

UNITED GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH.

SEVENTH DAY. WEDNESDAY, Sept. 27.

The seventh day's proceedings of the United Methodist Conference were resumed at nine o'clock this morning, Rev. Dr. Williams presiding. After devotional exercises, the Committee on the Course of Study presented their report.

The discussion on the name of the Church was resumed. Rev. J. Lathern thought in the interests of peace and harmony the report of the committee should be adopted.

Mr. J. Edmondson thought it would be wrong for his body, the Primitive Methodists, to ask that their name be adopted, and on the same ground he held that it would be wrong for the strongest Church to press for its name to be adopted.

A motion was made and carried that the vote be now taken, and the several amendments to the report were put and successively negatived. The report of the committee recommending that the name be "The Methodist Church," was then accepted amid cheers.

Mr. John Macdonald gave the following notice of motion: "That it shall not be competent for any minister of the Methodist Church in active service to engage in secular work or become a member of any secular boards for investing or trading purposes."

Rev. Dr. Stewart gave notice that he would move, "That in view of the anticipated legal consummation of the union of the Methodist Churches of this Dominion this Conference provide for suitable religious services to be held throughout our whole Church at the time specified for entering on organization."

The report of the Committee on Missions was then taken up. To the clause recommending the appointment of a superintendent of missions in the North-West, Mr. John Kent moved in amendment, "That in view of the fact that two superintendents have been elected, it is inexpedient that such an officer be appointed for the present."

Rev. Dr. Rice said the office in question was designed to meet the exigencies of the beginning of the work in the North-West. It was not intended as a permanent office, but at present that office was needed all the time during the summer months. The work hitherto has been ably carried out by Rev. Dr. Young, and he trusted the conference would see its way clear to retain Dr. Young in the position.

Revs. W. C. Henderson and E. A. Russ supported the recommendation of the committee and Mr. J. A. Adams opposed it.

Rev. Dr. Ryckman said the vote for two general superintendents had certainly been awayed by the consideration that one of them would be needed all the time during the summer months. The work hitherto has been ably carried out by Rev. Dr. Young, and he trusted the conference would see its way clear to retain Dr. Young in the position.

Revs. W. C. Henderson and E. A. Russ supported the recommendation of the committee and Mr. J. A. Adams opposed it.

Rev. Dr. Young said he had supported the appointment of two general superintendents, supposing that one of them would devote his time to the North-West work. They could not afford to leave that work for any length of time. It required constant attention during the spring, summer, and autumn. His conviction was that unless one of the general superintendents gave more than a few weeks to the work, in fact devoted the whole of his time to it, they would find that other Churches would be doing the work which they were neglecting.

Mr. John Macdonald was in favor of the clause in the Report.

Rev. Dr. Potts said he hoped that if the conference were not prepared to appoint a general Superintendent of Missions for the North-West they would refer the matter to the Central Board of Missions. If in the wisdom of that board there should be a pressing need for the continuance of such an officer it would be a great pity if the missionary authorities of the Church should not have the power to carry on the work.

Judge Dean supported the report of the committee.

Rev. Dr. Stone and Rev. S. F. Huestis thought the general superintendents could efficiently look after the work.

Hon. Senator Ferrier recognized the importance of the North-West mission field. He thought that it would require all the time of the general superintendents to attend to it, and even then they would find the assistance of such a gentleman as Dr. Young necessary.

On the vote being taken, Mr. Kent's resolution was adopted, the appointment of a missionary superintendent thus being negatived.

The remaining clauses of the report were then proceeded with. The clause recommending annual conference treasurers was eliminated. Several clauses had been adopted when the conference took recess.

AFTERNOON SESSION. The president took the chair at two o'clock.

Report No. 2 of the Committee on Annual Conference Boundaries was read as follows: "That whereas there are Bible Christian Churches in Ohio and Wisconsin, United States, which are now in connection with the Bible Christian Church of Canada, it is resolved, 'that the whole question of the future relation, if any, which these Churches shall sustain to the Methodist Church be referred to the General Conference Special Committee.'"

The recommendation was agreed to. Rev. W. W. Percival moved that the question of the names of the annual conferences be reconsidered. Carried.

Rev. Mr. Percival then moved that the proposed names of the Bay of Quinte and Niagara conferences be changed to Belleville and Hamilton respectively. He objected to the former names on the ground of indelicateness and want of euphony. He held that it would be nothing but an act of gracefulness on the part of the conference to remember the city where this august assembly was being held, and with regard to the latter conference, it did not look reasonable that it should bear the name of the insignificant town of Niagara and the prosperous city of Hamilton receive the go-by.

