

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

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give us the required help. We know that the Co operation has a great deal to do and that its funds are limited, still it is surely our turn now to receive help. Hamilton, as the second city of the Province, is an important centre, where a strong Church should be built up, and what time more favorable than when for the first time in our history we have a suitable place of worship.

"What we need is a good, capable, energetic man, who will devote his entire time to the work here. We are aware that without assistance from the Co-operation, such a man cannot be secured, and we therefore earnestly request that the amount necessary for that purpose will be granted."

Welland.

An appeal was made to the Board on the part of the Church in Welland, to grant assistance towards paying for a meeting-house which had been bought, and for which it was agreed to give \$1,200. Of this sum \$200 had been paid at once, and for the balance ten years' time was given. The Board was requested to contribute the \$200. It was represented that the building was a bargain at the price named; that if this sum were paid for the Church, they would themselves be able to meet the subsequent payments, and require no further help from the Co-operation. After some correspondence between the Board and Bro. Wm. H. Swayze, Jr., on behalf of the Church, the corresponding secretary was instructed to visit Welland to obtain further particulars, and at the same time to call upon the Churches in the Niagara district, and lay the matter before them, and ask them if they thought proper to assist in raising the aforementioned \$200. The Churches at Wainfleet, Gainsboro', Smithville, and Beamsville were accordingly visited, at all of which places the corresponding secretary was kindly received and cordially outwitted by the brethren, and aid promised to the Welland Church to the extent of some \$50. It was arranged that the sums subscribed should be sent directly to Welland without passing through the Treasury of the Co-operation. Bro. J. B. Lister who preaches for the Churches at Wainfleet and Gainsboro', and Bro. S. Keffer, who preaches for the Churches at Beamsville and Smithville heartily supported the appeal, and it is a pleasure here to record their fellowship in this good work.

Upon hearing the report of the corresponding secretary, the Board decided to make a grant of \$100 in the meantime upon the condition that as soon as the \$200 should be paid the property should be conveyed to Trustees appointed by the Church. The Church was also urged to endeavor to raise the balance of the second \$100 in the Niagara district, which, if they should be unable to do, another application might be made to the Board. It is understood that a report will be made to this meeting by the Church in regard to the building fund, as well as the state of the cause generally in Welland, so that nothing further need be said here.

London.

At a meeting of the Board held in Toronto, in September, it was represented that there was a project on foot to employ a first-class evangelist to hold a series of meetings in London, and that it would be desirable for the Board to assist. Accordingly it was decided to guarantee \$200 towards the expense of such meetings. As the meetings were not held, no payment was made on that account.

Manitoulin Island.

Early last summer an application was made by brethren on the Island to send a preacher up there for some months, and offering to pay \$50 towards the expense. The Board arranged to have Bro. Sherman Kirk, then of Bethany College, to go to the Island, and thereupon \$25 of the above pledge was paid. Before Bro Kirk was ready to go a brother from the Island happening to be in Owen Sound, in conversation with Bro. C. A. Fleming, said that they would much prefer to have Bro. C. J. Lister go up there, as he had been on the Island before, had done much good, and was liked by the

people. Bro. Fleming communicated with the Board, and asked whether they would be willing that Bro. Lister should go to the Island, and Bro. Kirk remain in his place in Owen Sound. The Board, of course, cheerfully agreed to that proposition, and in due time Bro. Lister went to the Manitoulin. He preached at Little Current, Green Bay, Str. Lehman's Landing, and Carnarvon. At Lehman's Landing four were baptized. In Carnarvon Township there were two baptisms, and two baptized believers united. At this point Bro. Lister found some seven or eight Disciples from near Stouffville. The brethren at these two points met together, and Bro. Lister does not know of a better field.

