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The singing of the hymn "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord," concluded the Sabbath School part of the evening's work, and the report was adopted on motion of Principal MacVicar, seconded by Rev. Mr. Murray.

## SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

Rev. Dr. Armstrong, of Ottawa, presented the report of the Committee on Sabbath Observance: The Synod of Hamilton and London condemns the Government for receiving and despatching mails on Sunday, and also for having ordered the opening of the Welland Canal during part of the day for Sunday traffic. Efforts were made to induce the Government to close the Canal, and the whole matter was laid before Sir John Macdonald, Acting Minister of Railways and Canals. The Premier in the House of Commons explained this to be a question whether commercial or moral considerations should have weight, and the latter won. The Synod urge that a day be set apart for urging the Sabbath observance upon congregations, and also that deputations be sent to wait upon members of Parliament to secure their support for legislation against Sabbath desecration. The Synod of Manitoba and the North West complains mainly of Sunday railway work, but says it is being reduced to a minimum. The other signs are held to be most encouraging. The Presbytery of Columbia, however, sends a report for which the Committee express deep regret. Freight trains are run on the C. P. R. and the Island Railway, and a Sunday passenger train is run every few hours between New Westminster and Vancouver, patronized by hundreds of excursionists. Steamboats also run. There are Sunday newspapers in Vancouver and Victoria. All over the Province saloons are open the week round, except in Vancouver City; teamsters, miners, stockmen and others make no distinction between Sundays and other days, the post-offices are open, and stages carrying mails run on Sunday, and generally there seems to be no provincial law to protect the sanctity of the Sabbath. Generally it is reported that the Lord's Day Alliance of Canada is fully organized and doing efficient work. Mr. Charlton, M.P., and Professor Wellton, M.P., have undertaken to draft and introduce at next session of Parliament a bill to promote Sabbath observance.

The Alliance is sending out petitions for signatures, and urges that these should be sent in signed as largely as possible. With regard to Sunday railway traffic the Alliance wrote to President Van Horne, of the C. P. R., and General Manager Hickson, of the G. T. R. Both sent replies expressing their earnest desire to do away with Sunday traffic, as far as possible. Mr. Hickson has issued an order that freight trains are not to be run on Sundays as a rule, the exceptions being in the case of live stock and perishable goods. The Committee make the following recommendations: (1) That the Presbyteries make suitable arrangements to have the claims and obligations of the Sabbath brought pointedly and prominently before the congregations within their bounds. (2) That the Assembly record its approval of the action of the Presbytery of Hamilton in petitioning against the opening of the Welland Canal for Sunday traffic, and its regret that the Government has not seen fit to grant the prayer of that petition. (3) That the Assembly endorse the action of the Lord's Day Alliance of Canada in seeking further legislation to ensure the due observance of the Sabbath; that the Assembly forward to the Dominion Parliament a petition in the terms proposed by the Alliance, and recommend the Presbyteries and congregations to do the same. (4) That in order to obtain more accurate information on the nature of Sabbath observance throughout the country, the following questions be sent down to Presbyteries through the Synodical Conventions: (a) What forms of Sabbath-breaking prevail throughout the bounds of your Presbytery? (b) What measures have been taken to check Sabbath-breaking and to promote the due observance of the Lord's Day? (c) Have the Assembly's recommendations (1) as to the formation of Presbyterial Committees; (2) as to the preaching of stated sermons on Sabbath observance, been carried out? (d) Have you any suggestion to make as to efficient means that might be adopted to further the cause of Sabbath observance? (5) That the Assembly appoint as its representatives in the Lord's Day Alliance of Canada the members of its Sabbath Observance Committee.

Rev. Dr. McMullen said that there had been much correspondence with the American Churches, regarding this great railway question, in which it was deemed that union of action was necessary, and he wanted to know what had been done.

Rev. Dr. Armstrong said that the Lord's Day Alliance came into co-operation with the American Sabbath Union, and the correspondence would go on.

