concluded that the Church could not avoid going forward. The committee recommended that the Assembly continue the annual collection in aid of the college, and that it be taken on the last Sabbath in January; that the Assembly renew the application made last year to the churches in Scotland and the Presbyterian Church in Ireland for aid in carrying on the work in the North-West, and in view of the heavy financial obligations incurred by the Board of Manitoba College, the Board be authorized to appoint an especial agent to present the claims of the college; that the salaries of Professor Bryce and Hart be raised to \$2,000; that the Assembly authorize the Board to appoint an additional lecturer in arts should the Board consider the condition of the ordinary revenue warrants the expenditure; that the prayer of the memorial for the Assembly to appoint a professor in theology be granted. The committee recommends the appointment of Rev. John M. King, D.D., as Professor of Theology and Principal of the College.

The recommendations were considered *seriatim* and adopted, that appointing Rev. Dr. King Principal of Manitoba College being received with loud applause.

Rev. Principal Caven, Prof. McLaren, D. J. Macdonnell, G. M. Milligan, Dr. Cochrane, Prof. Gregg, and others addressed the Assembly in terms highly eulogistic and appreciative of Dr. King, though they regretted the loss which the church of Toronto would suffer.

Rev. Principal MacVicar intimated the appointment to the Moderator. Dr. King with much feeling addressed the House. He expressed himself as deeply touched by the proceedings of the past few minutes, and as undeserving of the far too kind words which had fallen from the lips of his brethren. He said it was only last evening that he had heard his name whispered in connection with this position. Since then he had reflected on the matter. When he considered that it was now nearly twenty-six years since he entered service in the ministry, and that it was twenty since he became pastor of his present congregation, he had thought that it was the intention of God that he should spend the remainder of his days as a pastor. He did not wish to be understood as expressing the opinion that the work of the pastorate was less important than that in the professorial life. He had no wish to change the form of activity in connection with Christ's work, in which he was now engaged. He said that this call he could not accept until he had a larger acquaintance with the work which was to be done, and until he had taken into his confidence the session and the congregation with which for so many years he had been associated in carrying on work for God, and at whose hands he had received so much kindness. If after serious and prayerful consideration he should decide to go, he said it

would indeed be pain to part with a people who had been so dear, and with the brethren whose confidence and intercourse at home he prized so much. And if he recognized the Divine voice saying to him to go, he could not but obey. But in the event of not seeing his way to accept the invitation now unanimously addressed to him, it must be understood by this General Assembly that his honour was uncompromised. In the anxious days that were to come, he said he knew he had the prayers of at least some of the brethren. He asked for the prayers of all that he might do what was best for carrying on the work of Christ.

DISTRIBUTION OF PROBATIONERS.

The Rev. Mr. Torrance presented the report of the committee on the distribution of probationers. The committee expressed the opinion that it was impossible to adopt a scheme that could be followed to advantage by the whole Church, and it appeared that the scheme they now had was the least adapted under the circumstances.

Rev. D. D. McLeod moved that the report of the committee be received and the committee instructed to proceed with their work in accordance with the regulations at present in force, and remit the scheme proposed by the Home Mission Committee to the Presbyteries for consideration, to gether with the overture from the Synod of Hamilton and London in regard to the supply of vacant congregations.

Evening Session.

DEBATE ON TEMPERANCE.

Rev. J. K. Smith said he thought, in view of the late period at which this question had come up it would be wiser not to adopt the motion to re-commit.

Rev. D. Fraser said: I perhaps, should apologize to the Assembly for not having noticed the bearing of the sentences in regard to the last licensing law. Certainly, if I had noticed its bearing, I should have moved to have it struck out, and if we all agreed to-night, as a member of the Committee I would be quite willing to have it struck out now. I think myself it was a mistake for the convenor to have inserted it, for the reason that there are few if any members of this Assembly who have read this license law and considered it in all its bearings. I may state that this statement has no political significance.