Rev. Dr. Aylsworth seconded the motion.

Mr. Dr. Rice moved in amendment that the name of the Bay of Quinte Conference be changed to Belleville. As the people of Belleville were anxious for the change he was willing to concede it, but wished to retain the name of Niagara.

Dr. Allison sincerely trusted that the conference would adhere to its original action. The vote being taken Rev. Dr. Rice's motion was declared carried.

Mr. Percival's motion was thereupon put and declared lost. The names of the conferences as originally proposed, Bay of Quinte and Hamilton, are therefore retained.

The conference then decided to adjourn until to-morrow morning in order to allow the committees to meet.

EIGHTH DAY. THURSDAY, Sept. 13.

The eighth day's session of the United Methodist Conference commenced this morning at nine o'clock, Rev. Dr. Williams presiding. After devotional exercises, Rev. S. Card presented a memorial from the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, regarding the holding of a Sunday-school parliament on the St. Lawrence.

The third report of the Committee on the General Superintendency recommended as follows: 1. That the general superintendency shall, when present, open the annual conference, and preside during the first day of its session, afterwards alternating with the president selected by the annual conference.

2. He shall be a member of the annual conference within the jurisdiction of which he resides when elected. 3. He shall not take part in the proceedings of his annual conference any further than his duties as general superintendent may require.

4. He shall be ex officio a member of the General Conference sitting at the time his term of office shall expire. 5. He shall be eligible for re-election. 6. He shall be elected to the general superintendency from among the ministerial members of the Church by ballot without nomination.

The report was received. The second report of the Committee on Temperance recommended: 1. On temperance in the home and Sunday-school. The characters of our children are for the most part made or marred in the home. We would earnestly recommend all our people to have family pledge cards in their homes on which the names of the parents and children shall be written, and our Sunday-schools, working in harmony with the home, shall organize as far as possible Bands of Hope or other juvenile societies, and hold a public meeting at least once every three months in each school. We also recommend the introduction of lessons on temperance as important aids in the education of children in the home and school.

2. With reference to the introduction of temperance text-books in the Common Schools of our Dominion, we recognize its importance, and recommend that the necessary steps be taken in conjunction with the education of children in the home and school.

3. The pen is mightier than the sword; use then to the utmost to advance the cause of temperance and prohibition by circulating papers and information.

4. The Canada Temperance Act of 1878, known as the Scott Act, is the only form of prohibition we have on the statute books of the Dominion, and believing it can be made productive of great good to the cause of ultimate prohibition, we recommend our people in every county where it is not now in force to take steps for the submission of the said Act to a vote of the ratepayers.

5. We believe in the right of a free people to protect themselves from the action of all laws that protect and license at a rate that is fraught with so much danger to their peace and safety, and as no regulation of the liquor traffic will arrest to any appreciable extent and for any length of time the evils arising from the use of liquors as a beverage, we earnestly recommend the tens of thousands of Methodist people having the franchise to vote for those candidates only who pledge themselves to give such legislation as will remove from the statute-books all laws licensing the sale of strong drinks for purposes of sale, and as will enact such laws as shall for ever destroy the thrice-accursed business of drunkard making.

6. We accept of no local option as ultimate legislation on this question. Local option laws are but partial prohibition and temporary expedients, valuable so far as they go, but the only and completely effective remedy for a legalized evil is to make it illegal by repealing all laws protecting and licensing it. Then to gather all the force of law, backed up by an educated public opinion for its utter extermination we aim at, and will be satisfied with nothing less than total prohibition from the State.

7. We commend the work of the ladies of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union to the prayerful sympathy and help of the Church. They are co-workers in the great cause of temperance and prohibition, and their generous towards them in recognition of all their claims. Be assured that woman's work in this reform is an essential and mighty force in the success that awaits it. Woman's place in the home is her place; her place in the school as an educator is equal to that of man; her place in the learned professions is now freely accorded, not out of complacence, but because it, and it only remains for the Government to grant her the right of the franchise, which right is fast being recognized by those who lead in the way of progress.

8. We earnestly recommend and entreat the official board of our Church to secure for some amicable purposes the pure unfermented juice of the grape, and to use that only.

The report was received.

