

means to be found for foreign work if we do not hold our own land!

The report on Moral and Social Reform, submitted by Rev. Peter Strang, among other things, recommended uniting with other churches and organizations in a determined campaign against the public bar and treating system as an unmitigated moral curse, and for complete separation of the sale of liquor from the hotel business. The committee favored pressing for a campaign for local option, and for the sale of intoxicants and putting the tariff under public control. In moving the adoption of the report, Principal Patrick said the committee have reached the conclusion that on the question of the sale of intoxicating liquors each province must determine for itself the special legislation it requires. He spoke against the present extraordinary monopoly and the immense profits which induce men to whom licenses are issued to make the sale of liquor as extensive as possible. The committee believed a better system would be the substitution of public control for private ownership, no licenses to be issued to individuals and no man to have any profit from the sale of liquor. The report was adopted.

#### Home Mission Report.

Dr. Carmichael read the report on home mission work, stating that it was made on behalf of the joint commission for both synods, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The work had kept pace with the rapid extension of settlement. The chief problem had been that of securing a supply for the rapidly increasing fields. The new fields had been promptly occupied. The supply secured was quite up to the standard, the recruits had proved efficient in the field. Most of them had the full course for the ministry in view. A larger percentage of untrained men than ever before had been employed. A correspondence class for matriculation had been arranged. Dr. McLaren visited the old country to secure men, and secured over fifty. Several had been accepted since. In September the committee was forty men short; but by October 1, a sufficient number had been secured and over 100 appointments were made. At present there were 103 mission fields in Manitoba, and 158 in Saskatchewan, making 261. There are 67 ordained missionaries, 28 in Manitoba and 39 in Saskatchewan. The committee is short 15 ordained men. Two hundred students and catechists are employed. The number of graduates in theology is not increasing. The call for a larger number of workers is more urgent than ever before. There were 40 augmented congregations, 19 in Manitoba and 21 in Saskatchewan on the augmentation fund at the beginning of the year. Twenty-four independent Greek ministers are employed, 13 in Manitoba, 7 in Saskatchewan and 4 in Alberta. A class which lasts a month each year is held for these ministers in Manitoba college, and taught by Principal Patrick. The committee employs four Hungarian missionaries, one in Winnipeg and the other three in Saskatchewan. A carefully selected course has been arranged for young men for Galician work. There are nine students in matriculation work and seven in preparation for matriculation. About a quarter of a million dollars will be required to carry on the work of the committee.

At an open evening meeting of the synod, held at Knox church, glowing tributes were paid to the work achieved during the recent evangelistic campaign, by the members of the synod.

The Rev. Clarence Mackinnon said that one great thing accomplished had been the uniting more closely of the various denominations.

Mr. Fleming of St. Andrew's church, spoke of the inspiration of Dr. Dawson's sermons.

Dr. DuVal declared that the souls had been enlightened, hearts made purer, emotions made loftier, and the city made better by the revival.

Rev. Dr. Gordon said he realized more than before that it was a great thing to be a minister of the gospel. He believed that our boys will now look forward to a career of preaching the gospel, and that business men would see the splendid possibilities of such a career.

The synod then adjourned.

On resuming next morning, after devotional exercises for half an hour, Rev. F. J. Hartley read the report of the committee on young people's societies. The membership of these throughout the eight presbyteries comprised in the synod, shows an advance all along the line.

Rev. Dr. Gordon and Rev. Dr. Duval made strong and earnest speeches urging serious consideration of a number of facts showing a decline in family religion, and the prevalence of gambling, graft and other evils among young men especially.

Rev. Thurlow Fraser introduced the question of church union and addressed the synod at some length. He showed that the synod had before it only the resolution passed in the general assembly at Montreal, the report of the September meeting of the committee of the different churches has not yet been received.

He had taken up the subject in his session of 15 men, and they had expressed general approval. In the presbytery the greater part of a day was spent in discussing it, and the presbytery unanimously expressed general approval of the work done by the union committee. Many in the presbytery expressed a feeling of gratitude to God that so much unanimity has been shown. The speaker made reference to his observations as a missionary in China, of the satisfactory working of practical church union.

