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Without any change in the mode of appointing the Board of Governors, the control of the theological staff would be secured to the Assembly if legislation were obtained, vesting in the Assembly the right of appointing professors upon the nomination of them by the Board of Governors. The committee suggested that the Board of Governors of Morrin College be requested to consider the advisability of securing in this way the closer relation of the college to the Church.

Appointment by Presbyteries, is, with one single exception, followed in Britain. In the U.S., appointments are made by college boards. Nominations have been made by boards since the union, in Canada, and the Assembly has appointed the nominee of the board. In the case of Queen's and Morrin College, appointments have been made by their boards and reported to the Assembly. In the opinion of the committee, the practice followed by Knox College and those following the same method, should be adopted as the regular mode of appointment of professors in all the theological colleges.

In regard to the relations of the college of Halifax to the Church, as that college has hitherto held an intimate connection with the Synod of the Maritime Provinces, it might be an appropriate recognition of that connection, if the Board of Management, though appointed by the Assembly, were nominated by the Synod, and the board were then empowered to nominate professors for appointment by the General Assembly.

THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

Your committee would, accordingly, recommend, that in the appointment of professors in the Presbyterian college, Halifax; the Presbyterian college, Montreal; Knox college, Toronto, and Manitoba college, the respective Boards of Management of those colleges shall nominate such professors, and the appointment shall be made by the General Assembly. That the Board of Trustees of Queen's University and the Board of Governors of Morrin College be requested to consider the advisability of procuring such legislation as shall give to the General Assembly the right of appointment of the theological professors in those colleges upon nomination by the Board of Trustees or Board of Governors; that when nomination to a vacant chair in any of the colleges has been made in the manner herein recommended and the Assembly disapproves of such nomination, the Assembly shall then adopt such a mode of making the appointment as it may deem most suitable; and that the Board of Management of the Presbyterian college, Halifax, be nominated by the Synod of the Maritime Provinces for appointment by the General Assembly.

The Convener counselled care in dealing with so delicate a matter and suggested remitting the whole question to the presbyteries and college boards. The Rev. Principal Caven, President Forrest, Rev. Dr. Cochrane, Rev. Principal Grant and others took part in the discussion and at the afternoon sederunt, a committee, struck to consider several motions, reported as follows: First, a resolution in regard to report of the trustees of Queen's University. That the Assembly receives the report of Queen's University, and records its grateful appreciation of the conduct of the Board of Trustees in proposing to give to the Assembly the right of veto in the appointment of theological professors. That as the mode of appointment of theological professors in all the colleges is still under consideration, the Assembly defers at this stage its final decision in regard to this proposal and that the report of the committee on the relations of the colleges to the Church be referred to the Board of Trustees of Queen's University, with the request that they will give it careful consideration and report their opinion of its recommendations to the next General Assembly.

The second resolution dealt with the report of the special committee, and was as follows: That the Assembly receive the

report of the committee on the relations of the colleges to the Church, and expresses general approval of the recommendations as securing to the Church control over all appointments to theological chairs; that in view of the importance of the subject, and the desirability of ascertaining the mind of the Church regarding it, this report and also that portion of the report of the trustees of Queen's University bearing upon the closer relations of the theological faculty of Queen's College to the Church, be sent down to Presbyteries, college boards and senates with instructions to report to the next General Assembly on the best method to be followed in making appointments to theological chairs in the colleges of the Church, and on the desirability of prescribing the same method in all the colleges or of allowing diversity of practice in the mode of appointment so long as no appointment shall be made of which the General Assembly does not approve. Further, that the Clerk be instructed to have copies of the documents herein referred to, issued to Presbyteries, senates and college boards.

