

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

SEVENTH DAY.

Afternoon Session.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The report of the Foreign Mission Committee was taken up.

Rev. Prof. McLaren moved as follows:—That the report of the Foreign Mission Committee be adopted, and

"1. That the Assembly in accordance therewith agrees to allow the sale of the ten acres of land—property at Prince Albert—made by the missionary in charge for the benefit of the congregation be confirmed; subject, however, to such conditions as the Foreign Mission Committee may consider necessary in order to secure the interests of the congregation, the Committee, and the Presbytery in the proceeds;

"2. The Assembly instructs the Committee to consider during the year, and report to the next Assembly, what provision should be made for foreign missionaries who may have become permanently disabled, and in the meantime authorizes them to continue the furlough allowance to Rev. K. F. Junor for such time as they see fit;

"3. The Assembly hails with much satisfaction the appointment of Mr. Joseph Builder, B. A., to Central India, and cordially commends him to the grace of God for the work whereunto he has been called, and authorizes the Presbytery of Toronto in conjunction with the Foreign Mission Committee to ordain him, and designate him as a foreign missionary of the Church;

"4. The Assembly instructs the Foreign Mission Committee to take steps to send another missionary to Formosa as soon as a suitable labourer can be secured in that field, and also to look out for an additional labourer to work among the Indians;

"5. The Assembly rejoices to recognize the encouraging measure of success which has attended the labours of the missionaries in the various fields, and marks as matter of special thanksgiving to God the continued progress of the work in Formosa and the large gathering of the aborigines in that field which has recently been evinced."

Rev. Dr. Cochrane suggested that as Mr. Builder had many friends and relatives in the neighbourhood of Brantford, and as the Church would be much benefited by the ordination taking place in his church, that a change should be made.

Rev. Prof. McLaren agreed to the change, and the clauses to that effect were adopted.

On the question of the appointment of new missionaries for Formosa and the North-West,

Rev. James Ross called attention to the fact that the Committee had made no reference to the offers made by members of another communion. He should be sorry if the munificence of these gentlemen be put aside. Mr. John Macdonald had offered to pay the passage and outfit of a missionary to Japan, and pay \$500 either spread over three years or payable in one year, while Mr. William Gooderham offered to pay the passage and outfit to the extent of \$500.

Rev. Principal Grant was in favour of sending additional missionaries to the Foreign field. In the Home field they had to some extent to enter into competition with other denominations, while in Japan it would not be so.

The clause was adopted and discussion continued.

Mr. James Croil moved.

"That it be an instruction to the Foreign Mission Committee for the western section to pay \$1,000 to the Committee on Foreign Missions in the eastern section to liquidate the debt incurred by them to prosecute the work during the past year.

Rev. Principal Caven asked if the eastern section had made representation that they were in real difficulty. He did not see that anything would be gained by the proposal. He wished that the Foreign Mission Committee would take wider views of the need before them.

Rev. Prof. McLaren said no formal request had been made.

Some further discussion ensued, when the motion was withdrawn, and the resolutions passed with the amendment noticed.

MISSION TO JAPAN.

Rev. Principal Grant said there were two incidents in connection with this Assembly which gave him great pleasure. There was first the attitude of the representatives of a Church which had stood aloof from them for centuries, and the other the handsome gifts of the two gentlemen named. He considered 'his a challenge to Christian liberality, courage, and brotherly feeling which this Assembly cannot overlook. He concluded by suggesting the passage of a resolution suitably acknowledging the offers.

Rev. Professor McLaren said he did not see any prospect for establishing another Foreign mission. He moved a resolution expressing the thanks of the Assembly to the gentlemen, but regretting that owing to what it considers the inadequately equipped state of the missions at present established they were not in a position to commence a new mission among the heathen.

Rev. Principal Caven moved in amendment. He would take the opening clause moved by Mr. Grant, and instruct the Foreign Mission Committee very carefully to consider the propriety of entering upon the mission work in Japan, availing themselves, if possible, of the most generous and Christian offer of assistance made by these gentlemen.

The amendment was carried by a large majority.

The report of the Eastern Mission Committee was taken up, and the clauses referred chiefly to the thanks of the Assembly to the missionaries, and concluded with a request that the missionaries at Trinidad be allowed to retain their connection with their Presbytery. The report was adopted without discussion.

The report of the Committee on the Unification of the Eastern and Western Committees on Foreign Missions was moved by Rev. Dr. MacGregor. The committee did not think the unification practicable at the present time.

