

\$631.83, a portion of which was devoted to the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. It is proposed to issue a new edition with Tonic-sol-fa notation and also an edition of the Psalms with music. It was recommended by the Committee that the royalty next year be divided as last, except what may be required for the Tonic-sol-fa edition; that a selection of the Psalms and Hymns be published for use in Sunday schools, and the Committee re-appointed.

The report, with recommendations, was adopted, and the thanks of the Assembly, on motion of Dr. Cochrane, tendered to the Committee and the editor of the "Presbyterian Record."

AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS' FUND.

Rev. James Middlemiss, Elora, read the report of the Committee on the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. The total number of beneficiaries now on the roll is thirty two, the amount paid to the annuitants during the year was \$6,936.50. These figures show an expenditure of \$227.60 in excess of income, reducing last year's balance to \$1,092.23. Leaving out, however, the new investment of \$1,200, which had been actually made at the date of last report, the expenditure, properly so called, is \$7,174.66, or \$972.40 less than the income. From this year's balance, the committee proposed to invest \$500, believing that they are called to do so in consideration of sundry donations and bequests, including \$326.51 from the Hymn Book Committee. The investment will raise the capital to \$3,100, and leave a balance of \$592.43 with which to begin the current year.

The state of the Fund at the close of the financial year is: Invested in Debentures and Mortgages, \$7,600; balance, \$1,092.43; total, \$8,692.43.

The following reference from the Presbytery of Huron was read in connection with the report of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Committee:

"1. Inference to the overture from the Presbytery of Huron, the member of the committee who belongs to that Presbytery and concurs in its opinions in relation to the fund, intimated that he believed the Presbytery would consider that their views were met by the division of the fund into two, the retired ministers whose income from other sources does not amount to \$500 shall receive an annuity rate of \$8, from which all ministers who contribute shall be entitled on their retirement by leave of the Assembly to an annuity of \$75 for ten years service, with an addition of \$2.50 for each additional year's service up to forty. After a free and full expression of opinion the committee agreed to recommend the dismissal of the overture, not only because of the serious practical difficulties in the way of the carrying out either of the eleemosynary or of the life insurance principle on which it is based, but on the special ground that while there is properly, so long as the insufficiency of the capital makes the ministerial rate necessary, a discrimination in favour of ministers who contribute personally to the fund, the annuity is to be regarded not only as a means of supplying absolute or comparative indigence, but as an appropriate and generally much needed Christian recognition of ministerial services. At the same time the committee believe that it is right to express their conviction that the progress of the fund has been hindered by a largely prevailing impression that in some instances the annuity only adds to an already amply sufficient income.

"2. In reference to the suggestion of the Presbytery of Toronto to the effect that a uniform ministerial rate should not commend itself to the Church, that a larger annuity be given to ministers who have contributed more largely to the fund, the committee believe (1) that while not a little may be pleaded in favour of a uniform rate, say of seven or eight dollars, it is on the whole not desirable to make a change that would relieve very few by laying an additional burden on the great majority of the ministers of the Church, especially when under the regulations adopted last year the few ministers who felt that the present rule presses too heavily on them may employ their rate in a way they may consider better, and still have a claim to an annuity of from \$75 to \$100, or even as it is hoped \$200; (2) That the graduating of the annuity in accordance with the amount of rate is not to be thought of, and that if any change is to be made with a view to bringing the administration of the fund, so far as the rate is concerned, more to accordance with strict equity, it should be, as the Presbytery suggests, in the way of the adoption of a uniform rate.

"3. In reference to the regulating of the fund of the Eastern Section of the Church, adopted by the Synod of the Maritime Provinces and sanctioned by the last Assembly, the committees are of the opinion: (1) in general, that there is nothing distinctive in the said regulations to be recommended for adoption in the administration of the fund of the Western Section; and (2) in particular, attention having been at the last Assembly specially called to the matter, that, in view of the essential character of the fund, there is, to say the least, no call to discriminate against professors, foreign missionaries, and Church agents by requiring them to pay a larger percentage on income."