Bro. Kirk did not remain in Owen Sound as long as Bro. Lister was on the Island, and for a part of the time his health was not good, so that he was unable to do full work. Owing to these facts the Church in Owen Sound was suffering by the exchange. In these circumstances the Board thought it would be proper in addition to contributing \$40 towards Bro. Kirk's support, to make an appropriation of \$20 to the Owen Sound Church—thus on account of the Manitoulin project \$60 was expended, only \$25 of which came from the Island, the balance of the \$50 pledged not yet having been paid. From all the Board can learn it would seem highly desirable that a preacher should be kept on the Island continuously, and they would suggest that enquiry be made as to the feasibility of doing so.

Walkerton.

The Board contributed \$75 towards the support of the work in Walkerton. Bro. E. Sheppard is laboring there. An afternoon service has recently been started on Lord's Day which is largely attended, and which bids fair to be followed by good results.

Additional recommendations of last Annual Meeting to the Board:—

(1) To have printed and distributed among the Churches in the province, the constitution adopted at last Annual Meeting. This was done as early as practicable.

(2) To take steps to secure the incorporation of the Co-operation, a committee of brethren was appointed to carry out this instruction. For some reason no action was taken. It is to be hoped that at the earliest possible opportunity this important matter will be attended to.

(3) The instructions relative to raising money, as embodied in the report of the Committee on Ways and Means, have been kept in mind, and an effort made to give them all effect, with the exception of the fourth recommendation which sets forth the advisability of urging our brethren to remember the Home Mission work in their wills. Such a plea will be more effective when once the Co operation is legally incorporated.

The effort to secure brethren or sisters to make an individual canvass of each congregation was only moderately successful. Where that plan was faithfully tried it was followed by gratifying results.

Children's day for Home Missions may be pronounced a success inasmuch as 18 Sunday schools contributed.

The collections recommended for the first Lord's Days in November and May were participated in by 19 Churches, which would seem to indicate that the idea commends itself to a good many of the brethren.

Having in mind the fifth recommendation of the Committee on Ways and Means, viz., to adopt such other plan for raising funds as they might think proper, the Board solicited the assistance of preaching brethren to lay before Churches which have not preachers of their own the interests of the Home Mission work. The following brethren cheerfully agreed to help in this way: T. B. Kuwles, Jas. Lediard, C. Sinclair and F. W. Baughman.

ASSISTANCE TO YOUNG PREACHERS.

The attention of the Board was called to the propriety of assisting young men, who are pursuing their studies with a view to the ministry, to obtain work among the Churches or in the mission field, during the summer vacation. Believing that it would meet with the approval of the annual meeting, the Board has undertaken to pay the travelling expenses of three young brethren who have volunteered to spend the summer in Muskoka.

They are A. C. Gray, Lobo; D. H. Stewart, Guelph; and J. D. Stephens, Mimosa. They have all been attending Bethany College. We have also been instrumental in having Anos Tovell located at Wiarton for the vacation, and Geo. O. Black in Manitoba. Efforts were also put forth to find places for R. W. Ballah, Aylmer, and Alex. McMillan, West Toronto Junction, who have been attending Toronto University; also for W. G. Charlton, of Dorchester, and Bro. Weaver, of Nova Scotia, students at the Bible College, Lexington, Ky., but unfortunately without success. This is no reflection on those brethren; it simply means that the Board did not succeed in inducing Churches to give them a trial. We are not without hope that sufficient interest may be developed in this matter at this meeting to provide labor for the two former at least. It is gratifying to be able to say that there is every reason to believe that all those young brethren are earnest and zealous and anxious to work. The Board, while, of course, having no thought of claiming the slightest right to dictate to the Churches in this or any other matter, nevertheless feels that it would not be doing its duty were it not with all possible emphasis to record its conviction that all worthy young men who evince a desire to become preachers should receive due encouragement, and be allowed the opportunity of developing their gifts. It is not to our credit that, as has happened heretofore, young men have been almost compelled "to win their spurs" away from home, and that Churches have seemed indisposed to employ them unless they had "run the gauntlet" among the brethren in the United States, and made a name for themselves there. It is more than possible that in our anxiety for able and finished presentations of the truth, we have sometimes forgotten that the great preachers were beginners once, and that "the way to learn to preach is to preach." It is a poor church that will suffer, either in the estimation of the public, or in its own spiritual growth, from the first efforts of an earnest young man. Nay, it would be a perfect church which might not be greatly blessed by listening to a young brother delivering his early sermons, albeit they were meagre as to doctrine, crude as to form, and delivered under difficulties.