The report was adopted.

A report from the General Mission Committee was re-

ceived stating that letters had been received urging the Church in Canada to send a missionary to labour among the coolies in Demerara, whose work should be in connection with the Church's work in Trinidad. The contribution expected from the Church in Canada would be £200 per annum. The committee agreed to ask the advice of the Assembly.

Rev. J. K. Smith made a motion stating that if the Foreign Mission Committee of the eastern section selected a missionary and sent him to Demerara, the General Assembly would approve the payment of £200 to the eastern section by the western section.

The motion was carried unanimously.

EFFICIENT SERVICES RECOGNIZED.

Rev. Dr. Cochrane moved that a committee be appointed to draw up a deliverance thanking Rev. Dr. McLaren for his efficient performance of the arduous duties as convener of the Foreign Mission Committee for the past sixteen years.

Rev. Dr. Moore read a motion in accordance with the suggestion, and it was accepted and ordered to be engrossed and presented to Dr. McLaren.

HOME MISSIONS.

The Home Mission Committee's report was taken up, and the question of the relations with British Columbia arose. The report submitted two resolutions:—(1) That the General Assembly place under the care of the Presbytery of Toronto Pandora Street Church, Victoria, and any other congregations that may make application to be received in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Canada. (2) The Assembly empower the Presbytery of Toronto to receive as ministers of this Church ministers of any of the Presbyterian congregations in British Columbia making application to be received on presentation of a Presbyterial certificate. The report deprecated the formation of a rival Presbytery.

Considerable discussion ensued from which it appeared that the action of the committee seemed to tend to the formation of a rival Presbytery. Ultimately the motion was altered so that the first clause would read, "Pending the union of all the congregations in one Presbytery the General Assembly place," etc.

The Assembly then adjourned.

Evening Session.

SABBATH SCHOOL REPORT.

Rev. H. H. McPherson, Halifax, presented the report of the Sabbath School Committee. He said he would present unfavourable and favourable facts. The unfavourable facts were the large number of non-reporting schools, the large number of children of Presbyterians who do not attend Sabbath school, large number of schools not contributing to the mission work, in many cases no teachers' meetings, the apparent indifference on the part of many members of the committee in the work. The favourable facts were the large number of teachers and scholars engaged in this grand work; the return showed 65,715 attending Sabbath school, the large number of communicants in the schools, the shorter Catechism being generally studied. The committee recommended:—

"1. That it be an injunction to Presbyteries to see that returns are received from all Sabbath schools within their bounds in good time for reporting to the Synods.

"2. That the recommendation of last year be renewed, viz., that each Presbytery devote at least one sabbatarian in the year to the consideration of Sabbath school work within its bounds; and also that, if possible, it hold a Sabbath school conference, the members of which shall consist of members of the Presbytery and delegates from Sabbath schools within its bounds.

"3. That Presbyteries be instructed to use diligence to ascertain how many children within their bounds belonging to the Church are not under Sabbath school instruction, and to report to your committee, so that the information may, if possible, be before the next Assembly.

"4. That for the purpose of cultivating the missionary spirit among the young all sessions and superintendents be required to see that the schools under their charge give something, however little, to the missionary enterprises of the Church.

"5. That the Assembly instruct the Sabbath School Committee to take into consideration the question of providing a monthly periodical for the schools, and report at next Assembly.

"6. That the General Assembly instruct the committee to draft a Sabbath school constitution taking advantage of the suggestion made in the document submitted to last Assembly.

"7. That the General Assembly instruct the committee to issue the questions drawn up by it to guide the sessions not later than the first of November.

"8. That Presbyteries be recommended to use such means as they can to establish normal classes for the training of Sabbath school teachers within their bounds."

He moved that the report be adopted and the recommendations considered *seriatim*.

The recommendations were adopted.

The Moderator here stated that a telegraph message had been placed in his hands announcing that Rutgers College, New Jersey, had conferred the degree of Doctor of Divinity upon the Rev. John Laing. This announcement was greeted with loud applause.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

Rev. W. T. McMullen presented the report on Sabbath observance, which asserted that public opinion was becoming more enlightened on the civil rights of the citizen to enjoy the Sabbath day, and alluded to the fact that six Presbyterian young men had recovered damages for wrongful dismissal, because they would not work for contractors on the C. P. R. on the Sabbath day. The report concluded with the recommendation

"1. That the attention of the Synods be called to the importance of requiring written reports of the respective committees respecting Sabbath observance, so that said reports

could be forwarded by Synod clerks to Assembly committees.