"4. In reference to the use of the designation, *Minister Emeritus*, the committee are of opinion: (1) that the term *Emeritus* is a convenient one; and (2) that its proper application is to a minister who, having resigned his pastoral charge on account of the infirmities of advanced years, is precluded by age from resumption of the work of the pastorate; and (3) that it should not be applied to a minister so long as his connection with his congregation is such that, in view of it, he retains his right to discharge ministerial and judicial functions as one of its ministers."

The report was received.

THE NEXT MEETING.

Rev. Dr. Reid moved that the next meeting of the General Assembly be held at Toronto. Carried unanimously. Dr. Reid also moved that the meeting be held in St. James' Square Church in that city.

Rev. G. M. Milligan moved in amendment that the meeting be held in St. Andrew's Church, but at the request of the pastor of the church, Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, the motion was withdrawn, and St. James' Square Church unanimously agreed upon.

Dr. Reid moved that the next meeting be held at the usual time—the second Wednesday in June.

Dr. Mathews, Quebec, moved in amendment that the next General Assembly meet on the first Wednesday in June, in order to permit delegates to the Presbyterian Council at Belfast, Ireland, on June 24th, 1884, to attend the General Assembly before sailing for the Old Country.

The amendment carried, and the next meeting of the Assembly will therefore be held in St. James' Square Church, Toronto, on the 4th of June, 1884.

THE PRESBYTERIAN COUNCIL.

The next matter taken up was the selection of delegates to attend the Presbyterian Council at Belfast. A long discussion ensued as to the mode of election to be adopted. Finally Rev. Principal Grant moved, seconded by Rev. A. B. Mackay, "That the General Assembly ballot for sixteen members (eight ministers and eight elders) to be sent as delegates to the Council at Belfast, the scrutineers to report the names of the second sixteen as alternates."

Rev. F. McCuaig moved in amendment, seconded by Prof. Gregg, "That nominations be made on the floor of the house, all ministers and elders of the Church to be eligible. The sixteen receiving the highest number of votes to be the delegates elect, and the following sixteen to be the alternates."

The amendment of Mr. McCuaig carried.

It was agreed that the selection of the delegates be the first item of business to-morrow morning.

Evening Session.

The Assembly having been constituted by devotion, the Rev. K. F. Junor delivered an address on missionary work in the island of Formosa. This he designated as the scene of early missionary enterprise. The Dutch had taken their Protestant missionaries in their first commercial ventures. Of thirty-two missionaries sent there ten had found their sepulchre, and six of them had been beheaded. He dwelt at length on the many favourable circumstances presented in the island for missionary operations, among others the slight hold that the religion of China had upon the natives. He referred to the recent intelligence received from Dr. McKay, of one thousand aborigines on the east coast of Formosa having thrown away their idols. He made an excellent address, and concluded by an eloquent appeal in favour of the China mission.

FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.

Rev. Principal MacVicar presented the report of the Board of French Evangelization. It appeared that fifty-six agents had been employed, including a French Professor of Theology, missionaries proper, school teachers, and colporteurs. He ventured to remark that no Church had so large a body of earnest, devoted, and competent men engaged in French evangelization. They had thirteen schools equipped with nineteen teachers and 533 scholars, of whom 203 were Roman Catholics. At the two schools at Pointe-aux-Trembles there were ninety-two pupils, of whom forty-two entered Roman Catholics, but they did not return so. He might mention that twenty of the ninety-two were received into the Church, and partook of the sealing ordinance last winter. It might be gathered from this that it was easy to obtain admittance to the Church at Pointe-aux-Trembles, but such was not the case. Professor Coussirat, Mr. Boudreau, and Mr. Doudiet were almost Puritans in their mode of receiving converts. It might be asked what were the results? There were in Canada 11,000 and in the United States 25,000 French Protestants, while forty years ago there were none. This was largely due to the efforts of the French Evangelization scheme of this Church. The income had steadily increased, and last year they had received \$32,606. He stated that the instrument they used was the sword of the spirit, and they depended upon the grace of God to give it life. Last year 2,593 copies of the Word of God in whole or in part had been distributed. They had also distributed 26,000 tracts. He referred in favourable terms to "L'Aurore," the only French Protestant newspaper in the Dominion. He concluded by stating that they wanted several things—a much larger number of colporteurs, more mission schools, a little more Presbyterian supervision—in one word they needed loyal, large-hearted Christian laymen and women in the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario—indeed, all over the Dominion—to sympathize with the persecuted converts, and see that they are not cast out, rejected, and deprived of the means of livelihood.

