

tinuing to give them such financial assistance as we may be able to render.

The report of the Committee on Northwest Missions was read by Rev. W. N. Hutchins. The report showed that in 1891 there were 34 churches in the Convention, 20 only of which reported statistics for the year. Of these 34 churches 27 were in Manitoba, and 7 were in the Territories, and the total membership was 1600. Today there are 81 churches, 52 in Manitoba and 29 in the Territories, while the membership has increased from 1600 to 4678. In 1891 there were 12 churches that owned places of worship, and the total value of property was about \$20,000. There are now either finished or in course of erection 53 church buildings and the value of the churches' property is about \$140,000. In 1891 there were at work in the Convention 16 ordained pastors and 12 students, while at the present time there are 43 ordained and 26 unordained missionaries at work. In 1891 the churches were raising about \$25,000 for all purposes, now they are raising over \$54,000.

The year has been one of unusual encouragement. 9 new churches established, 41 new buildings in course of erection, 19 new men added to the ministerial staff, 20 new preaching stations opened up, and a net increase in membership of 559.

The report on Sunday Schools was presented by Rev. J. D. Freeman, as follows:

In the judgment of your committee the time has arrived when in the general interests of the Denomination a definite and organized effort should be made by the Convention to place the Sunday School work on a solid and substantial basis, and your committee recommend the appointment of a general superintendent who shall devote his whole time to the furtherance of the Educational and Evangelistic interests of Maritime Baptist Sunday Schools under the direction of a Board to be appointed by the Convention.

The report was favorably discussed by Brethren J. D. Freeman, D. H. Simpson, J. Burgoyne, J. W. Brown and C. S. Stearns and was adopted.

R. D. King, Esq., moved a resolution providing for the appointment of a Board to have control of Sunday School work in the denomination whose duty it shall be to provide for the maintenance and direction of a Superintendent of S. S. work, and to evolve plans for and to carry forward educational and evangelistic work in the Sunday schools.

The report on the State of the Denomination was presented by Rev. J. W. Bancroft.

This report gave such statistical information as had been available, but owing to the absence of returns for the N. B. Western Association, and those from other Associations being more or less incomplete, any full statistical statement at the time was impossible. Enough information however was at hand to show that the state of the denomination in regard to its spiritual condition and progress in benevolent work was far from being all that must be desired and to suggest the need of heart-searching in this connection.

MONDAY EVENING.

The session was opened with reading of Scripture and prayer by Rev. H. B. Smith. It was Home Mission evening and the speakers were Rev. Geo. R. White of Hantsport, N. S., Rev. W. T. Stackhouse of Winnipeg and Rev. A. L. Therrien of Montreal.

Mr. White was the first speaker and his subject The Relative Importance of Home Missions. This importance the speaker placed very high inasmuch as the home mission work is fundamental to all the rest. Just as the hay crop of this country is fundamental because so many other products of the farm are dependent upon it, so home missions are basal in our denominational work. The small home mission churches grow up into strong churches which in their turn help to support others. In the days of our grandfathers a little interest was planted here which has now grown to be the Moncton church. The H. M. work is indirectly of great advantage to the stronger churches. The cities and towns are always drawing from the country, and if the young people have been converted in their country homes they will not, when they go to the cities, become an easy prey to evil influences but will become strong members of the city churches. Many of the strong men who are serving God and our denomination in important positions in Canada and the United States have come from our home mission churches. Helping home missions means the helping of all benevolent work, since it brings souls into the kingdom, increases the Christian forces of the country and cultivates the benevolent and Christian spirit among us. In closing Mr. White paid a hearty tribute to the retiring Secretary of the H. M. Board, Rev. Mr. Cohoon.

Rev. W. T. Stackhouse, who succeeds Rev. A. J. Vining as Superintendent of Missions in the Northwest, spoke in the interests of the cause with which he is identified and in the course of an eloquent and powerful address, set forth the needs and opportunities of the great Northwestern mission field and the obligation of the Baptists of Canada to do their part and to do it promptly while the door of opportunity is open. Mr. Stackhouse spoke of the vast extent of territory, the increasing population and the immense resources of the Northwest and Coast countries in forests, fisheries, agricultural and mineral resources. There were 333,120,000 acres of land in Manitoba and the Northwest territories and the country is capable of producing wheat and meat enough to feed the Anglo-Saxon race. As reasons why we should support the work of the Northwest Mr. Stackhouse said: 1. Because God has placed the stamp of his approval upon what has been done. The work has been attended with large success. Twenty nationalities are now preached to. Brandon College has been established with a fine future; 2,683 persons have been baptized. There are now 43 ordained Baptist ministers in the country, and last year the churches raised for all purposes \$54,000, equal to \$11 per member. 2. Because the Master's work in the Northwest demands prompt attention. The population is rapidly increasing and the influx of so many nationalities creates problems, political and social as well as religious, which can be solved only through the evangelization of the people. Baptists should be among the first on the ground and not wait until it has been oc-

cupied by others. 3. Because faith in our principles demands that we should take the country for God.