Rev. Dr. Caven called attention to what was said about British Columbia, which called out an explanation by Rev. Dr. McLeod, that though in that Province they had many forms of Sabbath desecration, there was an earnest band of Christians working for reform, and he saw no reason to despair of the result. A resolution was passed on motion of Dr. Caven, urging the committee to propose some means of abating this evil.

Hon. Mr. Vidal moved, and Rev. George Burson seconded the adoption of the report, which was adopted.

Rev. C. A. Tron, Commissioner of the Waldensian Church was then called upon, and was received with a loud applause. He delivered a most interesting address, and closed with an invitation on behalf of the Waldensian Church, to send delegates to take part in a celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of the return of the Waldenses to Italy from their exile, which is to be held this year in Turin. He gave figures, showing the marvellous increase in the Waldensian Church, and said that this was a favourable time for the propagation of the Protestant religion among the masses of Italy. Of 30,000,000 of Italians, at least 10,000,000 were utterly indifferent to religion, this being the result of the Roman Catholic system.

The Moderator assured Mr. Tron of the sympathy of the Assembly, and their appreciation of the history of the Waldensian Church. He informed him also that the Assembly would deal with the matter he had proposed at a subsequent sederunt.

## EIGHTH DAY.

The first business of importance at the morning Session was the presentation of the supplementary report of Aged and Infirm Ministers Fund: the names of those whose application for leave to retire from the active duties of the ministry having been granted, were placed on the list. (Dr. Thompson, of Sarina, in moving the adoption of the report, earnestly commended the fund to the liberality of the Church. The provisions made for ministers of the Church on their retirement was utterly inadequate, and he knew of no class of men so cultured and holding such a social position who had to go with such poor retiring allowance.

Rev. J. A. Murray, London, seconded the adoption of the report, and in doing so spoke strongly of the conduct of churches, which, contributing vast sums to all the purposes of the Church, gave only a pittance to this fund.

Rev. Styles Fraser, Mahone Bay, N. S., moved the adoption of the report of the committee for the Eastern Section. The fund in the Eastern Section was in a somewhat better condition than in the West. It was, he said, much to be regretted that there are still sixty-three congregations in the Maritime Provinces that do not contribute to the funds. The report was adopted.

Rev. Robert Murray, of Halifax, proposed that the Assembly ask Presbyterians to consider whether or not it is expedient to make it necessary for all missionaries and ministers to connect themselves with the Aged and Infirm Ministers Fund. The Assembly endorsed the idea.

Rev. Dr. Laidlaw, of Hamilton, reported on behalf of the Committee on Loyal Addresses, the usual expressions of fealty to the

Queen, the Prince of Wales, the Governor-General, Lady Stanley and family.

Rev. P. M. Morrison, Halifax, submitted the report of the Eastern Section Widows' and Orphans' Fund. Rev. Dr. Reid read the report of the Western Section of the same fund, and the reports were unanimously adopted. The fund is in a good financial condition.

Rev. Robert Hamilton, Moderator of the Stratford Presbytery, went into a history of the case, showing that the people of Harrington had protested against the formation of a church at Brookside, on the ground that it will imperil their prosperity. Prolonged trials before the various Church Courts were had over the matter, and finally the Presbytery of Stratford was empowered to supply the charge at Brookside in such a manner as not to imperil the charge at Harrington. Now the Harrington church complains that injury has been wrought them by this new church, and claims indemnity. The matter was referred to a committee, with instructions to hear all parties and report at the afternoon sederunt.

Rev. G. M. Milligan brought up the report of the Committee on the State of Religion. After a short discussion, it was adopted with thanks to the committee, especially to Dr. MacRae, the convener. The report will be further enlarged and elaborated by Dr. MacRae, before insertion in the printed records of the Assembly.

Rev. Dr. Campbell, Montreal, presented an overture from the Presbytery of Montreal relating to Home Mission and Augmentation regulations, setting forth that the cost of living and house rent is much higher in Montreal than country charges, and asking that regulation 10 be amended so as to provide that ministers requiring aid in cities may receive a stipend up to \$1,000, and an additional sum for house rent where no manse is provided, not exceeding \$300. He moved that this request be granted, and that it be left to the Home Mission Committee to carry out the provisions and make similar allowances for the keeping of a horse and house rent in country where the circumstances require.