Rev. Peter Wright moved: "that the report be received and adopted; that the thanks of the Assembly be given to the Board, and especially to the convener; and further, that the General Assembly express and record their gratitude for the measure of success during the year, and commend anew the scheme to the prayers and Christian liberality of the Church." In a forcible speech he dwelt at some length on the nature of the work.

Rev. Chas. A. Doudiet seconded the adoption of the report, and with no more than the slightest possible French accent, gave an address marked with great pathos, power, and earnestness.

Professor Coussirat next addressed the Assembly. He confined his remarks for the most part to his own special work of training French Canadians for the work of the ministry. The Church of Rome was now the Church of the Jesuits.

The report was received and the Moderator in fitting terms conveyed the thanks of the Assembly to the convener and members of the Board of French Evangelization.

Rev. Dr. MacVicar then moved that the salary of the Rev. R. H. Warden, the Secretary-Treasurer of the Board, be \$2,000 instead of \$1,600.

Rev. A. B. Mackay supported the motion.

Rev. R. M. Croll moved an adjournment.

It was decided to continue the session till the matter was settled.

Rev. Dr. Moore proposed that the question of salaries to the Agents of the Church be referred to a Committee to report at an early day.

Rev. Dr. Moore's motion to refer to a committee was carried, and the Assembly adjourned.

SIXTH DAY.

Morning Session.

The Assembly met and was constituted, the Moderator in the chair.

The Moderator appointed the following as the Committee to consider salaries of the agents of the Church: Revs. Dr. Moore, Principal Caven, Dr. Burns, A. J. Mowat, Principal MacVicar, W. R. Cruickshank, R. M. Croll, J. Hastie, J. Laing, D. D. McLeod, J. L. Murray, Elders—John Sterling, W. E. Roxburgh, Donald Grant, J. L. Blaikie, W. B. McMurich, J. W. Robson, and P. Marshall.

RECEPTION OF MINISTERS.

On the question of applications to receive ministers and licentiates, Rev. Principal McKnight reported that the following applications in favour of the persons named were granted: Halifax, J. W. Robinson and Mr. Anderson; Toronto, W. H. Hunt; Owen Sound, Geo. Law; London, Geo. Crombie; Stratford, H. Norris. In the case of the application from Huron in favour of G. A. Francis, he agreed to attend a four years' course of study. The application of the Presbytery of Sydney in favour of James Scott was not granted.

PRESBYTERIAN COUNCIL.

The following nominations for delegates to the Presbyterian Council, to meet at Belfast on 24th June, 1884, were then made:

James Knox Munnals, Halifax; Dr. John M. King, Moderator, Toronto; Mr. D. C. Fraser, New Glasgow; Dr. James, Hamilton; Rev. D. James, Midland; Rev. Thomas Macpherson, Stratford; Dr. Thorburn, Ottawa; Professor McLaren, Toronto; Rev. John Laing, Dundas; Rev. George Burnhead, Brockville; Mr. Colin Macdonnell, St. Thomas, Mr. J. K. Blair, Truro; Rev. J. K. Smith, Galt; Principal MacVicar, Montreal; Rev. Dr. Cochrane, Brantford, Dr. Proudfoot, London; Rev. Dr. Wardrope, Guelph; Rev. Dr. Mathews, Quebec; Rev. George Flett, missionary to the Indians, N.-W.T.; Mr. James Croll, Montreal; Rev. Dr. Burns, Halifax; Rev. R. H. Warden, Montreal; Mr. Daniel Mackenzie, Sarnia; Mr. William Wilson, Toronto; Mr. H. H. McCurdy, Antigonish; Rev. Jas. Cameron, Chatsworth, Rev. K. J. Laidlaw, Hamilton; Rev. W. J. McMullen, Woodstock; Rev. H. M. Parsons, Toronto; Rev. J. S. Black, Montreal; James Maclellan, Q. C., Toronto; Mr. J. S. McLean, Halifax; Rev. F. R. Beattie, Brantford; Rev. Donald Ross, Lachine; Mr. Thomas Gordon, Strathroy, Mr. J. L. Blaikie, Toronto; Mr. W. J. McCalla, St. Catharines; Rev. G. M. Milligan, Toronto; Mr. R. J. Hunter, Toronto; Prof. Mowat, Kingston; Rev. E. F. Torrence, Peterborough; Mr. Chas. Davidson, Guelph; Mr. David Morrice, Montreal; Rev. K. F. Junor, missionary, Formosa; Prof. Coussirat, Montreal; Dr. McNish, Cornwall; Rev. R. Torrance, Guelph; Rev. J. A. Murray, London; Prof. Elliott, London; John Charlton, M.P.; Rev. Jas. Robertson, Winnipeg; Jas. Bethune, Q. C., Toronto; Dr. Scott, North Bruce; Rev. Jas. Middlemiss, Elora; Dr. Macrae, St. John, N.B.; G. W. Ross, M.P.; Mr. Thos. McLean, Brantford; Judge James, Halifax; Rev. P. McF. McLeod, Toronto; Rev. A. Burrows, Truro; Rev. D. B. Blair, Pictou, Principal Caven, Toronto; Rev. John Gray, Orillia; Dr. Reid, Toronto; Mr. John Gill, Brockville; Rev. T. S. Chambers, Kingston, Mr. W. B. McMarrich, Toronto; Rev. L. G. McNeil, St. John Newfld.; Dr. Ure, Goderich; Hon. David Laird, P.E.I.; Hon. Alex. Morris, Toronto; Rev. William Frizzell, Toronto; Rev. H. A. Robertson, missionary, Eromanga; Dr. Moore, Ottawa; Hon. Alex. Vidal, Sarnia; Rev. Robert Hamilton, Fullarton; Judge Stevens, St. Stephen, N.B.; Mr. William Gordon, Toronto; Rev. J. Kirkpatrick, Toronto; Rev. A. B. Mackay, Montreal.

It was resolved that the vote be for eight ministers and eight elders, and that the vote be taken at noon Wednesday.

COLLEGE REPORTS.

Rev. Dr. Burns made the statement for Halifax College, and said they had commenced giving the new degrees, not that they saw there was much good in them, but they did not want any other institution to get the start of them. He hoped that they would not "get small by degrees." The ordinary fund keeps slowly moving, and there was an increase of \$600. Of the endowment fund of \$100,000 started in 1877, they had \$71,000, and this without special effort. The saddest thing was the fewness of students. This, however, was a general complaint. As to a summer session, they had not decided definitely, but the institution was so well situated, that if they were to have a summer session they would then draw from the other colleges and the United States. The professors of the college were just as well able to teach three times the number as were the professors in the last. He moved a resolution acknowledging the steady increase to the fund, and regretting the fewness of students.

Rev. Dr. Mathews, in regard to Morris College, said their work was very limited, the held restricted, and the students not numerous, the classes were well attended and conducted, and there were four theological students now in attendance. They only asked that the permission given to congregations in their presbytery to send their subscription be made a recommendation. It transpired that the report contained the statement of receipts, but not of expenditure, here was a recommendation to have a fuller statement next year.

Rev. John Bennett, Almonte, speaking of the need for helping Morris College, and incidentally Montreal College, said unless there was a special effort put forth the Protestant Church in Quebec would be almost crushed out, and in a few years there would not be a Protestant congregation in Quebec Presbytery.

Dr. Wardrope moved that the report be received, and the congregations in the Presbytery be recommended to send their collections direct to the college.

VACANCIES.

Rev. Dr. Cochrane intimated that the congregation of Prince Albert, North-West Territory, was vacant, and they