Venerable Christian men and women have often cheerfully and graciously acknowledged the benefit they derived from the discourses of young men who in Scriptural knowledge and spiritual experience were more babes in comparison with themselves. Many a young preacher has, no doubt, been mistaken in thinking that the kindly old brother or sister, who took his hand affectionately after his little talk, was only saying something to cheer him up, and not expressing the mathematical truth, when telling him, "Brother, I am glad to see you; I liked your sermon; it has done me good." The speech of a fervent young man has an unction all its own, and may stir the heart of the hearer when the elaborate discourse of the experienced pulpit orator would do little more than excite admiration. All honor to the men who have acquired superior pulpit ability, who possess extraordinary power of publicly expounding and maintaining the truth; let no man seek to take their crown, but let it be noted that what the times require not less, if not more, than those, is a class of men who excel in preaching "from house to house"—men who have a mind to work in this way, who love the souls of their fellow-men, who believe and understand the Gospel and who "love to tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love." They may be quite indifferent as public speakers, but when their talent is discovered they will be appreciated, honored and loved. The young man with fear and trembling stands up before us, may have in him the making of such a worker. Let no church, no Christian, throw a stumbling-block in his way, or make it unduly difficult for him to attain to usefulness. We are not pleading that young men should be pampered or petted, or urging that because a young man feels disposed to preach he will certainly make a preacher and should at all hazards be encouraged. What we contend is, that the young man of good Christian character who evinces

a desire to preach should not be discouraged and should have a reasonable opportunity of demonstrating whether he possesses the requisite gifts or no.

That our Ontario boys are not a whit behind the very choicest of those of other lands is evident from the stand those who have gone to the States have taken. It might be invidious to mention any names, so none will be mentioned, but we can all think of some who occupy leading positions and of others who are easily up to the average.

Brothers, give the young men a chance; don't be ashamed of them; bear with them; pray for them.

SUNDAY MATTERS.

It is proper that special mention should be made of the generosity of the General Christian Missionary Convention of the United States in making a contribution of \$100 to our Home Mission fund.

Early in this mission year the Board was called upon to select another corresponding secretary, owing to the removal of Bro. T. L. Fowler to Nebraska. At its first meeting after his departure a resolution was passed expressing appreciation of his services and regret at his leaving the Province.

A Macedonian cry comes to us from the city of Montreal; Bro. Donald Reid who lives in that city makes the appeal. Extracts from a recently received letter will give his view of the case. He says: "You ask my opinion regarding the matter. Well, it is this: In the first place we should conduct a series of meetings, say about eight weeks or less, as the case may be. We want to make a sure beginning, and in order to do so we ought to have an evangelist especially adapted to that work. We have scattered brethren in our city. An effort should be made to gather them together." Bro. Reid is a commercial traveller and visits the Maritime Provinces regularly. While in St. John, N.B. he meets with the disciples, and he has succeeded in interesting them in Montreal. He estimates that the entire expense of such an effort would be \$300; the Mission Band of the Maritime Provinces has subscribed \$25; the few disciples in Montreal, \$30; and the request is that the brethren in Ontario should make up the balance. Brethren, shall we stretch our hand to Montreal and grasp there the hand of the disciples in the Maritime Provinces, and join with them in assisting to establish a Church in the largest city in the Dominion. We have been directing our attention mainly to our own Province, and have occasionally looked wistfully towards the North-West; but here is a voice from the east. Who will say it is not the voice of the Master? During the year the most pleasant relations have existed among the members of the Board and between the Board and all those contributing and all those receiving aid.

The gross receipts for the Home Mission Fund, including balance from last year, were \$1,822 13; total expenditure, \$1,058 12; leaving a balance on hand of \$163 81.

