

THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN.

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H. McLachlan, Mrs. Crombie, Mrs. Hugh Campbell and Mrs. Harris, President—Mrs. T. Shortreed, Vice Presidents—Mrs. Wm. MacLaren, Mrs. Andrew Jeffrey, Mrs. A. Telfer, Mrs. J. C. Hamilton and Mrs. G. H. Robinson. Recording Secretary, Miss Elsie C. Clark; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Martin; Home Secretary, Miss M. M. Reid; Foreign Secretary, Mrs. J. J. Bell, for India and Formosa, and Mrs. Henderson for Honan; Secretary of Indian and Chinese Missions in the Northwest, Miss Margaret Craig; Secretary for British Columbia, Miss Bradshaw; Secretary of International Conferences, Miss Josephine Thornton; Treasurer, Miss Isabella George; Secretary-Treasurer of Publications and Life Membership Certificates, Miss Jessie Parsons, and (for Winnipeg branch) Mrs. Watson; Editor of "Tidings," Mrs. John MacGillivray; Mission Band Secretary, Mrs. J. C. Robertson.

TORONTO AND KINGSTON.

The Synod of Toronto and Kingston met on Tuesday evening in St. James' Square church, when the retiring moderator, Rev. Peter Duncan, of Colborne, preached a practical gospel sermon from the text, 1st Cor., I. xviii.: "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish, foolishness; but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God."

The names of Rev. Dr. J. A. R. Dickson, of Central church, Galt, and Rev. W. T. Wilkins, M.A., of Trenton, were placed in nomination for moderator. The former was moved by Rev. R. E. Knowles, of Galt, and seconded by Prof. Ballantyne. The latter was nominated by Rev. Henry Gracey, of Gananoque, seconded by Rev. G. A. McLennan, of Norwood. Upon a show of hands being called, the vote was declared 43 in favor of Dr. Dickson, as against 34 for Mr. Wilkins.

The treasurer's report, submitted by Mr. A. T. Crombie, of Toronto, showed a balance on hand of \$1,175.84. A vote of thanks was tendered the treasurer, moved by Rev. S. Childerhouse, of North Bay, seconded by Rev. W. T. Wilkins, of Trenton.

The first business of Wednesday morning's session was the reception and consideration of the reports of the Foreign Mission and Church Life and work committees were heard. The former was presented by the convener, Rev. J. McP. Scott. The unsatisfactory condition of affairs was the first thing mentioned. Six presbyteries out of twelve showed an increase, the others showed the reverse. No presbytery had been generous, and some were disappointing, according to the statement of the report. The Presbytery of Lindsay had dropped 40 per cent. from 1905, Guelph Presbytery dropped 16 per cent., North Bay showed an advance of 53 per cent. The total returns of the whole synod for 1907, with an increased membership of 1,261, is less than 1906 by \$813.65. The present membership is 4,435 over that of 1905, and the gifts of foreign missions is \$2,206.23 less than in that year. Total gifts for 1907 to this object amounted to \$31,127.90, or 40 cents a member, or four-fifths of a cent a week per member. The minister was held to blame for the falling off, for it was pointed out that he is the cause of missionary spirit and enthusiasm, which again depends on instruction. The hope of the situation and the church was the youth. He must receive fuller missionary instruction. It was hoped the General Assembly would make this instruction a general rule of the church.

Raphazard Collections.

The want of a good method of taking up contributions was another reason assigned for the falling off in returns. The methods at present followed were referred to as "raphazard." Three recommendations were made: (1) That

congregations within the bounds of the synod be encouraged to effect simple and adequate organization for missionary purposes; (2) That the synod recommends the formation of missionary classes, and the adoption of any other approved plans for the giving of missionary instruction; (3) That congregations be asked to take their offerings for missions as frequently as possible, at least monthly, and where at all practicable, weekly. The report was discussed by Rev. Dr. Gordon, principal of Queen's University; Rev. J. M. Glasgow, of Guelph, and Rev. E. A. Armstrong, assistant superintendent of foreign missions.

Church Life and Work.

The report of the Committee on Church Life and Work was presented by Rev. J. A. Turnbull. He stated that the church must ascertain the causes of poverty, and how best to remove them. The barroom was generally admitted as one of the most prolific causes, accordingly the barroom must go, said the speaker. Gambling was a great evil to society and kept people poor. By it people generally hoped to get rich and so took this means, leaving the old honest, steady going methods. In electing Parliamentary candidates, the speaker said, it was usually the man most likely to win who was selected, and little consideration was given to ability and morality beside the other circumstance. Principle is often subordinated to party, it was stated, with regret. The inadequate remuneration of women teachers kept many excellent women out of this noble profession. The report after some discussion was adopted.