The report of the Committee on Finance was presented. It stated that the salaries and travelling and incidental expenses of the general superintendents until the next General Conference will be \$13,500. The expenditure for the following interests is expected to be:—Transfer Com-

mittee, \$750; Court of Appeal, \$250; delegation, \$600; General Conference committees, \$200; legislation, \$1,000; travelling expenses of delegates to next General Conference, \$6,000; or a total expenditure of \$22,300. It recommended that this amount be raised by an annual collection to be held in the month of July.

Consideration of the report on the publishing interests was resumed. On the clause providing for granting \$2,000 from the book-room profits to the superannuation fund.

Rev. W. S. Griffin moved that the Book Committee be required to appropriate not less than 75 per cent. of the net profits of the business to the business to the superannuation fund.

Rev. Dr. Douglas was glad that this question had been brought forward. He was in favor of a large share of the profits being devoted to the superannuation fund.

Mr. John Macdonald said that undue haste of the friends of the superannuation fund might injure the prospects of the bookroom. It was infinitely safer to put a small amount away to the use of improved machinery than to have no fund to fall back upon.

Rev. Wm. Briggs said that at present there were over one hundred employees engaged in the establishment at Toronto, as compared with twenty when he first became connected with it. The progress that had been made entitled the purchasing of new machinery, and he thought it advisable that the Book Committee should not be crippled in their effort to extend the business. He was sure the committee would make a good grant to the superannuation fund, and if they could see their way clear would no doubt increase it.

Rev. Mr. Griffin's amendment was negatived by a large majority. The remaining clauses were gone through, and the report as a whole was adopted.

The education report was next taken up. Rev. A. Stafford moved the adoption of a clause providing that, "Inasmuch as there are in the Province of Manitoba two regular constituted bodies holding charters for the establishment of collegiate institutions, one that of the Wesley College of the Methodist Church of Canada, the other that of Trinity College, of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada, and as neither has yet made financial investments or begun educational work, this conference appoint an addition to the board of Wesley College, such board having full power to secure the necessary legislation for the amalgamation of the two Churches, to employ professors and tutors, and to complete all necessary arrangements for the commencement of an educational institute at such time as the board might deem expedient."

This clause was adopted and the report was agreed to.

Judge Dean moved for the appointment of a committee to prepare a respectful and affectionate address to the Conference of the Bible Christian Church in England, setting forth the happy union which had been effected among all the members of the Methodist families in this Dominion, and urging upon them with the greatest respect reasons which we think should prevail with them in giving their consent to the Bible Christian Conference in this country going into this union, and asking for them and for this whole Church the good-will and blessing of the venerable fathers and brethren of the English Bible Christian Church.

Mr. John Macdonald suggested in addition that the address be presented by a deputation to be appointed by the conference.

The resolution was supported by a number of speakers.

Rev. G. Webber said that from a letter he had received from England last Monday the difficulties would soon be smoothed over. The English Conference did not regard itself as owners of the Bible Christian Church property in this country. That could be clearly shown. By the figures which had been carefully compiled, slightly over \$6,000 worth was reported as being in existence prior to 1854, so that \$388,000 of their present property in Canada had been accumulated since they became independent in that year. He was sure there would be no real difficulty placed in the way, so far as legislative action was concerned, the friends across the ocean had no disposition to create difficulty in that way. He hoped no deputation would be sent, but if an address were presented it would have weight with the English Conference, and being laid before the executive meeting next month it would be considered, and no doubt they would be prepared to accede to it.

That part of the resolution referring to a deputation was by leave expunged, and the motion was then adopted. The conference took recess.

EVENING SESSION. The president took the chair at 7.30. The fifth report of the Committee on Discipline was taken up.

On the seventh clause, regarding young ministers, a motion was made that it be expunged.

Rev. J. Wakefield moved in amendment that it be retained. He believed the rule was of advantage to the Church. It was not a fact that it was a dead letter.

After some discussion, Rev. Mr. Wakefield's motion was lost by 53 to 40. The rule is therefore eliminated.

Several clauses of the report were adopted, and the conference adjourned at 10 p. m.

The Committee on Transfers submitted their report with the following resolution attached: "That in the view of the division and multiplication of annual conferences, and consequent restrictedness of the territory within the bounds of each conference, we deem it important that provision be made for a frequent interchange of ministers between the various conferences as a means of promoting a congenial feeling throughout the entire Church and maintaining the integrity in its integrity."

The first and second reports of the Committee on Church Property were read and received.

The second report of the Committee on Missions recommended: 1. A reconsideration of the clause of the Constitution authorizing the General Conference to elect twelve members of the General Board of Missions with view of increasing the number to eighteen.

