

sidered. The remainder of the day was almost entirely devoted to committee work, and a very large bulk of business was transacted.

When the assembly met this morning it was decided that the easiest way out of the Knox Church muddle was to refer the matter back to the committee to inform the parties concerned of the judgment arrived at. The representatives of the church and the presbytery retired to one of the committee-rooms, and returned in a few minutes with the report that both sides accepted the finding of the committee.

#### Hymnal Committee's Report.

Rev. Prof. Grigg presented the report of the Hymnal Committee. The sales and royalties, he said, were smaller last year than during the previous year, the reason being that both sales and royalties were usually large in 1901 and in 1905, amounting to \$1,872 and \$2,731 respectively. Last year the amounts were \$20,679 and \$2,669 respectively.

Rev. W. J. Dey, who seconded the adoption of the report, called attention to the metrical addition of the Psalms, prepared by the joint committee of the American and Canadian churches, and proof copies of which had been sent to various presbyteries. Its reception had been varied. Some presbyteries were for it, others declared that the old version was superior. The committee recommended that the assembly express its gratification at the general excellence of this new metrical version; and, secondly, that the committee be instructed to take steps towards preparing a more perfect selection of Psalms for the Book of Praise and to remove interferences from the rest of the book, the work to be ready for the edition of 1911.

There was instant opposition to the matter of these recommendations. Rev. Dr. McLeod dissented emphatically from the committee's view of the new metrical version, and expressed the opinion that country churches did not want a psalter with 23 different kinds of metre.

Judge Forbes declared that a new hymnal would cost the church \$100,000, and if the committee continued to go on as it was doing it would bring a whirlwind about its head. He regretted that they had been already deprived of favorite old Psalms by the committee.

An interesting report on Biblical instruction in the Public schools of Ontario, which was prepared by a joint committee appointed by the Presbyterians, Anglicans and Methodists, was presented by Principal Gordon. It recommended that the selection of Scripture readings authorized by the Department of Education for use in the schools be taken as the basis for systematic instruction, that in the regulations for supplementary readings in literature in the Public and High schools of the province, provision should be made for the instruction in Bible knowledge, and for the memorizing of suitable passages of Scripture, and that wherever possible at least two lesson periods a week be set apart for such instructions, and, further, that a syllabus of lessons be prepared, suitable for the different grades of Public and High school pupils.

Both recommendations were endorsed by the assembly and at the same time, Rev. A. Gandier, convener, Rev. John Neil, Rev. Dr. Armstrong, Rev. Dr. McLeod and Mr. Embrace were appointed a committee to continue the consideration of the question with the representatives of the sister churches before mentioned.

Mr. R. G. MacLeth presented the overture, asking for a committee to confer with the committees H. and F., and the W. F. M. S. and W. H. M. S., with a view to uniting these two societies in one. The proposal met with hearty approval and a motion appointing Dr. Armstrong, Sir Thomas Taylor and the mover was passed unanimously. The conference will be held in Toronto.

The division of the British Columbia and Alberta synods and the establish-

ment of a new synod in Saskatchewan, went through without opposition, and dates were fixed by the assembly for the first meetings of these bodies. The moderator of the joint synod of British Columbia and Alberta will be moderator of the new British Columbia synod, while Rev. Dr. McQueen, of Edmonton, will reside over the synod of Alberta. Rev. J. Lushman, of Fleming, to be first moderator of Saskatchewan.

An overture from Kamloops Presbytery petitioned for permission to establish a training school for Presbyterian workers in that town, but the British Columbia contingent had still more ambitious ideas. What they desired was no less than the founding of a theological college at Vancouver, and on motion of Rev. Mr. Wright, a committee was appointed to gather information respecting the suggestion and the probable support that would be given such an institution. It was agreed, however, that there was no immediate need for haste, and the committee will not report till next year.

It was a greatly diminished assembly that met in the afternoon. The fag ends of business that were left had no attraction for the majority of the commissioners, and most of them had taken their departure homewards. Those that remained were plainly anxious to get through with all possible haste, and the moderator, after the reading of the minutes, urged that discussion be avoided wherever possible.

Prof. Baird presented the report of the committee for the reception of applications from ministers outside the church. These numbered sixteen in all, and the committee recommended that ten of these receive the sanction of the assembly. Most of these were from clergymen who had formerly been connected with the Canadian church and, for various reasons, had dropped out.

