

was teaching almost continuously during eleven months of the year, other professors were overwrought, and it was unfair in the Church, having placed them there to do its work, and having added to their expenses by the summer session, to leave them to such an extent unsupported. Notice was taken of what the Province itself had done, despite of many difficulties, and the greatly altered situation of our college work there for the better within the last twelve years, and of the very great importance of this college to the whole North West and British Columbia. Dr. King's statement was a calm, temperate and strong appeal to the Assembly to come to the help of the college, simply by the Church doing what it had undertaken to do, and what it was able to do if attention were fairly directed to it.

The Rev. D. J. Macdonnell moved the reception and adoption of the report and in doing so referred to the great importance of this college from its being in the very heart of our great North West mission work, and essential to its being carried on, to Dr. King's self-sacrificing work for the Church and the college, and its high standing as shown by the results of the examinations. The Rev. Dr. Sedgwick seconded, and the Rev. Dr. Smith of Port Hope added a few earnest words on behalf of the college, confessing and lamenting the neglect of the college by the Church. The motion was carried.

THIRD ORDER.

The Rev. G. McQueen, of Fort Edmonton, was then introduced by the Moderator. He had only been asked since the meeting began to say a few words, and accordingly was not prepared with a speech, but would tell something of his field and work. Alberta, his Presbytery, extended in one direction 400 miles, and in the other from the 49th parallel to the North Pole. He told of the distances he and others had to travel in doing their work and attending Presbytery meetings. They were held half-yearly, and, on one occasion, the cost in his case was just \$50.00, and yet their meetings were well attended. Notwithstanding difficulties, the progress made was rapid and most encouraging. The country was settling up fast, and the character of the population which came in and the influences brought to bear upon and give direction to it were of the utmost importance. Mr. McQueen gave a vivid account of the character of some of the people coming in to occupy that land, and what disastrous results to the country must follow, unless the gospel and means of grace are faithfully and constantly brought to bear upon them. His picture was a very striking one, and the impression made correspondingly deep. The kind of men who should be sent out to this region was most forcibly pointed out and insisted upon; men of courage, of faith, self-sacrifice; thoroughly well grounded in the truth, reared up in Christian principles, learned in Christian tomes, steadfast, immovable, the very best men. Mr. McQueen referred to the proposal of the Home Mission Committee to cut down salaries twenty-five per cent. in view of a probable deficiency in the funds, how he dreaded to tell it to the hard-working, self-sacrificing missionaries: of one, who, when he got the news, had to countermand an order he had given for a new suit of clothes, and of their noble conduct in sticking every man of them at his post. He concluded by urging upon the Assembly not to leave the North West, but, taking up the watchword of the Moderator's sermon, let the Church go forward.

The next speaker was the Rev. James Buchanan of Fraser River. His broad, Doric tongue at once caught the ear of the Assembly, and his speech, a rich blending of the humorous, the quaint, pathetic and giving jumps of honest truth, touched now to tears and oftener to hearty laughter. He told of the pleasure it was for him to be present, and look upon such an audience, himself a missionary at one of the furthest outposts of our Church's great mission field. The qualities of a successful missionary in such places and among the people they met, he happily described as a compound of "grace, grit and gumption." The size of his field, and of the country the work of our Church extends over, he vividly illustrated by telling of the time it took him of continuous travelling, from his leaving his home in the mountains of British Columbia until his arrival in London. Nova Scotia, he said, had been spoken of by one of the speakers, and its resources. "Nova Scotia was only a flea-bite compared with the West." Then he told in a way that came home to all, of the vast, undeveloped resources of the country, in its fisheries, timber, coal, gold and other minerals which the Americans, and even the heathen Chinese, were developing more than Canadians were. He told of the early settlers, and those now coming in, of their love for and

struggles to maintain the gospel amongst them in spite of, in the midst of hardships and poverty, so that it was actually out in these wilds that they found the banner congregation of the church in giving to the extent of between \$80 and \$90 per family and \$20 per communicant. His account of his own house building, getting married, and the house he brought his wife to was racy, humorous and touching as well. The people he lived and laboured amongst, the strange, sad wrecks which turn up in the far West, which the faithful missionary has to look after, to try to lift up and bring back to God and eternal life were eloquently and impressively described. The isolation of his life with his hardships were depicted, and a noble tribute paid to the heroic character, and self-sacrifice of the missionaries wives, whose lot was often harder to bear than that of their husbands. He closed with a pointed illustration of the value to them of sympathy by way of bright letters from Christian friends reaching them in their far away homes.

