

The Co-operation of Disciples of Christ In Ontario.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

By the mercy and goodness of God we are again privileged to meet in annual convention. How great is the pleasure of greeting and meeting with those who are God's children, in the fellowship that is in Christ, and together lifting up our voices in thanksgiving and praise to Him who has so richly blessed us, both in temporal and spiritual things. The past, with all its failure and success, is gone, and rests with Him who will render to every one their just due; the present, with its privileges, its opportunities, its pleasures, is with us. The past, of God's mercy and goodness, and our experience, lays a great burden of responsibility upon us, and brings us under obligations to Him by whose care and mercy we are here; the future is bright with joy and hope—all our hopes being gilded by the promises of God. The present is our responsibility. May God give us wisdom and strength, and lead us on to richer and greater blessings in our work. I trust all came here with renewed and new vows to God to be more, in a true and real sense, the disciples of Christ than ever before. It is true we should not live in the past, yet it is profitable for us to compare ourselves—to examine ourselves—and to judge ourselves by a righteous judgment, and if our heart (conscience) condemn us, be careful for the rest of our sojourn; for God is greater than our hearts, and He will condemn us. In looking back over the years since we last met in Hillsburg, we certainly have the evidence, in the more hopeful condition of the cause today, that God has blessed and accepted of our work in the cause of Christianity, as taught in the New Testament.

When I look back to the time when duty compelled us to make an effort to further the cause of Christ in this province, in some measure consistent with the position we occupy, and compare the condition of the cause then and now, and our organization for work, we have great reason to thank God and be encouraged by what, under God's blessing, has been accomplished.

The organization of our present Co-operation is the result of action taken at our previous meeting in Hillsburg. Pardon me for saying: that the unity among churches—in supporting the Co-operation, and the harmony and brotherly love which marks all our mission effort—exceeds our highest hopes, and is a cause of joy and thankfulness.

I am glad that I can refer to the greatly increased Christian activity manifest in the churches, by the desire among the churches to have regular preaching; the increased number of brethren giving all their time to the work of the ministry; the willingness of the churches to support the laborers; the work being done by the O. C. W. B. M., the Sunday-schools, the Children's Mission Bands, and last (by reason of age), the Christian Endeavor.

I am glad, also, that I can speak of the number of young brethren who are intending to become preachers. I regard this as one of the most encouraging features of the improved condition of the cause. Do not mistake me: we have not done great things. God, in kindness, has bountifully blessed the

little we have done, and we feel greatly encouraged by what He has wrought for us.

During the year the work, being supported by the Co-operation of the churches, has been in many respects especially encouraging. We find that the position which we, as a people, occupy is being more and more recognized as the Scriptural position—the requirements of the gospel. The truth of God, seems to me, has a more direct and potent influence in the hearts of men today than ever before. The leavening influence of truth is going on. Let us earnestly strive to be faithful to God as He is made known in His word. The past gives us much reason to have hope for the ultimate triumph of the authority of Christ over the commandments and doctrines of men. The great heart of humanity appears to be going away from the authority of man in matters of faith, and is seeking after the simplicity of the gospel, its simple faith, and its easy obedience, desires no more, and will be satisfied with nothing less than a real walking in the ordinances of the Lord, not of man.

I have this confidence in the gospel, that if the people of God were all one, in heart, in prayer, in labors; the kingdom of our Redeemer would be established from pole to pole, and from the rising to the setting of the sun. The more we read and hear of the discussion by the great religious bodies on the question of union and union among themselves, the more we must certainly be convinced that we occupy the only possible ground where union can be consummated—the Bible, God's guide book to man. God has blessed us above all people in that we need only to study to know God's will, and need not to unlearn any of the commandments of man. I feel, that we have a high calling of God. Let us strive to be faithful, not be lifted up, but fear. The future is bright with hope.