Rev. Mr. Therrien spoke on behalf of the Grande Ligne Mission. Mr. Therrien is a very graceful and attractive speaker. He speaks with a slight French accent, but his command of English on the platform is such as few speakers of English birth possess. In graceful and poetic eloquence he told the story of Madame Feller and the beginnings of the Grande Ligne work. Her attempt to convert French Roman Catholics in Canada had seemed hopeless to sober men, but before her death she had the joy of knowing that 4000 had been led to accept the gospel brought to them through the Grande Ligne Mission. The work of Madame Feller had inspired Presbyterians, Methodists and Episcopalians to engage in similar work. So that now there were in the Province 70 French Protestant churches, 100 congregations, 100 ministers, and 500 young men and women were studying in French Protestant schools. French Protestants have their educated representatives now in all the learned professions and in influential positions and are a people no longer negligible in the affairs of the country. And all this because one Christian woman believed it possible to convert French Roman Catholics. As reasons for the prosecution of this work of evangelization, Mr. Therrien urged the readiness of many of the people to receive the gospel at the hands of Protestants, and the spiritual need of the people. He had no harsh things to say of his compatriots of the Roman Catholic faith, his attitude was one of sympathy rather than of condemnation. His testimony was that many of his people had a zeal for God but not according to the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus. Therefore they needed the gospel in its fullness and liberty. Much of the work done in connection with Grande Ligne is of a kind that does not show upon the surface, but the work is nevertheless real and dynamic. Mr. Therrien especially urged the claims of the Grande Ligne school in connection with the addition to its buildings whereby its capacity for work would be more than doubled. Of late years many students had to be turned away. Now there would be accommodation for 250 students and help was greatly needed to meet the cost of this enlargement.

The speeches of the evening were of a high average and must have made a strong impression.

In accordance with the request of Mr. Therrien a special committee was appointed to consider in what way the Convention might aid the Grande Ligne Mission in its important work. The names of the committee are: Rev. Dr. Manning, Rev. A. H. Lavers, Rev. D. Hutchingson, Rev. A. Cohoon, Rev. G. R. White, Rev. Dr. J. H. Saunders, Rev. J. Clark, Rev. J. C. Spurr.

TUESDAY MORNING.

From the Committee on the Revision and Distribution of the Financial Forms Dr. B. H. Eaton reported that the Committee had attended to the revision of the forms and had handed over the work to the Secretary of the Convention, as the work of the revision and distribution can be more conveniently done by him. The report was adopted.

The report of the special committee on Finance reported through C. W. Roscoe. The report was as follows:

In view of the fact that the Acadia Forward Movement must, during the coming year, be pushed to completion, and that the Principal of Horton Academy has been authorized to solicit funds for the enlargement of the Academy Home, in view also of the fact that the Twentieth Century Missionary Fund must continue to be promoted with all zeal, your Committee express the judgment that the present time is not opportune for any revision of our scheme of current finance nor for encouraging any additional special appeals. Second, in view of the fact, however, that the yearly income falls so far below the necessary expenditure, in connection with our denominational enterprises, thereby involving these enterprises in great embarrassment, your Committee recommend that a special committee on Denominational Finance be appointed at this Convention to consider how best the income for denominational work may be increased, this committee to be nominated by the Nominating Committee and to report at the Convention a year hence.

Third, in view of the danger of heavy deficits again next year, your Committee recommend that the Convention urge upon all the pastors, churches and District Meetings the duty of great zeal and earnestness in behalf of the denominational work, that this evil may be averted.

The clause was taken up clause by clause. In connection with Clause one was quite fully discussed, President Trotter and others showing how heavy are the responsibilities resting upon the College and other institutions in the raising of the balance of the Forward Movement Fund and the enlargement of the Academy building which had been authorized, the necessity of pushing the Twentieth Century Fund, and the very depressing effect upon these interests which it must have if representatives of the Northwest and Grande Ligne work should go through the country and canvass the churches in the interest of these causes. The kindest feeling was expressed by all who spoke toward those interests, but it was urged that duty toward the great interests in Education, Foreign and Home Missions for which the Baptists of these Provinces have assumed responsibility made it most inadvisable that methods should be sanctioned which would mean that the Northwest and Grande Ligne work should secure the cream of the contributions. For the sake of information the report of the Committee on Grande Ligne appointed Saturday evening was read. This report recommended that the churches be urged to press forward the collection of the 20th Century Fund and that the Home Mission portion be divided as follows: 60 per cent. to Maritime Home Missions, 20 per cent. to Grande Ligne and 20 per cent. to Northwest Missions. After the subject had been quite fully discussed the report before the Convention was adopted.

The Committee on Estimates reported through R. N. Beckwith. The estimates for the year adopted by Convention are as follows:

FOR NOVA SCOTIA, \$15,000, apportioned as follows: Western Association \$5,300; Central Association \$6,000; Eastern Association \$3,300; African Association \$40; General \$160.