THE SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Rev. J. G. Stuart, Toronto, presented the report of the Sabbath School Committee. It is stated that the progress had been most satisfactory, financially, educationally and numerically. The returns show 1,996 Sabbath schools, an increase of 22. The attendance of officers and teachers reported is 16,160, an increase of 543, and answers have been received from 1,710 schools, or 58 more than last year. The average attendance is 87 per cent., as against 83 1-2 last year, which was in its turn an advance of 6 1-2 per cent. The total number of scholars is 142,808, an increase of 6,107. Reports have been received from 1,714 schools, an increase of 68. Allowing, as usual, for unreported schools at the rate of 20 each, there is a grand total of 148,478. Making a deduction for those schools which reported total enrolment, but not average attendance, 67 1-2 per cent. of the scholars were present each Sabbath. This is a slight improvement on last year. The Scripture and catechism recitations were reported as improved and the same is noted in the matter of home preparation. The church attendance of the scholars has fallen off 4 per cent., and the report calls special attention to the fact. The financial report showed total receipts \$78,581, an increase of \$4,101, was expended upon the schools themselves, and \$34,910 on the Schemes of the Church and other objects. The total amount contributed to the schemes is \$28,753, an increase of \$952. A proposal to make Sunday school work one of the great schemes of the Church, did not meet the views of the Assembly and was not adopted. It was, however, proposed to reappoint Rev. T. F. Fotheringham Convener, and empower him to expend \$400 in salary for an assistant. This was opposed, but on a vote it carried by 69 to 35, and the instruction issued that collections for the fund be taken up on Children's day was adopted nem. con.

AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS.

Mr. J. K. Macdonald, Toronto, submitted the report of the committee on the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund (western section). The receipts were \$18,770.72, and the expenditure, \$1,865.53 less; \$14,064.12 had been paid to annuitants, of whom there were 77 at the beginning of the year, but eleven had died since. Although there was an improvement in the receipts from ministers' rates, the congregational contributions were falling off, and 250 congregations gave nothing thereto. The Endowment Fund in this connection was now \$128,050. There were applications from eleven ministers to be placed on the fund.

Rev. Dr. D. H. Fletcher, Hamilton, moved the adoption of this report with the exception of the clause dealing with application of ministers to go on the fund, which was held over until the report of the special committee on that branch of

the work came in. This was agreed to, Rev. Dr. Armstrong, Ottawa, seconding.

FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.

The evening sederunt was occupied with the reception and consideration of the report of the Board of French Evangelization. In three provinces, but chiefly in Quebec, has the work been carried on. Two pastors and four missionary colporteurs laboured in Ontario; one pastor and two missionaries in New Brunswick; eighteen pastors, twelve missionaries, seven missionary colporteurs and 26 teachers in Quebec. Thirty-seven congregations and mission fields, with 96 preaching stations, were supplied. Connected with these were 690 Protestant families. The average Sabbath attendance was about 2,750, of whom nearly one-quarter were Roman Catholics. One hundred and ninety-two members united with the Church, making a total membership of 984. Two new fields were occupied. The people contributed about \$6,000. Seven hundred and sixty scholars attended the Sabbath schools. Eleven colporteurs were employed, and 1,674 copies and portions of the Scriptures and about 23,000 religious tracts and papers distributed. Twenty-five mission day schools and four night schools were attended by 833 scholars, of whom 383 were from Roman Catholic homes. The average daily attendance was 456. (Ten schools now self-supporting but begun and fostered by the Board, are not included here.) One hundred and sixty-eight pupils attended the schools at Pointe aux Trembles, of whom 87 were the children of Roman Catholic parents. One hundred pupils attended Colligny college, Ottawa. Fourteen French students prosecuted their studies in the theological college, two of whom graduated and have been licensed since. The total number of labourers employed was 89. The total receipts \$45,000.

The present condition of the work was regarded as satisfactory and the results of the mission were to be seen in a growing intelligence and appreciation on the part of the people of evangelical truth and corresponding giving way of prejudices; in the desire, tacit or avowed, to break away from ecclesiastical authority and domination; in the thousands of Roman Catholics who read proscribed literature; in the 1,500 pupils attending Protestant mission schools; in 12,000 Canadians of French origin, who attend evangelical places of worship in Canada; in the 25,000 French Protestants who have gone to the United States; in the fact that 55 years ago there was perhaps not a French-Canadian Protestant, to-day there is one for every 67 of the French Canadian Roman Catholic population in Canada and the United States, there being one for every 102 in Canada, and for every 32 in the United States, and in the election of French Protestants to chief municipal offices, and their holding the balance of power in three counties as was shown by the last election in the province.