The work at all the mission points has been moving forward during the past year. I am glad of the privilege to welcome to the fellowship of our trials—and hopes—our Brother Lhamon, who has undertaken the work in Toronto with the church on Cecil St. He does not come as a stranger, being known to the readers of the Standard as an interesting occasional contributor. I trust that his work with the church in Toronto may be richly blessed.

Last year Brother Edmund Sheppard, beloved by all, was with us; now he is at rest from his labors in the home beyond. Bro. Sheppard died at the post of duty; may we be found equally faithful. We remember at our meeting last year, although in poor health and quite feeble, how he delighted his audience with the magic of his eloquence, as he spoke of God's love in the redemption of a lost world. We cherish his memory with reverence—let us strive to emulate his virtues.

I trust our Convention will be pleasant to all, and that great good will result by what we may do for the furtherance of the cause of the Master. I believe we all love God and His cause, and also feel a measure of responsibility in the discharge of the part of the great work committed to us of the world's redemption. Let us, then, not only joy and rejoice while here, but let us also not fail to carry back to our homes the inspirations received, so that during the year upon which we are entering we may do better and more work for Christ than ever before. The pres-

ent alone is ours—let us work while it is day, for the night cometh when no man can work. Do we, my brethren, believe the promises of God? Then let us labor on, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly in the present world, looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour, Jesus Christ."

Your brother, in labor and fellowship in Christ,  
HUGH BLACK.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS FOR THE MISSION YEAR, 1893-'94.

Dear Brethren and Sisters:—The Board of Managers once more greet you in Convention assembled, and beg to present the Annual Report of the year just closed. The reports from the various missions will be given first, and matters dealt with pertaining to that department of our work:

Owen Sound.

In making our annual report this year we do so with thankfulness to God for another year's blessings, amongst which we place the facts that, as a congregation, no calamities have befallen us; no strife has entered into our midst; but love and harmony exist, making our intercourse and our work what it has been for some years past, pleasure and delight. Nor has death entered into our midst, not have we suffered many removals. Our increase has not been large—only twelve persons added to our number during the year—partly from sickness among the members whose presence was essential to success in such meetings, and from other causes over which we have no control. We are intending, however, to hold a special meeting in the early fall. We are greatly cheered by an increased number of hearers from outside the congregation, and are steadily making ourselves felt in the town.

Our Sunday-school is doing excellent work, with an increased attendance over last year.

As to our finances.—In spite of the pressure of hard times, people have not allowed the Lord's work to suffer; and our missionary offerings, both home and foreign, have been nearly double last year's amount.

The details of our work in all its departments have been sent in to the Board, so we do not need to report them here.

Of our preacher, Bro. Lediard, who is still with us, we wish to say that we learned to esteem him more and more from year to year. His work in the congregation and his labors in every good work are such as meet the approval of our members and all with whom we come in contact.

We are specially thankful to the Board and the brethren for the help given, and we sincerely hope that the good seed sown here may speedily bring forth such an harvest that we shall no longer need to look to them for assistance.

On behalf of the church,  
C. A. I LEMING,  
Secretary.

Collingwood.

During the year, since the last Annual Meeting, the work of the church in this place continues to be mainly a steady, every day work, and, although we cannot show any

great increase of numbers, yet we are thankful to say we are, at least, not losing ground.

The usual Lord's day meetings, morning and evening, are generally well attended, and people outside show more interest in our work than in days past.

Our prayer-meetings are well attended and profitable. Our Sunday-school also is in a satisfactory condition.

Our Young People's Society have proved their ability to do good active work for the church.

We had a series of meetings for some weeks during the winter conducted by Bro. Sinclair. The immediate results were several additions, and the church strengthened. Bro. Sinclair continues to preach with great acceptance to our congregation and wields a good influence in temperance and all other good works. In fact, we think we could not do without his assistance in our church work. He is also doing extra work in preaching every second Sunday afternoon at a mission point which has been started, about seven miles from the town, and which promises to bear fruit in the near future.