2. The following names as members of the General Board of Missions in addition to the officers of the society and those appointed by the annual conferences and conference missionary committees for the ensuing quadrennium:—Ministers—Rev. Drs. Young, Douglas, Stone, John Slater, S. F. Huestis, E. Roberts, J. Gray, and W. Bee. Laymen—Hon. J. Ferrier, Lieut-Governor Aikins, W. E. Sandford, R. Walker, G. Cox, J. Paterson, L. Mordean, W. Goodwin, and J. Hull.

Consideration of the first mission report was resumed. Rev. S. Bond moved in amendment to the clause, "That the Japan Victoria, New Westminster, and Fort Simpson districts shall be considered missionary districts, and the Central Board may apportion directly to each mission in these districts."

The report was adopted, as also the second report, which appears above.

The report of the Committee on the Publishing Interests was next considered. It recommended among other things, that the Halifax and Toronto book-rooms of the Methodist Church of Canada be continued by the united Church; that the Methodist Episcopal, Primitive Methodist, and Bible Christian book establishments be continued until the 1st of July next, or until whatever time the united Church shall begin its legal existence; that the Canada Christian Advocate, Christian Journal and the Observer be discontinued at the same time, and that the Christian Guardian be sent for the remainder of the year to subscribers to those journals. If any of these papers are circulating in the Maritime Provinces, a similar course shall be pursued by supplying the WESLEYAN.

The expediency of opening a branch book-room and publishing a weekly paper in Winnipeg had been under the consideration of the committee, and they were of the opinion that should a suitable building be provided by friends in that city it might be expedient to open a book-room there at no distant date.

Regarding the proposition to issue a weekly paper there, it was recommended that the western section of the Book Committee be authorized to consider the whole matter, and to adopt such measures as might be deemed necessary. The Methodist hymn-book now used in the Methodist Church of Canada is recommended to be adopted by all the congregations of the united Church. The congregations of the other three uniting bodies may use the hymn-books now in use in the churches until the present supply of such books is exhausted.

The constitution of the book and publishing establishments was appended to the report.

Rev. S. Williamson moved that the name of the Christian Guardian be changed to the Methodist.

Several members of the Methodist Episcopal delegation objected, and on the vote being taken Mr. Williamson's was the only hand raised in favor of his amendment.

The Conference then took recess.

AFTERNOON SESSION. The President took the chair at two o'clock.

The report of the Committee on Education was read, the following being its salient points:—1. That it is the sense of this committee that the Bible Christian colleges be continued for the present in active operation in the full exercise of all their powers.

2. That the ultimate object to be reached shall be, first, the establishment of a consolidated university for the Methodist Church, and secondly, the purchase of Albert College as a high class academic institution in Belleville.

3. That the practical amalgamation of uniting work be committed to a large committee to arrange for the consolidation of the universities as rapidly as it can be done with financial safety.

4. That the following be the commission for the consolidation of the universities:—Dr. Rice, Nelles, Potts, Barwash, J. Williams, Carman, A. Sutherland, Ryckman, W. I. Shaw, D. J. Sutherland, Judge Dean, Messrs. W. Kerr, G. A. Cox, Jas. Mills, John Macdonald, W. E. Sandford, J. MacLaren, J. B. Ross, W. Goodwin, R. J. Walker, J. Aylsworth, B. F. Austin, J. Gilliland, Drs. Jaques, Badgley, Aylsworth, Mordean, Bardett, Revs. A. Campbell, Stratton, and J. J. Rice.

The report on the celebration of the centenary of the organization of Methodism in America recommended that the invitation of the Methodist Episcopal Church of America to take part in the celebration be cordially accepted.

The third report of the Committee on Temperance was presented. It recommended the appointment of an agent, or agents, whose whole time shall be employed in the temperance work of the Church, whenever such arrangements can be made as shall warrant such action.

The report of the Committee on Finance was presented. It stated that the salaries and travelling and incidental expenses of the general superintendents until the next General Conference will be \$13,500. The expenditure for the following interests is expected to be:—Transfer Com-

mittee, \$750; Court of Appeal, \$250; delegation, \$600; General Conference committees, \$200; legislation, \$1,000; travelling expenses of delegates to next General Conference, \$6,000; or a total expenditure of \$22,300. It recommended that this amount be raised by an annual collection to be held in the month of July.

Consideration of the report on the publishing interests was resumed. On the clause providing for granting \$2,000 from the book-room profits to the superannuation fund.

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