

work of a summer session was begun. On the contrary, there has been a steady decrease year by year, and the amount contributed in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, towards the support of the College during the year 1895-6, has been nearly \$500 less than it was during the year in which the College was asked to undertake the work. Any income from the investment of legacies left the College, and from increased liberality of friends in the North-West, should be applied to the development of the College apart entirely from the work of the summer session.

"Under these circumstances the Board must respectfully ask to be relieved from carrying on a summer session during another year.

Principal King made an earnest plea for a larger support of this Missionary College, otherwise the Summer Session must be abandoned. He concluded by moving that the resolution of the Board in regard to the Summer Session be referred to a special committee, to be appointed by the Moderator, to report at a nearly day. Rev. Dr. Robertson seconded the motion, and urged vehemently that the Summer Session should not be abolished. It is vital to the mission work in the West. Without it, Winter Supply is impossible. Besides, a higher grade of teaching is reached when such eminent men as Profs. MacLaren, Scrimger, Beattie, Orr, George Adam Smith are available, as they can only be, in summer to aid the regular staff. Dr. Robertson rendered the strongest possible tribute to Dr. King's indefatigable labors. "It is impossible for him to rest; he will never rest as long as he lives; he will not rest even when he dies. But in the interests of the College, that he may live the longer to labor for it, some relief ought to be given him." Rev. Jas Buchanan, late of Eburne, B.C., who carried with him the resolution of the British Columbia Synod, deprecated the lapsing of the Summer Session. Prof. McLaren, who followed, declared that he could not for a moment think that the Church would allow the Summer Session to go down. The real source of danger, however, is that men, Dr. King among the number, are doing work for eleven months in the year, work which will certainly result disastrously to those upon whom it is laid. Dr. Bruce hoped that the discontinuance of the Summer Session would not be for a moment entertained. Prof. Hart spoke in the same line, as also Rev. A. B. Winchester, who emphasized the need of rest for Dr. King. Dr. King in closing the discussion regretted that being employed for eleven months in the year at the College, he could not personally visit the congregations of the Church and added humorously: "Dr. Robertson is at a greater advantage. He can visit the congregations, and whilst he always commends the College and its work, he secures the money for the missions.

The resolution was adopted and the Committee appointed with Rev. Dr. Moore as convener.

The Report of

KNOX COLLEGE

was presented by Principal Caven in the absence of Mr. Mortimer Clark, the chairman of the Board. He called attention to the main points of the report:—

"The College continues to attract a large number of students, and the class lists are unusually extensive. The graduating class of 1896, numbering twenty-seven, is one of the largest recorded, and that of the first year, from which the classes of the next two years will be recruited, numbering thirty-seven, is larger than any similar class in the annals of the College. The Board observe with satisfaction that many of the students avail themselves, if not of a full University course, yet of the benefit of attendance at lectures in the University, while a large number have obtained degrees in Arts after distinguished careers, before entering on their theological studies. The Board earnestly recommend to the students the desirability of taking a degree before beginning their professional studies, and continue to do everything in their power to induce students to adopt this course."

The valuable services rendered to the College last session by Revs. Dr. Somerville, D. M. Ramsay, and J. McD. Duncan were acknowledged.

A high tribute was paid to the late secretary and treasurer of the College, Rev. Dr. Reid. Rev. Dr. Warden has been appointed to succeed him in the important office of treasurer, Rev. W. Burns having already been made secretary of the Board. He has long been associated with the endowment and other work of the College. The Assembly is asked to consider the proportion of the agent's salary, this proportion having been hitherto much too large as compared with that from the other funds. Rev. H. Esson Reid, the son of the late Dr. Reid, has rendered very valuable services in connection with the arrangement of the securities held by Dr. Reid on behalf

the College. Speaking of repairs on the College, the Principal remarked that a new stairway had been built. "We have some young men with a good deal of life!"

The interests from investments are diminished, whilst the contributions from the Church are larger.

From the Treasurer's Statement it will be seen that the total income from interest on investments and congregational contributions has been \$15,330.89, while the expenditure has amounted to \$21,907.23, leaving a deficiency of \$6,576.34. In connection with this it may be stated that from the fall in the rate of interest, and the great difficulty experienced in finding safe investments, the Board have resolved to apply moneys which may in the meantime be repaid on loans, in liquidating the existing mortgage on the College premises.