Rev. Alexander Gilray seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Rev. Dr. King at this stage named the committee on the Jesuit Estates Act. The committee is constituted as follows: Rev. D. J. Macdonnell and Principal MacVicar, joint Conveners; the Moderator, ex-officio; Dr. Robert Campbell, Montreal; Dr. Cook, Dr. Warden, Dr. MacRae, Rev. James Fleck, Professor Scrimger, Rev. N. McKay, Dr. Armstrong, Rev. A. W. McLean, Principal Caven, Rev. G. M. Minigan, Dr. Torrance, Dr. Laing, Dr. Laidlaw, Dr. McMullen, Rev. J. A. Murray, Dr. John Thompson, Dr. Robertson, Dr. King, Dr. McCulloch, Dr. Forrest, Dr. Burns, Rev. A. Falconer, Rev. George Bruce, Rev. Thomas Lotheringham, Elders: Hon. D. Laird, Hon. Alexander Morris, Messrs. J. K. Macdonald, J. I. Small, Ald. William Carlyle (St. Thomas Ward), Matthew Hutchinson, J. McHaines, Henry Morton, Dr. McDonald, Hamilton; John Charlton, M.P., James Fisher, M.P., Robert Murray, George Hay, A. I. McKenzie, A. Bartlett, J. P. Millar and James Hutcheson, with power to add to their number.

Rev. George Bruce, of St. John, N. B., reported as to the replies received to the three remits sent down to the Presbyteries by the last General Assembly. The remits on marriage with a deceased wife's sister were misunderstood by many Presbyteries; some treated them as one remit; others treated them as two remits, as was evidently intended by the Assembly. Twenty-nine Presbyteries reported—twenty-five approving, three disapproving and one approving of the first remit and disagreeing with the second. Eighteen speak of but one remit, and seven recognize two remits. The remit on the supply of vacancies brought forth replies from eighteen Presbyteries and one Synod. Two Presbyteries approved and three disapproved *unphluter*, while twelve Presbyteries and the Synod of Manitoba gave a qualified approval.

On the remit as to the payment of expenses of commissioners to the General Assembly, twenty-two Presbyteries reported, four approving and seven disapproving *unphluter*. Nine gave a modified approval, and one disapproved. The remits on marriage with a deceased wife's sister were referred to a committee, who were instructed to analyze the replies and report to the evening sederunt. On consideration of the third remit, Dr. Reid read an overture from the Ottawa Presbytery asking that the representation to the General Assembly be reduced from one-fourth to one-eighth, so that the establishment of a fund for paying the expenses of the commissioners might be possible. This reminded the Assembly that they had already asked the Presbyteries their opinion as to whether the representation should not be reduced from one-fourth to one-sixth, and they decided not to take action in this matter until this opinion shall have been obtained. The scheme for the supply of vacancies as set forth in the minute was accepted and referred to a committee to suggest any desirable amendments at the next meeting of the General Assembly.

In the afternoon a memorial from Dr. Jardine, of Prince Albert, the trustees of Nesbit Academy, and recommendations anent the same was read. The memorial showed that, if arrangements were not made for the providing of a male teacher before July without any additional expense being incurred to the school, the Academy would have to be closed on account of lack of funds. The Memorial showed that the school was necessary for the instruction of the Indians and Protestant children of that region. The matter was remitted to those members of the various committees concerned. An overture was read from Rev. Dr. Jardine, of Prince Albert, N. W. T., asking for the establishment of the territory included in the District of Saskatchewan into a Presbytery, to be known as the Presbytery of Saskatchewan. In this connection the overtures from the Presbyteries of Brandon and Regina, in connection with a similar matter were read. These overtures set forth that the present large extent of these Presbyteries made the expense of holding Presbytery meetings very great and the executive work very heavy, and asked for the erection of a new Presbytery out of the western portion of the Brandon Presbytery, to be known as the Presbytery of Minnedosa. This new Presbytery would include twenty-five stations and thirteen ministers. Rev. Dr. Robertson, of Winnipeg, moved that the request of the overture be granted, and the new Presbytery of Minnedosa be duly constituted and called to meet on July 15. This motion was adopted by the Assembly, as was also another, moved by Dr. Robertson, and seconded by Chief Justice Taylor, to the effect that the request of Dr. Jardine be remitted to the Presbytery of Regina and the Synod of Manitoba and the North-West.