Several applications were also received from men engaged in inter-denominational work, but these were rejected, on the general principle that to admit such applicants might swamp the votes of the regular clergy in some of the presbyteries, as it had in some districts of the United States. Among those whose application was refused for this reason was Rev. J. G. Shearer, agent of the Lord's Day Alliance. Prof. Baird regretted that they could not make an exception in his case, but the committee had concluded that on no account whatever should the rule be broken.

The report was adopted, after which Rev. Dr. Lyle introduced a minute testifying to the esteem with which the assembly had regarded the late Rev. Dr. Warden. This was agreed to unanimously, and will be sent to the family of the deceased treasurer.

A report of the Committee on Applications of Students was submitted by Rev. John McKay and adopted, and then the assembly took up the consideration of the report of the Committee on the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, which consisted of three branches—East, West, and Church of Scotland. The last-named was presented by Rev. D. Sedgwick, and was adopted off hand, but the other two called for some consideration. The report of the West branch was presented by Rev. Robert Campbell, who announced that the annuities of widows had been increased by \$25 this year, and that they hoped to augment them by another \$25 in the coming year. In connection with this report, Rev. Dr. McMullen submitted an overture providing that when the rates had been paid for a certain number of years—say, ten—a claim on the fund was established and a reduced benefit should be paid in proportion to the number of years the rates had been paid. He was moved to take this action by the case of Rev. Dr. McCall, who had paid the rates for 26 years, but whose widow, though she was in need of help and on her deathbed, was refused aid from the fund because her husband had neglected to keep up his payments the year prior to his death.

Rev. Dr. Sedgwick objected to the motion as being unfair to those who kept their payments up, but Dr. McMullen carried his point on a vote. The report was also adopted, and the assembly passed on to the presentation of the Committee on Systematic Benevolence, which stated that they had collected \$20,000 last year in excess of what had been taken in any previous year.

A motion of cordial thanks was passed to Rev. W. J. Clark and the congregation of the First Presbyterian church, to the reception committee of the Presbyterian Churches of London, to the host and hostess of London, to Sheriff Cameron, Geo. W. Reid, and Col. J. W. Little, to the Mayor and city at large, and to the press. The smoothness and pleasantness with which the work was able to proceed was mentioned, and wherever they had come from, north, south, east or west, they could assure the people of London that the commissioners would always cherish the pleasant stay they had had in London.

#### The Moderator's Valedictory.

This concluded the business of the Assembly, and the Moderator summed up the work that had been accomplished in his farewell address.

"The work has thus come to a close," said the Moderator. "We have had a long and strenuous Assembly. Never in the history of the Presbyterian Church have the reports manifested so much progress or shown the Church to be in such a flourishing condition. Although there have been some unsatisfactory notes, we must be gratified at the healthy condition of our colleges. The Church has reason to thank God for the blessing poured out upon it. I think I may well congratulate the Assembly upon the spirit shown, the tone exhibited and the high standard in the discussion of the great subject of Church Union. Whatever may be the final issue, we all trust that great good will result from it, even if no corporate union is realized for many years to come. With the other denominations we have been brought more closely together, and we can well ask the blessings of God upon all the others, even if we are never closer than we are now. As to the final issue, I am sure God will so direct it that there will come whatever is for His own glory. We are parting, perhaps, some of us, never to meet again. This is a very solemn moment. One after another drops out of our ranks. So with old-time memories, sweetened and refreshed, new friendships formed and an impetus given to us, we go forth, with a parting psalm, ready to pray and work for the peace of God and the joy of Jerusalem."

Rev. Principal MacLaren led in prayer, a psalm was sung, and Moderator Falconer dissolved the Assembly and pronounced the benediction.

#### MONTREAL.

On a recent Sunday, the Rev. W. D. Reid, reviewing the work of the past eight years in Taylor Presbyterian church, said: "It is eight years to-day since I first stood in this pulpit as your pastor. As I look back over the past it is indeed with a grateful heart. Truly we can say: 'Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.' During that time we have received into the fellowship of the Church the very large majority on profession of faith, 1,004 persons. I have officiated at 341 baptisms, 139 marriages, and 145 funerals. In that period \$58,021 has been raised for all objects. For missionary and benevolent purposes the sum of \$5,318 has been given." Mr. Reid thanked the congregation for their 'loyalty, faithfulness, energy, unanimity, and a liberality in the days past, and expressed the hope that the years gone were but a prophecy of those which are to come. The congregation is now one of the largest in the city, having a membership of almost a thousand. The crowds which fill the commodious church every Sunday evening come from all parts of the city.