The orphan and helpless children of Presbyterians found a sponsor in Rev. Mr. Best, of Beaverton. He advocated the church's caring for these. Rev. S. H. Eastman, of Meaford, said that the Children's Aid Society made no distinction in denomination, and would take care of any such. A committee was appointed to enquire into the subject of orphan children of Presbyterians.

Sabbath School Report.

At the afternoon session the subject of Sabbath schools was considered. The total number of schools reported for 1907 was 500, a gain of three over the preceding year. The following made gains: Lindsay, 1 school; Whitby, 2; Toronto, 3; Orangeville, 1; Barrie, 1; Saugeen, 1; while the following Presbyteries show a decrease: Kingston, 1 school; Peterborough, 1; North Bay, 1; Owen Sound, 3.

The total number of teachers and officers was 6,422, a gain of 202 over last year. Scholars, including Bible classes, numbered 53,666, a gain of 866 during the year. Average attendance, 36,928, a gain of 822. Number of Cradle roll, 2,330; in Home department, 1,498. The number of new communicants, 1,868, shows a decrease of 368 from 1906. Total number of communicants in the Sabbath school in this Synod is 8,862, an increase of 137 over 1906. Total contributions amounted to \$45,101, or an increase of \$719 over the preceding year. The following recommendations were made: (1) That ministers and superintendents urge upon secretaries the importance of keeping accurate reports of the work of the school; (2) That ministers and superintendents urge upon secretaries the importance of keeping accurate reports of the work of the school; (3) That the Cradle Roll and Home Department be recommended to sessions as a valuable aid in the work of the congregation. (4) That the schools be urged to provide for definite instruction in missions and to confine systematically to the schemes of the church, including children's day fund. (5) That in order to carry out successfully the present plans of organized Sabbath school work in this Synod the General Assembly's Committee be asked for a grant not to exceed \$700 for

this purpose for the ensuing year.

Rev. W. R. McIntosh, of Elora, moved and Rev. Hugh Matheson, L.L.B., of Caledon East, seconded the adoption of the report on young people's societies. The former was strongly in favor of appointing a secretary for these societies.

Reports on Home Missions.

The chief business before the Synod on Wednesday night was the hearing of the reports on Home Missions and of the Augmentation Committee. Mr. J. H. Edmison, the convener of the latter committee, in his report said that, though the past year was one of financial stringency, he was able to present an encouraging account. Seven charges within the scope of the department had become self-supporting since last year, a record year in this respect. The following recommendations were submitted: That presbyteries see that each augmented charge within their bounds be visited each year, and the claims of them be faithfully presented to each self-sustaining charge. Congregations are to be urged to make a fair apportionment of the money raised for such schemes to this fund. As the expenditure for the current year cannot be less than for 1907, presbyteries are to accept the allocation of last year as a minimum. The Synod reaffirms the desirability of making the minimum stipend \$900 a year.

The above report was adopted, on motion of Rev. J. Wallace, seconded by Sir Thomas Taylor.

James Buchanan, convener of Home Missions, pointed out the extent of the field, which extended from Lansdowne, on the east, to White River, on the west, and from Galt, on the south, to Fort Albany, on the north. New churches should be opened in several places near or in the suburbs of Toronto. In these city districts was a population of 8,000 to 10,000.

Rev. J. D. Byrnes, of Cobalt, spoke on mission work in New Ontario. The population of that country had increased from 1,300 to 40,000 in five years. Cobalt and the neighboring mining camps had a population of 5,000. In all Northern Ontario was a population of 240,000, to attend which the Presbyterian Church had only twenty ordained ministers.

LINDSAY NOTES.

At the last ordinary meeting of Presbytery of Lindsay, Messrs. W. G. Smith of Bobcaygeon, J. R. Fraser, M.A., of Uxbridge, and J. Wallace, B.D., of Lindsay, were elected commissioners to the next General Assembly.

The Mission Fields of Haliburton and Cobocoon have this year been raised to the status of augmented charges, and the latter has already decided to call the Rev. James Ross, who has been the missionary in charge for two years past.

The people of St. Andrew's, Beaverton, are arranging to celebrate this year, the 75th anniversary of the founding of their congregation. Old age, in the case of a congregation, does not necessarily imply infirmity, and this historic congregation, with its unique history behind it, still shows many signs of vigorous life.

"Grow old along with me!
The best is yet to be,
The last of life, for which the first was made."

This Presbytery must have a reputation for possessing good ministers for people won't allow us to keep them. Last year we had to induce no less than five—and there is no telling what the tale will be by the end of this year, for already it is settled that two of our good ones are to go: St. Andrew's, Strathroy, has made good its claim to Mr. Kannawin of Woodville, and Mr. Keith of Wick is to be carried off by Prescott. There will be real regret both in the congregations and in the Presbytery. Notwithstanding, if, as some of the commissioners prosecuting suggested, these are simply instances of promotion, we shall be glad at that.