Rev. Mr. Johnston brought up the report of the Committee on systematic benevolence. This report showed that the contributions for the schemes of the Church were becoming more regular, instead of, as in the past, depending very much upon the whims of the giver. Tracts bearing upon the subject of sympathetic giving had been largely issued in the Maritime Provinces. In Ontario and Quebec there had been no statistics returned. Consequently, the report was somewhat meagre. Recommendations endorsing the envelope system were appended to the report.

Dr. Moore, of Ottawa, reported for the Committee appointed to consider the replies to the remit on marriage with the deceased wife's sister, recommending that in view of the fact that twenty-five out of the twenty-nine Presbyteries reporting are in favour of the remit allowing liberty of opinion in subscribing to the formula by which office-bearers acknowledge the Confession of Faith, that such liberty of opinion be allowed under the authority of the Assembly.

Rev. Dr. Reid thought it was not wise to deal with so important a matter in the present meagre attendance at the Assembly. It might cause certain of their oldest members to separate themselves from the Church, and he must enter his protest in which two others joined.

Rev. George Burson, of St. Catharines, seconded the adoption of the report, when Rev. Dr. Caven pointed out that, even if all the Presbyteries not reporting had reported against the remit, they

would have still a clear majority of the Presbyteries in favour of the remit. The report was adopted.

Dr. Moore presented an overture from the Presbytery of Ottawa, suggesting that such changes be made in the licensing law that the applicant for a liquor license be required to present a petition signed by the majority of resident householders in the division for which the license was asked. Other changes of a minor nature were also suggested. The overture was received and put into the hands of the Temperance Committee for action.

Rev. Dr. Reid presented the final report, pointing out that this year the Assembly fund shows a deficit of \$569.46. No congregation paid over the assessed amount, four cents a member, and 224 congregations contributed nothing at all. It was recommended among other things that the amounts to be raised by each Presbytery be duly allocated to them and that they be charged with its collection.

Dr. Laing reported that the difference between the congregations of Brookside and Harrington had been adjusted to the satisfaction of all concerned.

The report of the Montreal Woman's Missionary Society gave an outline of a vast amount of work that had been done. The receipts for the year were \$1,015.61. The Assembly expressed satisfaction at the work done.

Chief Justice Taylor and Principal Caven reported for the delegates who attended the last Presbyterian Council, in London, and announced that the next meeting of that great body will be held in Toronto in 1892.

Rev. Dr. Moore, of Ottawa, reported that the committee on Evangelistic Work had collected a number of suggestions as to the manner in which this work should be carried on. Salaries for evangelists were recommended all the way from \$500 to \$2,500, and opinion was greatly divided as to whether they should be paid from a common fund or by the congregations among whom they labour. The Committee recommended that the matter be left in the hands of the Synods with instructions to confer with the Presbyteries. The report was adopted.

Professor Bryce briefly submitted the report of the Presbyterian Historical Society giving many interesting details.

A reference was received from the Presbytery of Guelph in regard to dissatisfaction expressed by the congregation of Duff's Church, in that Presbytery, with the pastorate of Dr. McKay. The matter was remitted to the Presbytery in view of the absence of parties in the case.

The Assembly granted the petitions from the Synods concerned asking that Fordwich and Gorrie be transferred from the Synod of Hamilton and London to the Synod of Toronto and Kingston.

It was ordered that the \$315 due annually from the Assembly to the general expenses of Presbyterian Council be paid and that the annual claim be admitted.