REV. J. D. MITCHELL, FIRST PASTOR OF CENTRAL CHURCH.

An Alumni Endowment and Sustentation Association is to be formed, which asks the cordial approval of the Assembly.

The name of Rev. Dr. Robinson, of Roxburg Presbyterian Church, Boston, was submitted for the chair of Old Testament Literature and Exegesis, and that of Rev. James Ballantyne, B.A., of Ottawa, for the chair of Apologetics and Church History, the salary in each case to be \$2,500.

The report was adopted on motion of Principal Caven seconded by Rev. A. J. Mowatt, with the exception of the portion relating to the Professorships. Mr. Mowatt, as a Montrealer, expressed extreme regret at the removal of Dr. Warden from their city and his necessary severance, therefore, from a large part of the work there.

In the matter of the professorships, Dr. George Livingston Robinson, Ph.D., was appointed on motion of Rev. Dr. Hamilton, of Motherwell, seconded by Rev. Jas. Hastie, of Cornwall. Dr. Robinson's career and qualifications are already well before the Church and are of the highest promise. Rev. J. McD. Duncan moved the appointment by Rev. Jas. Ballantyne, B.A., to the remaining chair, seconded by Rev. Dr. Thompson, of Sarnia. Rev. Dr. Laing referred to the financial question, and wished more definite plans for the increase of the revenue of Knox College. Rev. H. McKellar, moved in amendment that Rev. John Somerville, M.A., D.D., of Owen Sound be appointed. The Moderator here stated that under the present rule of appointment the nomination must come through the Board, and that the only course open is, if the Assembly so wish, to remit the matter back to the Board for a fresh nomination. Rev. Dr. W. A. McKay, of Woodstock, therefore moved, seconded by Mr. McKellar, that the report be so remitted.

He remarked that Dr. Somerville was not only a scholar but a tried teacher of large experience and success.

The hour of adjournment now intervened and the matter was left over. A note of salutation to the Assembly and of hearty appreciation of the Church's work from the Earl of Aberdeen was read by the Moderator.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

At this sederunt the appointment of a Professor of Church History and Apologetics for Knox College was resumed. The Rev. Dr. DuVal, of Winnipeg, addressed the Assembly, giving emphasis chiefly to the point, that although from the fact of the professors being members of the College Board, and in constant

the contact with life and work, they were the best qualified to advise as to nominations for professorships, that yet the Assembly in receiving such nominations did not divest itself of its supreme power in any matter pertaining to the Church's well-being.

Rev. Dr. MacLaren explained that at the meeting of the Board in April, all the names sent up had received the most careful consideration of the Board without arriving at a decision. At the meeting of the previous day when the number of names had been reduced to three or four, all good men, but yet upon none of whom the Board could give a unanimous nomination, they looked around among other nominees for the chair, and were able to arrive at a unanimous nomination of the Rev. Mr. Ballantyne, of Ottawa, who was thereupon nominated. After much discussion upon amendments to the report and nomination of the Board with a view to bring before the Assembly the name of the Rev. Dr. Somerville, and to delay nomination on account of the state of the finances of the Board, upon points of order, and answering questions of members as to Mr. Ballantyne's qualifications, all of which were eventually disposed of, the report of the Board nominating him to the vacant professorship was voted upon and carried, and the Rev. William Burns, secretary to the Board, and the Rev. Dr. Fletcher were appointed to wait upon Mr. Ballantyne, and acquaint him with his appointment.

The remainder of this sederunt was occupied chiefly with routine business of hearing the reports read, and briefly spoken to, of the several colleges of the Church, from which it appeared that all of them in the matter of teaching and number of students were in a flourishing condition, and rendering most important service to the Church and the country by their educational work. The chief drawback in the way of their doing better work is the want of better financial support, some of them reporting an excess of expenditure over income, and others with difficulty keeping the two equal. These reports were all referred to a committee to consider, and bring in a report upon at some future sederunt.