On the whole we do not see any reason to be discouraged, but rather thankful. Still, we cannot make our finances meet our needs, and, while we are grateful to the Board for assistance given us in the past years, we will still have to ask support for the next year. We are sorry to have to ask this, knowing there are so many other weak churches waiting patiently for a share, but we think this place is of sufficient importance to warrant us in trying to hold on, hoping soon to be strong enough to support ourselves.

On behalf of the church,  
A. M. FRAME,  
Secretary.

Hamilton.

The Secretary of the Church of Disciples of Christ begs leave to report the following:

1. We have a more general interest throughout the members, as shown in work and contributions, and in the increase of the audience.  
2. Our Sunday-school has increased in attendance and is showing an influence for good among the children's parents who are not members of the church.  
3. Our prayer-meetings are more interesting and better attended, and spiritually refreshing.

4. Our Y. P. S. C. E. is in a better working order and the general tone uplifting.  
5. Our basement has been finished during the last year, furnishing us a good school-room, which we were enabled to do through the work contributed by the brethren.

6. While our finances are not in as healthy condition as we wish, owing to the hard times, the contributors being nearly all wage earners, and owing to the continued depression and the prospect not yet good, the church is not yet able to reduce its request to the Co-operation. Some of our largest previous contributors are not now able to give the large sums which they undertook at first, and although we have some new contributors they are no more than able to make up for the falling off of the others.

7. And, now, though asking from the Co-operation the same amount as heretofore, we are eagerly looking forward to the time when we shall become self supporting, and able to contribute towards other mission

points, and should the Co-operation grant our request, we hope to be able to get on with a considerably less sum for the next year.

All of which we submit in brotherly love,

J. M. WARNER,  
Secretary.  
London.

In presenting a report of the work in this city, during the year ending 1st prox., it may be said that the progress during that period, as shown by the statement below, should be regarded as very satisfactory, as it has been accomplished in the face of the strongest outside opposition. Our immediate neighbors of the different denominations have put forth the most strenuous efforts, especially during the past winter, to add to their numbers. Notwithstanding this, the attendance at our services, especially on Lord's day mornings, has been steadily increasing, and there is no abatement of the interest manifested by those who listen to Bro. Fowler's clear, forcible and touching presentation of the truth.

Our net membership on the 1st June, 1893, was..... 111  
Since added:  
By confession and primary obedience..... 11  
From sister churches.... 6  
From the Baptists..... 3  
From the Brethren..... 1  
Otherwise added..... 1

Decrease..... 113

Net membership at date.... 122

The additions to the membership have all been made at our regular services.

During the year we succeeded in reducing our indebtedness on church property by the sum of \$376.75, besides paying interest on the mortgage amounting to \$144.00, which leaves the total debt a mortgage of \$2400, with interest at 6 per cent. per annum from the 6th March last. In consideration of the unusually hard times prevailing at present, on account of which a number of our members have been thrown out of employment, and others put on half time, the amount raised for church debt and other purposes is all that could have been expected.

The brethren are using their best endeavors to make a further substantial reduction of the debt during the coming year.

Our Sunday-school continues to prosper under the able management of the present Superintendent, Bro. W. H. Wooldridge, and his staff of assistants. During the year efforts were made to place the school on a first-class footing, the beneficial results of which are clearly seen in the increased efficiency with which its affairs are conducted. The importance of this department of the church, we believe, cannot be easily over-estimated. It has been, not inaptly, called "the nursery of the church." Many of our most promising young disciples have, through its instrumentality, been led to a knowledge of the truth.

Our Y. P. S. C. E. is also more than holding its own. During the past year the young people contributed \$50 towards the liquidation of the church debt, and they have this year pledged the sum of \$100 for church debt and missionary purposes. The Dorcas Society and C. W. B. M. Auxiliary are also doing a good work.

Bro. and Sister Fowler retain the confidence and esteem of the members, and we desire to express our