The number enrolled as Life Members is 67. Twelve of those are paid up.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

The Board respectfully makes the following recommendations relative to next year's work:—

(1) That Muskoka, Collingwood and Denison Avenue, Toronto, continue to receive support from the co-operation.

(2) That the Disciples in Hamilton receive such assistance as will enable them to secure the services of a good preacher at once.

(3) That everything in our power be done for Manitoba and the Western Territories, and that, if at all practicable, a beginning be made in Winnipeg. It is also suggested that a religious survey of Manitoba and the Western Territories be made with a view to locating missions advantageously.

(4) That we co-operate with the few Disciples in Montreal and the brethren in the Maritime Provinces, in holding a series of meetings in Montreal as proposed by Bro. Donald Reid.

(5) That all reasonable encouragement and assistance be extended to young brethren preparing to devote their lives to the ministry of the Word.

(6) That application be made at the next session of the Dominion Parliament for an Act of Incorporation for this Co operation.

(7) That the report of the Committee on Ways and Means of last year be re-adopted and that it be an instruction to the Board to take steps to obtain a prompt and thorough canvass of the brotherhood, with the understanding that the pledges may be paid when most convenient during the year; also to secure, if possible, the cordial support and assistance of all stationed preachers and all officers of churches; and further to endeavour to induce wealthy brethren to make large contributions.

In conclusion we fervently pray that the rich blessing of the Lord may rest upon all the deliberations of this convention, and that all we do and all we say may turn out unto "the furtherance of the Gospel."

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Geo. Munro, Cor.-Sec. Hugh Black, President.

The report of the Board of Managers, as amended by the report of the Committee on Missions was adopted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS.

Your Committee on Missions recommend that Toronto, Denison Avenue, Collingwood and Muskoka be assisted, and we further recommend that Hamilton receive assistance to secure the services of a preacher when their church building is completed.

With reference to other points, namely, Owen Sound, Welland, Aylmer, Galt and Manitoulin Island, we recommend that the Board assist them to the best of its judgment and ability.

In the matter of an evangelist, we conceive it to be important and would like to see such a man engaged, but would suggest that the churches be corresponded with, in order to ascertain to what extent they would contribute to that object, independent of the other features of our work, so that the burden of support may not fall upon the Board. We think, too, that such an evangelist might be used in Montreal and Galt as indicated in the report of the Board.

We would also desire to extend a helping hand to the Western Territories, if possible.

M. N. STEPHENS. W. B. MALCOLM. Wm. H. SWAYZE. S. WOOLNER. Jas. LEDIARD.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

On Resolutions.

1. That this Convention gratefully acknowledge the courtesy of the managers of the C. P. R. and G. T. R. in granting reduced rates to the delegates in attendance.

2. That in consideration of the kindness of our neighbors of other churches, especially the Baptist brethren, in helping to entertain this Convention, we desire to express our hearty thanks to them, and to recognize the spirit of fraternal love in which we have been made to feel that these favors have been offered.

3. That the delegates and visitors have great pleasure in expressing their high appreciation and sincere gratitude for the hospitable entertainment received from the brothers and sisters of this town—true loving kindness which shall never be forgotten.

4. That we would also express our thanks to Bro. C. C. Pomeroy for his efficient leadership in the service of song, which has contributed so much to the success of the meetings.

5. That this Convention desires to place on record an earnest and unqualified condemnation of the liquor traffic as being an unswerving enemy of true religion, and a powerful barrier to its progress, a destroyer of peace both in home and country,—the complete removal of which every Christian should seek to effect by the use of every proper means in his power.

E. SHAFERD, Com. J. A. BRUNSTADT, F. W. BARGMAN.

On Education.

The Committee on Education beg to report as follows:—

1. We took into consideration the propriety of endeavoring to provide during last session of Toronto University some additional instruction, such as young men who are preparing for the work of the ministry feel the need of.

2. We decided that, if possible, something of the kind should be undertaken, but after some conference on the matter with brethren, it appeared