The report of the Committee upon Statistics was presented this year, as for many years past, by the Rev. Dr. Torrance, convener, who pointed out the chief salient items of interest, its encouraging and discouraging features, the increases and decreases it revealed, but that upon the whole it gave ground for satisfaction and gratitude. He recommended that Presbyteries should pay early



REV. D. M'TAVISH, M.A., D.SC., PRESENT PASTOR OF CENTRAL CHURCH.

attention to the statements of the report as to the congregations within their respective bounds, to the end that every interest might be efficiently looked after and failures corrected. He also recommended the engaging by Presbyteries in earnest devotional exercises in the light of the information afforded by the report respecting the state of congregations and the whole work embraced in the report. The Rev. Dr. Grant, of Orillia, in moving the adoption of the report with its recommendations, referred to the immense amount of labor which the Rev. Dr. Torrance for years had given to the Church in the compilation of that report, to its exceedingly full and clear presentation of the information contained in it, and of its superiority to reports of the same of other bodies which he had had occasion to examine. Dr. Grant also drew attention to the comparative tabulation of returns and great inequalities it brought to light in the contribu-

tions of congregations for different objects, and expressed it as his opinion that these did not arise so much from inequality as to ability to do, as from more intelligent and faithful supervision of the work being shown in one case than in another. The adoption of the report was carried, and a motion made by Colonel Fraser, with a view to simplify the returns and secure the utmost degree of accuracy, was referred for future consideration to the Committee on Statistics.

The report of the Committee on the Distribution of Probationers was also presented by Dr. Torrance, who referred to the delicate and often difficult duties devolving upon this committee, whose work, owing to many causes, had always been hard to discharge in a manner satisfactory to individual probationers, to congregations and to presbyteries.

FRIDAY EVENING.

The Foreign Mission work of the Church now always takes up the third evening of the Assembly meeting, and is a subject which always attracts a large audience. This year, in spite of political excitement and powerful counter-attractions, an audience which almost filled Cooke's Church, the largest in the city belonging to our body, gathered in connection with foreign missions.

The report of the Foreign Mission Committee, Eastern Section, was presented by the Rev. Mr. Falconer. He referred to the beginning of this work by the Church in Nova Scotia fifty-two years ago, when Rev. Dr. Geddie first went out to the New Hebrides. Three islands are occupied by three missionaries of our Church—namely, Erromanga by Rev. H. A. Robertson, Iate by Rev. Mr. Mackenzie, and Santo by the Rev. Mr. Annand. The report spoke encouragingly of the work in all the islands, and on the latter a training school has been established with a view to preparing a native ministry. As a different dialect is spoken in each of the islands, instruction is given through the medium of the English language. The question of transferring this mission wholly to the care of the Presbyterian Church in Australia was referred to, but it appears that the time has not yet come when this can be done. The work among the Coolies or Indian immigrants in Trinidad, and which is extending to St. Lucia, Jamaica and Demerara, and its encouraging prospects, were also touched upon by Mr. Falconer in his speech, which gave a good presentation of the whole subject. He concluded with moving the adoption of the report.

Mr. Hamilton Cassels, convener of the Foreign Mission Committee, Western Section, gave in the report of the work under the charge of this committee. Of the seven fields under its care four are found within our own country, and so, strictly speaking, may be said to be Home Mission work. These are among the Indians in Manitoba and the North-West, the work being entirely under the efficient oversight of the Synod of Manitoba and the North-West. Of these Mr. Cassels gave a most encouraging account, especially of the spiritual results in the Indian school at Regina, under the care of the Rev. Mr. McLeod. The other work among the Indians spoken of was that in British Columbia, very greatly needed, and which, under the care of the missionaries and teachers there, is making rapid progress.

Other work at home taken charge of by the committee is among the Chinese in British Columbia, at the head of which is the Rev. A. B. Winchester, assisted by other labourers, in which also there is much encouragement, but which urgently requires better appliances to enable it to be carried on most efficiently, and which Mr. Cassels regretted to say, owing to prejudice existing against the Chinese immigrants, did not meet with the sympathy, at the coast especially, which it was much desired it should have. The Chinese in Montreal, of whom there are several hundreds, were next spoken of, and high praise given to the zeal and success with which it is conducted by members of our Church there, under the leadership of Dr. Thompson. Eleven schools are now in successful operation among the Chinese of that city. Altogether upon these four fields at home there are spent \$52,949.

The Foreign Mission fields, properly speaking of the Church are in India, Formosa and China. As these fields are so much before the Church and the work well known, it is only necessary to say that the reports from India and China are most encouraging. The work in Formosa has been greatly interfered with, and its progress for the present impeded, by the late war between China and Japan, whereby Formosa has passed into the

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