A communication was read from the Prisoners' Aid Association, asking that the Assembly appoint a committee to co-operate with them in the work of Prison Reform, when such a committee was appointed, to consist of Rev. Dr. Kellogg, Rev. Alex. Gilray and Mr. W. B. McMurrich.

Rev. Dr. Caven read the report on Ecclesiastical Union which recounted in brief the doings of the Union Conference held in Toronto some time ago, and recommended that the General Assembly appoint a committee for the current year, to meet with similar committees from the other Churches such committees be appointed. Dr. Caven, in moving the adoption of the report, said that he would not wish the Assembly to infer that any great progress had been made toward corporate union, but a most Christian spirit was evidenced on the part of all Churches concerned. The report was adopted and the committee reappointed.

The report of the committee on Church Architecture was presented by Rev. D. J. Macdonnell in the absence of Rev. Mr. Cumberland. It was in effect a report of progress and a request for reappointment. The committee was reappointed.

The greater part of the evening was spent in a discussion upon Nesbit Academy, in Prince Albert, N. W. T. This academy was endowed with some Foreign Mission lands by the Assembly, and collections were made with the consent of the Assembly to put up a new building. This building is completed, but funds are asked for to carry on the work, it being impossible, to keep the school open otherwise. The committee on the case recommended \$900 to be given from various funds, pending an investigation of the work by the Synod of Manitoba and the North-West, under whose control it is. This grant is only for one year and does not commit the Church in any way to its continuance. A lively debate took place on the committee's recommendation, which was eventually carried.

Rev. Dr. Moore, of Ottawa, supported an overture from the Presbytery of Ottawa favouring the establishment of an illustrated periodical covering an interesting record of mission work for circulation among the children. It was decided to refer the matter to the committee on the *Presbyterian Record* to consider the question and report at next Assembly.

A petition for the establishment of Hospital Sunday in the Churches was read, and a resolution was passed recommending hospitals to the liberality of the members of the Church, but declaring that it was not necessary to the Church to establish such an institution as Hospital Sunday.

On motion of Rev. Dr. McMullen, seconded by Chief Justice Taylor, votes of thanks were passed to the Lieutenant Governor, the railway, telephone, telegraph companies, the post office department, the Toronto press, the minister and elders of St. Andrew's Church, the Committee of Arrangements, and the citizens of Toronto, especially Mr. A. M. Cosby, for kindnesses shown to the Assembly and its members.

The Moderator, in closing the Assembly, said it was not strange that the Session should occupy a week. In fact, considering that this was the supreme legislature, supreme executive, and supreme court of a Church covering the whole country and representing about a million people, and having revenues of \$2,000,000, the fact that the business was finished in a week proved that Presbyterianism was a thoroughly workable system, adaptable to varied circumstances. The civil power was more and more adapting itself to the funds mental principles of this Church, and other Churches were doing the same, and even bettering its example. For if there was any drawback in the Assembly's work, it was that in speaking, if not in committing, the clerical predominated over the lay element. He congratulated them upon the harmony which had characterized their deliberations. Much of the time had been occupied with a so called heresy case, really a case of discipline. He congratulated the Assembly upon the fact that even the appellants, against whom judgment was pronounced, acquiesced in the result, feeling that they had been treated with fairness and courtesy. He thanked Rev. Dr. McMullen in this connection for having relieved him during the progress of the case of the arduous duties of chairman. He called special attention to the report of the Union Conference of other Churches. They had been able to give it but little time, yet all would recognize the benefit of which it might prove the forerunner. "It must inspire our hearts," he said, "with the hope that better days are drawing near, days when the Churches will consent to meet together on a common platform to consider matters on which they have hitherto differed, not to magnify these differences, but to minimise them, and we are all inspired less or more with the hope that such Conference must lead to a better understanding between the Churches, to less conflict in the sections of our country, and then to some agreement or union not absolute, but something in the shape of the civil union in which Provinces of the Dominion are now joined—a federal union." The work of the Assembly must inspire them with hope for the future of the Church and the future of the country, and with a determination to follow as earnestly as ever the path of duty. The Assembly was then closed with the benediction.