Rev. John Laing proposed an amendment "that the paragraph following after the words 'terrible evil of intoxicating drink' be struck out, and that the following be added 'and until this can be accomplished hails with satisfaction every act of the legislature, whether Local or Federal, which tends to restrict intemperance.'" My reasons are those which were given in the Synod of Hamilton and London at its late meeting. I quite agree that this Court will not surrender its right to review any Act of any Parliament under which we live, but I quite agree at times it is inexpedient to use that right. I think that the use that has been made of the discussion of last night shows that it is inexpedient to bring into the Assembly the consideration of Acts about which there is great political feeling. Still it is perfectly inconsistent for this Church to pass judgment upon any Acts which are not on the table of the House. I object that we are asked to approve of the Act of 1878. I don't know how many of those now listening to me have read that Act through; and I don't know how many of those who have read it through could pass an examination on it now. Yet, we are asked to pass an opinion on it. We are all agreed with the principle of it, and I think we shall have no difficulty in agreeing to my amendment. It is that we hail with satisfaction every Act of the legislature, whether Local or Federal, which tends to restrict the liquor traffic.

Rev. Dr. Burns—I think it is very inexpedient for the Church to commit itself to this new Act in regard to which we know very little. But I think it is presuming a little too much on the ignorance and want of knowledge of the General Assembly to say that we don't know the provisions of the act of 1878, or the Scott Act as it is called. I think that the Scott Act is pretty well known by this time. Although at one time it might have been thought prudent to adopt the course advocated by Mr. Laing, I think it would be misunderstood if we did so now. Two years ago we adopted by a large majority a motion such as we are now asked to do in reference to this very Act; and in 1881, at our Kingston meeting, we expressed our approval of the Scott Act. Now, when this comes in as an amendment to a similar motion, it would place us in an inconsistent position if we recede from that taken up in former years. I think we should adhere to the course we have adopted. Down east the Scott Act has been adopted, and we know that it has worked very well.

Rev. D. Fraser said: The clause does not approve of the Scott Act, but only of the principle.

Rev. Dr. Gregg suggested that Rev. John Smith should be allowed to amend the motion so that it would approve of the principle instead of the Act.

Rev. Thomas Macpherson said: If that motion is annulled in the way suggested I claim the right to have my motion put. I only withdraw it on the preamble being there.

It was here resolved that the motion be taken up clause by clause.

Rev. John Smith moved, without expressing any opinion on the details, that the report be read as follows:

"The Assembly would take this opportunity to renew the testimony heretofore borne against the evil of intemperance. Every year makes it plainer that intemperance is the chief cause of poverty, and a great source of crime, and a prolific source of disease and death."

The clause was adopted without debate, as was the next: "The Assembly would therefore earnestly recommend to the office-bearers and members of the Church to practice total abstinence."

He then read the third clause as he proposed to amend it:—

"Further, the Assembly approves of legislative prohibition of the liquor traffic as correct in principle, and best calculated to diminish the terrible evils of intemperance."

Mr. W. Staveley made a short address. He thought no Act went far enough.

Rev. Dr. Gregg moved as an amendment as follows:—

"The Assembly approves of the principle of the Act of 1878 as an important means of limiting the liquor traffic and educating the people for total prohibition."

Rev. Thomas McPherson said: I fail to see how principle can be the means of effecting anything or educating a people. It is the practice of the principle which must do this.

Rev. Dr. Gregg said: We wish to let the people know what our principles are, so that a knowledge of the principle will affect them, and Parliament too for that matter. I feel sure that this Assembly will not fall back from the noble testimony borne two years ago, and again one year ago.

Rev. Dr. McLaren seconded the amendment.

The amendment was put and carried.

On the amendment being put as the substantive motion, Dr. Laing said the testimony borne in 1881 was as follows: "That the Assembly approves the legislative prohibition of the liquor traffic as correct in principle, and especially the Assembly approves of the principle of the Canada Temperance Act of 1878, and trusts that any amendment made will be in the direction of increased stringency and efficiency, and that retrogressive legislation will be avoided." This was carried by a vote of 44 to 25, not such a large majority. So much for the testimony in regard to the principle of the Act. Now what is the principle of the Scott Act?