FOR NEW BRUNSWICK, \$5,600;—Western Association,

\$1,700; Southern Association \$2,200; Eastern Association, \$1,700.

FOR P. E. ISLAND, \$1,000—Total, \$21,600.

On motion of Rev. Dr. Manning, the Nominating Committee was authorized to name a committee from members of the Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Boards of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, which committee should be charged with the duty of promoting the collection of the 20th Century Fund.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The report of the Foreign Mission Board was presented by the Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Manning. It is the 26th annual report and in the preliminary remarks allusion was made to the fact that 25 years of independent Mission work in India had now been completed by the Denomination.

"They have also been years of blessing to multitudes. The harvest of souls won for the Master in India has not been large, as men count largeness, but there has been much seed sowing and the harvest is sure. The Book says 'My Word shall not return to me void.' These twenty-five years have been years of planting. It could not be otherwise. The soil was virgin. It had to be prepared, made ready for the gospel-plow. This fact must be borne in mind when we are considering what has been done. A survey of the work as a whole will convince most men that the Baptists of these Provinces have been well repaid for all that they have put into the work of world-wide evangelization. To those who have wrought in the home-land the benefits have been beyond comparison. All the good done is not to be seen in the churches that have been planted, the sinners converted, the mission houses built, the hospitals founded, and the schools established. We are better and more robust Christians because of having something to do with this work ourselves. We are debtors to our fellowmen the world over, and like all honest men we breathe more freely, walk more erectly, and enjoy life better when we pay our debts, or try to do so.

"Our work for the past year has had its own difficulties. It, too, has had its peculiar joys. Much time and thought have been given to the work. That there have been mistakes made, none are more conscious than the members of the Board themselves. But this is certain, we have striven in the fear of God to do what we believed was for the best interests of the Kingdom."

The second clause of the report referred to the missionaries on furlough. Mr. and Mrs. Archibald find themselves so greatly benefited by their rest and residence on this continent that they will return to their work in India this autumn. Mrs. W. V. Higgins will also rejoin her husband at Tekkali, who for the last four years has been toiling alone on the mission field. Mr. and Mrs. Morse will remain another year in this country in order that their health may be more completely established. Miss Flora Clark of Moncton who has long shown a deep interest in the foreign work has been accepted as a missionary of the Board and will go to India this autumn.

Clause 4 referring to the Semi-Jubilee of the Mission is as follows:

One event which makes the year memorable is the celebration of the semi-jubilee of our mission work in India. It was held at Himilipatan, where the mission first unfurled its banner in Jesus' name. The presence of Mr. and Mrs. Sanford, and Mr. and Mrs. Churchill the pioneer missionaries, who with Mr. and Mrs. Archibald were the founders of our work in India, was a cause of special thanksgiving to the God of missions for his abounding mercy in permitting those veterans of the Cross to review 25 years of toil and sacrifice for the Master. In a way that the younger missionaries have not known, they have borne heavy burdens. It is a most significant fact that until the 25th year of the mission's history, there had been no break by the hand of death in the missionary circle, a fact that should call forth from every heart a note of praise to him who has watched over the infant mission all these years.

In connection with this clause, and on motion of Rev. L. D. Morse, it was resolved that Dr. E. M. Saunders be a committee to convey to Mr. and Mrs. Sanford and Mr. and Mrs. Churchill the congratulations of the Convention, its prayerful sympathy for them in the work and desires for their continued success and prosperity.

Clause 5 has reference to the 20th Century Fund of \$25,000 which it has been undertaken to raise for the Foreign work. The Board is pleased to note that the Associations have taken hold of the matter and are pushing the canvass through their committees with good results in many places, especially in the Nova Scotia Eastern Association. There is special need for completing this canvass at the earliest possible moment, though contributors are allowed four years in which to fulfil their pledges, one quarter each year, or as may be agreed upon. The Board is depending upon this movement for the present advance and to provide for the growing deficit.

It is proposed to expend the fund as follows:—

- (1) To pay present indebtedness.
- (2) To reserve \$5000 as a fund to provide for the erection, completion, repairing and furnishing of Mission premises.
- (3) To invest the balance as a fund for the sustenance and extension of the work.

The next clause called attention to the importance of the observance of one Sunday—in the year—that named being the last Sunday in March as Foreign Mission Day. The following clause notes that two sums, one of \$100 and the other of \$1,000, had been received from the Nova Scotia Government by way of refund of the Succession duties tax on the bequests of Godfrey Payzant of Windsor and Nelson Forrest of Amherst. Clauses 8 and 9 refer to donations and legacies.

DONATIONS.

There have been received under this head the sum of \$317.54, of which amount grateful mention should be made of the friend in Sydney, C. B., who has forwarded \$500, with the promise of an additional \$500 in September, to enable the Board to make the next quarterly remittance early in September. These amounts are in addition to the \$3000 given last year.

Then there was received from the three sons of Oliver Jones, Esq., of Moncton, the sum of \$1,000, to pay what they knew was in the mind of their late father, to give

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