The report was presented by Rev. S. J. Taylor, Montreal, and its adoption was moved by Rev. D. M. Gordon, Halifax, and Dr. W. A. Mackay, Woodstock. Speeches in support of the work were delivered by Prof. Conisserat, Montreal; Mr. George Hay, Ottawa, and Rev. John R. McLeod, Three Rivers.

The report was adopted, and the Assembly adjourned.

STATE OF RELIGION.

On the Assembly resuming for the evening sederunt, Rev. Dr. Dickson, of Galt, presented the report on the State of Religion, and after addresses by Revs. S. Houston, Kingston, and Dr. Thompson, Sarnia, it was adopted.

The report on the State of Religion stated that faithful work was being done and the promised results were being looked for. Everywhere was felt the need of an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, a quickening of the Church and a deepening of the spiritual life. In speaking of the work done by elders, the report says that no doubt the Church was a power for good largely because of godly and large-

minded men in the eldership, yet there was reason to ask could there not be much more efficient eldership? A great awakening was taking place all over the Church, the report said, in reference to missionary enterprise, both at home and abroad. The discharge of parental duties was touched upon, and the cultivation of family religion, and the committee reported that it thought there was good ground for alarm in respect to this matter of essential importance. The services rendered by associations of the women of the Church, and other organizations, was gratefully recorded. In referring to the causes which operate against spiritual progress and the development of Christian character, the report has this clause: One cannot read the reports of Synods and Presbyteries attentively without having this thought come in upon the mind—that while every place has some hindrance common to all, such as worldliness, intemperance, Sabbath desecration, some places have hindrances peculiar to themselves, hindrances in addition to the common ones. Some neighbourhoods are nests of infidelity; some have the caste feeling developed to Asiatic perfection; some have the dancing mania upon them; some are overwhelmed by progressive euchre parties; some are driven to their wit's end by meetings of this society and that; some are borne on by a flood of sensational entertainments, either in churches or lyceums, or town halls; some so misplace worthy philanthropic enterprise that they become all their religion.

Several recommendations followed at the close of the report of more special interest to ministers and Sessions.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

This report was presented by Rev. D. Styles Fraser, of Nova Scotia, supported in addresses made by R. McQueen, Kirkwall; Rev. J. Fraser, Chatham, Que.; Walter Paul, Montreal, and Rev. W. A. Mackay, Woodstock. Reference was first made to a special committee appointed at last Assembly to co-operate with the executive of the Dominion Alliance and other bodies, to watch the conduct of the Royal Commission appointed by the Government to take evidence throughout the country on the temperance question. Mr. Spence was appointed as agent for this purpose, and the report says that the evidence in favour of prohibition will owe much of its completeness and weight to the work of Mr. Spence.

The question of a plebiscite necessarily was taken notice of in the report. The vote already taken in Manitoba and that about to be taken in Prince Edward Island and Ontario, were noticed. Reference was further made to the Marter Bill and its defeat. The terms of the plebiscite ordered by the Ontario Government are given as follows: "Are you in favour of the immediate prohibition by law of the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage?" Despite the failure of the Manitoba Legislature to do anything so far since the vote taken last summer, the report recommends that all temperance people lay aside all differences of opinion as to the wisdom of a plebiscite, and do all they can to roll up the largest majority possible for prohibition. The resolution submitted by the committee, after speaking hopefully of steps already taken and progress made, closed with the following resolutions:

That the Assembly regrets that in the Northwest territories the prohibitory law, which, even without fair opportunities, did much to stem the tide of drink, has been replaced by a license law, which is said to be doing much mischief, in greatly increasing the amount of drinking as well as multiplying the temptations thereto, and trust that the temperance people will not rest satisfied until they are again under prohibition, which successive Assemblies have declared to be the only satisfactory final temperance legislation.

That, inasmuch as the electors of Ontario and Prince Edward Island are soon to be called upon to vote on the question of the prohibition of the liquor traffic, this Assembly, without expressing any