"2. That respectful remonstrance in the name of the Assembly be addressed to the general managers of railways relative to Sabbath desecration on main lines of railroad and their branches.

"3. That the Assembly's Committee be authorized to correspond with similar committees of other Churches with a view to united action in enforcing the existing laws and in petitioning the Dominion Government and the Provincial Legislatures on the subject of Sabbath desecration."

A communication from the Toronto Ministerial Association respecting Sabbath observance was read.

Rev. John Smith moved the adoption of the report and the consideration of the recommendations *seriatim*.

The clauses were amended and adopted as above, and one added to the effect that the Assembly authorize the Sabbath Observance Committee to petition the Dominion and Provincial Legislatures. The communication from the Ministerial Association was received, and the clerk instructed to inform the Association of the action covering its recommendation.

AGENTS' SALARIES.

The discussion of the report on agents' salaries was resumed. The advance to Rev. Dr. Reid of \$250 was granted, and \$150 was added to Rev. R. H. Warden's salary. The Rev. R. H. Warden declined the proposed increase of his salary.

EIGHTH DAY.

Morning Session.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

Rev. D. J. Macdonnell called attention, as a matter of privilege, to the fact that an article had appeared in one of the London papers gravely reflecting on the members of the Temperance Committee and Senator Vidal. He could say that Mr. Vidal had no connection whatever with the report and that the Rev. D. Fraser, who read the report, had heard himself described, probably for the first time in his life, as a "tricky Tory."

The matter then dropped.

Rev. Dr. Proudfoot read the report of the Judicial Committee in reference to the case of Rev. Dr. Barclay. The report was re-committed.

Rev. Dr. Moore read the report on loyal addresses to the Queen and the Governor-General. That to the Queen is as follows:—

"To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty:

"We the ministers and elders of the Presbyterian Church in Canada now met in General Assembly, desire to approach Your Majesty in order again to testify our devoted attachment to Your Majesty's person and our loyalty to the Crown. The report of the accident to Your Majesty, and the illness which followed, awakened *z*, upathy and regret which found expression in earnest prayers to the God of Grace in your behalf. Acknowledging with devout thankfulness the divine mercy granted us in your happy recovery, we pray that Your Majesty may long be spared to rule over us in righteousness, and to set before us the example of devout fidelity to duty with which Your Majesty has adorned your high position and so completely won our hearts, and that the rich blessing of the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ may rest upon Your Majesty, and all the members of your illustrious family."

The report was adopted.

THE COMMON COLLEGE FUND.

The report of the Treasurer of the Common College Fund was read by Rev. R. H. Warden. He stated that 111 congregations and mission stations had failed to contribute anything to the fund, of those sixty-nine were pastoral charges. The receipts for the year were \$850.75 less than the preceding year, the total being \$15,260.31. On motion by Rev. Dr. Matthews the Assembly accorded its hearty thanks to Mr. Warden.

COLLEGE SESSIONS.

The report of the Committee on the Opening and Closing College Terms was read. It appeared that the Presbytery of Barrie and the Mission Committee in desiring the change had been influenced by the needs of the mission stations. The month of October had been regarded as the most valuable of the year, and it was desired that the colleges open on the 1st November and close May 1st. The committee recommended that there should be no change, and the recommendation was adopted.

AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS.

The report of the Committee on the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund was read and its adoption moved by Rev. Principal Grant. The committee recommended that the Assembly express its gratification that the income for the past year has exceeded the expenditure, and its earnest hope that the growing interest in the fund may soon enable the committee to give the maximum allowance permitted by the regulations. He expressed the hope that as the capital of the fund was not more than any one year's expenditure it would be speedily increased and the fund thus placed in a secure position.

Rev. K. Wallace, Toronto, moved that the General Assembly recommend to wealthy members of our Church to raise an endowment of \$100,000, in order that the annuitants on the fund may receive at the rate of \$10 per year of service, or after a service of forty years \$400. In deference to requests expressed by Principal Caven and Dr. Wardrope, who thought that the proposal would interfere with the endowment of Knox College, Mr. Wallace agreed to let the matter rest for the present. He was assured that the matter would receive due attention in the future.

The report was adopted.

Rev. Dr. Moffatt moved that the proposal of the Rev. John Dunbar be remitted to the Committee on the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund to make all enquiries, and if satisfied to place his name on the list of annuitants. The motion was adopted.

The name of Rev. A. Matthews was placed on the list of