The Rev. Mr. Finlay, superintendent of missions in Muskoka and Algoma, was the last speaker. He spoke of himself as the connecting link between the mission work of the east and west, Kingston Presbytery having been added to his charge. The district he labored in had been called the "greater Ontario," and it covered one-fifth of the Church's home mission work. It was twenty years since he had first gone to Muskoka, ten since he took up Algoma, and now after another ten years the Presbytery of Kingston was made a part of his field. He told of the difficulties peculiar to his large field, and, to make clear the progress made, compared the state of things now as to settle charges, number of mission stations, laborers and amount contributed with what it was twenty and ten years ago. He paid a warm tribute to the excellent work which the Student's Missionary Societies had done, without which such progress could not have been possible. In closing he referred to what had already been emphasized in another connection, the great importance and value in giving permanence to the work over all his region of the Church and manse-building scheme. Within a short period such assistance had been given as enabled seventeen churches and two manses to be built.

After a short statement by the Moderator referring to the waysome places, notably Ottawa, had come to the relief of the Church in the late appeal to make up the deficiency, and the seconding by Rev. Dr. Warden, this large and inspiring Home Missionary meeting was brought to a close by the Moderator pronouncing the benediction.

HOME MISSION REPORTS.

The second evening of the Assembly has by use and wont for many years been given up to receiving the Home Mission reports, and addresses and resolutions bearing upon them. That for the Eastern Section of the Church was first taken up, and was presented by the Rev. John McMillan, of Halifax, convener. In connection with the printed report which was in the hands of members, Mr. McMillan said that their work in the East was small compared with that in the West. Notwithstanding that they too in the East had suffered greatly by emigration to the West, and from business depression, the last had been the best and most prosperous year in their history; more money had been given by mission stations and by large congregations, more supply by the co-operation of Presbyteries had been given to mission fields, and more and better work done than ever before. They had now 257 fields in all, and in them 255 men at work. This past year they had been able to give full supply over all their mission field, and no places had to complain of silent Sabbaths. Their greatest difficulty had been with the Gaelic, for which they had not been able to get a full and suitable supply. For English speaking work they had now got to the point when the supply had become greater than the demand, and they had not been able to give full work to some of their agents and had been compelled to refuse the applications of others.

As regards finances they began the year with a debt of \$2,855, this year they had been enabled to meet all expenses and reduce the debt by \$177. Their total receipts had been \$12,281, of which they had given nearly \$2,000 for work in the great West. In ten years their contributions for Home Mission work had trebled.

An important and profitable step had been the appointment of the Rev. James Ross as supervising missionary in St. John Presbytery, who had so increased by his labors local support for the missionaries, that he had already saved to the fund \$600, which the committee contributes to his support, a saving which will increase as time goes on.

The committee asks permission of the General Assembly to initiate a Church Building Fund, whose benefits may be open to all the Maritime Provinces as the Hunter-Church Building Fund is now available only for Nova Scotia. The value and importance of this fund was strongly emphasized by Mr. McMillan, as giving permanence and stability to work, the benefits of which would otherwise be largely lost. He concluded by moving the adoption of the report.

The Rev. Alfred Gandier, of Fort Massey Church, Halifax, seconded this in a forcible speech. He pointed out how the resources of the Maritime Provinces had been crippled, and yet the Church there had risen to meet their needs by adding 25 per cent. to their contributions. He dwelt at length and in glowing language on the latent or undeveloped resources and possibilities of the East, which the present generation had received as a noble heritage from their fathers. He believed that a spirit of national patriotism was growing in the East, and a feeling of unity with the West, and that this mission work of the Church was one of the grandest agencies for developing and strengthening this growing feeling of national unity and patriotism. The motion was heartily carried.

The appearance on the platform of the Rev. Dr. Cochrane to present the Home Mission Report of the Western Section, was greeted with applause. During almost the whole of the last twenty-five years the doctor has been himself a great part of the Home Mission Committee, and its whole work is perfectly familiar to him.

He began by referring to the visit in 1873 of the Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, Dr. Ure and himself to the North-west, and of what the country, its population, and the city of Winnipeg were then compared to what they are to-day, to his sending out then at the request of the people of Winnipeg, the Moderator, since he could not himself accept their call to go, so that in this sense he was the discoverer of the Rev. Dr. Robertson. The difficulties, hardships, losses, sickness and deaths on the mission field during the past year were narrated by Dr. Cochrane, and how these things had crippled the ability to give, so that a greater burden and responsibility had been laid upon the Church in the older Provinces; and yet the givings for their own support of these enfeebled mission fields were larger than those of old and wealthy congregations. The necessities of feeble and needy fields in Quebec were pointed out and the impossibility of leaving them destitute.

The speaker next referred specially to some Presbyteries, Kingston large and in many parts poor. To the other work of Rev. Mr. Finlay in Muskoka and Algoma this had been added. The noble contribution of Toronto to the Home Mission Fund in its hour of need, was dwelt upon.

The expansion of the work from English speaking people to whom it was confined a few years ago, to embrace Scandinavians, Icelanders, Hungarians, Swedes, Mormons and others was pointed out, and how greatly the welfare of the country depends upon providing these foreign immigrants with the gospel. The progress being made in this respect was a matter for great satisfaction. The importance of information respecting this work to be obtained in leaflets now being regularly published was urged upon the attention of the members of the Assembly.