A voice—Local option.

Dr. Laing said: Yes, it is local option. We have the Scott Act agitation in our country this year, and we have passed through it and are thankful it is over, and hope it will not be repeated. While Dr. Burns considers us well informed on the Act, I may just state what happened in our country a little while ago. We had a meeting in regard to carrying on the Scott Act, and a discussion arose as to what was in the Act. You may think it strange, but we know more about it than those in the meeting did, though they were reveries, and the leading men of the district. My amendment declares that it will hail with satisfaction wisely directed legislation towards restricting the liquor traffic.

Rev. Dr. Cochrane said: I need say very little about this. We ought to be consistent, and refer to no Act at all, so that we should favour neither party. The Scott Act was a move in the right direction, and still in the opinion of very good temperance people it is very far from doing what it was expected to do. I have been told by a druggist that when the Scott Act is in operation that he could sell any amount from a pint to ten gallons on a doctor's certificate, and that he had sold ten gallons.

Rev. Dr. Laing's amendment was put and lost by a vote of 22 to 44.

The next clauses were put and carried, recommending the members of the Church to aid and encourage the establishing of office-houses and temperance hotels. The Assembly recommends the ministers of the Church to bring the subject of temperance before their congregations on the third Sabbath of December, or some other suitable day. The Assembly instructs the Committee to send out their questions at an early day, so that time may be given to discuss the whole subject in sessions, presbyteries, and synods. The Assembly instructs the Committee to correspond with other Churches with a view to united action in petitioning the Government, or in any other action that they think desirable.

The recommendations were adopted as amended.

Rev. John Laing said: I wish my dissent to be recorded. I wish to keep myself free when any questions come up concerning Acts of Parliament.

Evening Session.

Rev. D. M. Gordon moved a resolution referring to the appointment of Rev. Dr. King as Professor of Theology and Principal of Manitoba College, stating the salary to be \$3,000, making arrangements for his release from his pastoral charge in the event of his acceptance, and providing that the Presbytery of Manitoba shall continue to make such arrangements as may be needed for the carrying on of the work in the event of his declining. The motion was adopted.

Consideration of the amended report of the Judicial Committee on the case of the Rev. Dr. Barclay was resumed. In its original form the report was objected to by Rev. Principal Caven on the ground that it unduly reflected on the Presbytery of Toronto, inasmuch as it asserted that a claim which the Toronto Presbytery had declared to be inadmissible was allowed. The report was amended so as to read that \$845 were granted, and the Committee did not advise the Assembly to take any further action in the matter.

The report was adopted.

DISTRIBUTION OF PROBATIONERS.

The question of the distribution of probationers was resumed. The overture from Hamilton Presbytery was read and supported by Rev. George Yeomans and Rev. R. J. Laidlaw. The overture suggested a similar plan to that tried in Manitoba.

The motion by Rev. D. D. McLeod was adopted.

An overture from the Presbytery of Bruckville on long continued vacancies, suggesting that congregations failing to obtain a minister for a certain time, then the right of nominating should pass to the Presbytery. Rev. George Burnfield supported the overture, and moved that it be referred to a Committee to report to the next Assembly. Rev. Dr. Reid moved that it lie on the table. The overture was laid on the table.

The Committee on Distribution of Probationers was appointed as follows: Rev. R. J. Laidlaw, Mr. Ratcliffe, John Laing, D.D., Mr. Scouler, Dr. Macdonald, and George Rutherford and R. McQueen, elders.

MANITOBA PRESBYTERY.

The report of the Committee on the Overture from Manitoba Presbytery, relating to a proposal to form three Presbyteries and a district Synod was read. The Committee recommended the Assembly to remit the matter to the Presbytery of Manitoba for further consideration. The report was adopted.

In disposing of the overture from the Presbytery of Manitoba, as to the licensing of Mr. John Todd, it was resolved that after he had completed his theological training as far as