#### Union Resolutions.

The first clause of the report was: "That the synod express its gratitude to God for the progress that has been made by the committee on union, and its general approval of the proposed basis of union in questions of doctrine, polity and the ministry."

"Clause 2—The committee recommends that each presbytery hold a conference on the subject as soon as the report of the last meeting (the September meeting) of the committee comes to hand; and that, if possible, one of the representatives of this synod on the general union committee be present at that conference."

"Clause 3—That the presbyteries of this synod take suitable steps to explain and commend the proposed basis of union to the consideration of all their congregations."

Mr. Fraser moved the adoption of the first clause, and Mr. Wright, elder, from Roland, seconded the motion, the latter expressing himself as heartily in accord with the general principles of church union, and with the details, so far as he was acquainted with them. In his district they were almost, if not altogether, approved of. Rev. Mr. Stacey, who was a member of the committee, had delivered lectures or sermons along this line.

Dr. Gordon proposed that a preamble be added to the report, clearly and definitely stating the general principle of church union. "That this synod regard union with the Methodist, Congregational and Presbyterian churches as scriptural, possible and desirable." Later, he worded his motion in this way: "The synod strongly believe that it is both right and desirable that organic union should be effected upon a basis acceptable to the churches, be-

tween the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian churches."

Dr. Farquharson moved the following, which, after a long discussion, was accepted by Dr. Gordon and later by the mover and seconder and the report was adopted with very few votes against: "That the synod desires to see the negotiations for union between the Methodist, Congregational and Presbyterian churches brought to a successful issue, expresses its gratitude to God for the progress made in the basis of union on the questions of doctrine, polity and ministry."

Prof. Baird presented the report of Manitoba College, which was of a very gratifying nature. Prof. Bryce gave a stirring address, in which he paid a handsome tribute to Rev. Mr. Fleming, who has just been added to the professional staff of the college.

#### TORONTO.

At the Methodist anniversary of Bloor street church, on the 17th inst., the services were conducted by Rev. Dr. Milligan who exchanged with the pastor, and Rev. J. A. Macdonald. A large congregation was present at both services.

The first Presbyterian Church in Toronto to introduce a gown choir will be St. Andrew's, King street. When the edifice reopens, the first Sunday in December, the choir, which will render special music, will be stationed in the chancel and all will wear uniform gowns.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian church, King street, has introduced a departure in church work that promises to be of much benefit to the young men of the downtown section, and to the unemployed. The old manse is now being repaired to accommodate young men repatriated to accommodate young men out of work. Later, a commodious building will be erected by the church members, on Simcoe street, as a young men's home. An employment bureau will also be opened. Special services will be held on the first Sunday in December.

"I will not speak of the present pastor in his presence," said the speaker. "He is in apostolic succession and is worthy of the place. God has honored him and you love him and know his worth." Fifty-six years ago Principal MacLaren had preached his first sermon in Toronto in Erskine, then known as Bay Street Church. Seventy years ago, he said, Toronto was a small place of twelve or fifteen thousand, and the number of Presbyterians was small. They had more communicants in Erskine Church now than there were in the whole city at that time. The growth of the congregation had been gradual but steady, and the Central Church was an offshoot of Erskine.

Special services to celebrate the 70th anniversary of its foundation were held in Erskine church on the 17th inst., when the Rev. Principal MacLaren, of Knox college, spoke in the morning and the Rev. D. C. Hossack preached at the evening service. After speaking of the work which had been carried on throughout the civilized world by the various churches, Principal MacLaren stated that Erskine Church had been organized 70 years ago by the late Dr. Thornton, of Oshawa, and had increased in size and done excellent work ever since. He had been personally acquainted with all the pastors of the church. Dr. Jennings was the first, and had charge of the congregation when Principal MacLaren was a student at Knox College. He was a man of force and sterling integrity, who did much for the congregation in the early days. The next pastor was the Rev. John Smith, who was a fellow-student with the speaker at Knox and one of his most valued friends. He was an earnest and able preacher and one whom to know was to honor and love. The Rev. Dr. Hunter, a successful student and an earnest preacher, was the next pastor, but impaired health compelled him to move to Denver.