The invaluable aid which had come to the Church in its missionary operations by the contributions of British Churches, obtained through the efforts of the Rev. C. Gordon, of Winnipeg, suggested to him by Rev. Dr. King to be turned to account when visiting Britain, was gratefully acknowledged. This aid amounted to nearly \$10,000, irrespective of many other donations from the Churches. This was of all the more moment, because it was an indication of a completely changed state of feeling, and of a new sense of responsibility on the part of the British Churches toward their people on this side of the Atlantic, connected with our Canadian Churches which might be looked to for continued assistance in the future.

The interest shown and the help given by college societies, Young People's and Presbyterial Societies, and by individual congregations assuming the whole or part of the support of some missionary were effectively dwelt upon by the Convener. The Assembly was also informed of the change in the mode of appropriation to the North-west and British Columbia, so that a lump sum is given them instead of an appropriation to separate fields, with which the Home Mission Committee cannot possibly become fully acquainted.

The painful subject of a reduction of the salaries of labourers in the West and British Columbia was laid before the Assembly, and the necessity for it shown to lie in the small contributions of the churches for Home Missionary objects,

and the determination of the committee to keep its outlay within its income. Our work must go forward. After twenty-five years of hard toil and great expenditure, the Church ought not, cannot retreat. There are those waiting for us to do so, but our flag must never be lowered to give place to another. We must pray, work and fight with heavenly weapons to take and hold this land for our children and for God.

Rev. Dr. Warden in a few words moved a resolution disposing of the report.

SUMMARY OF HOME MISSION REPORT.

For the benefit of our readers into whose hands this report may not fall, or who may not have leisure to read and master it, we present the following summary:

It may be said to consist of four parts,—that of the convener, Rev. Dr. Cochrane, properly speaking; the report of the Rev. Mr. Findlay, Superintendent of Missions in Muskoka and Algoma, that of the Rev. Dr. Robertson, of Manitoba and the North-West, a part which may be classed as miscellaneous; and, last, financial statements and summaries of various kinds.

I.—Rev. Dr. Cochrane's. This is the first part, and, after acknowledging God's goodness, refers to difficulties and discouragements, such as sickness and deaths among missionaries, commercial depression, failure of crops, floods in British Columbia, these crippling the resources of our people, and calls for more men, left the committee in March to face a deficit of \$10,000. The story of this is now pretty well known. Contributions and expenditures from all sources are fully set forth in the report. Detailed statements of presbyteries and mission fields are given.

II.—Mr. Findlay's report of Muskoka and Algoma. In his report fields of labour are dealt with as scattered over the district, along lines of railway, in lumber camps in winter, and large milling establishments in summer.

"In the Presbytery of Barrie, twenty of the twenty-four fields in Muskoka and Parry Sound were supplied, and in the Presbytery of Algoma, twenty-seven fields. All that could be reached were in the enjoyment of regular services. The Presbytery of Algoma reports the total number of fields now occupied as thirty, while the number of preaching stations is over one hundred. On the whole, the outlook in the Presbytery of Algoma is very hopeful."

West of Chelmsford in Algoma Presbytery the territory extends for 300 miles along the railway. In this distance is scattered a thin population with no representative of any Protestant church to look after them but our own. In lumber camps and saw mills hundreds of men are employed in winter and summer, many of them members of Presbyterian families or churches, and these our Home Mission, through its agents, look after and minister by various means to their spiritual wants.

The sources of supply whereby these are reached are thus indicated by Mr. Findlay:

"As in former years, the Students' Missionary Society of Knox College comes to our aid each season by sending about twenty labourers to the two Presbyteries. The Students' Societies of Montreal and Queen's College also take part in the work, by appointing one each to labour within the bounds of the Presbytery of Algoma for the summer. The ladies of St. Andrews, Toronto, and of Orillia continue their interest by providing for the support of the Missionary on the Silverwater and Carling fields respectively. The Young Peoples' Society of Port Perry provide the amount necessary for one field and the S. School of Orillia for another."

"Of the sixty-two fields in the two Presbyteries, twenty-six, including those supported by the Students' Societies, will be worked during this summer without any expense to the Home Mission Fund. For their own help, it is the testimony of Mr. Findlay that 'according to their ability they have contributed most liberally.'"

Winter supply has always been a difficulty to our church, happily now a lessening one, and it is encouraging that the report says: 'We were able to a greater extent than usual to secure supply during the past winter, so that in Algoma every station that could receive supply had it, and in Muskoka the same was the case with but a few exceptions.'

The lack of churches and manses has been a great hindrance to our work, and the difficulty is being steadily overcome by means of the Church and Manse Building Fund in which they are assisted by outside help, and to which they themselves contributed upwards of \$3,000.00. In Algoma ten churches and one manse have been erected during the past year, and in Muskoka seven churches are in process of erection or completed and one manse purchased. This is due to a very large measure to the assistance rendered from the Building Fund, which has been available during the past year."

III.—The Rev. Dr. Robertson's report which