

J. S. Black, D. J. Macdonnell, J. Thompson of Ayr, J. Laing, D. M. Gordon, J. Robertson of Winnipeg, Hon. Alex. Morris, Hon. A. Vidal, Robert Murray, David Morice, Charles Robson, A. J. Mackenzie and J. B. Fairbairn are appointed to provide a selection from the four hymn-books above mentioned, and to publish the same as a book of praise allowed by the General Assembly for use in the congregations of the Church."

The Assembly then took recess.

#### AFTERNOON SEDERUNT.

The Sederunt was opened by devotional exercises.

#### HYMNOLOGY.

Rev. D. M. Gordon moved the reception and consideration by clause of the report of the Committee on Hymnology.

The procedure was agreed to.

Rev. Dr. Robb took exception to the statement in the first clause of the preamble that hymns were allowed in the four churches before the Union. The congregations connected with the Canada Presbyterian Church never had liberty to use hymn-books before the Union, and no legislation had taken place which gave them the right to use hymn-books. That being the case the clause to which he referred ought to be expunged.

Rev. Mr. Gordon said care had been taken in preparing the report not to hurt the feelings of those who took Dr. Robb's views. The word "allowed" meant just the opposite to "disallowed"—for the use of hymn-books was not disallowed; and it meant something very different from authorized or sanctioned.

Rev. Mr. McMullen agreed with Dr. Robb, and was of opinion that the occasional use of hymns in one or two cases did not prove that the use was allowed. He would suggest that the clause be omitted.

Mr. William Adamson said the word allowed was used simply because Dr. Robb at Halifax last year said that hymn-books were not "sanctioned" but "allowed."

Rev. Dr. Gregg suggested that possibly the change of the preamble so as to read that the hymns were allowed in congregations of the United Church would meet the objection of Dr. Robb.

Rev. Dr. Robb said he could not agree to that.

Rev. Dr. Gregg remarked that it was impossible to satisfy some people.

The Moderator said he would read a portion of a resolution moved by Dr. Robb last year. The motion stated that the present practice of the several churches at the time of union was allowed, although the use of uninspired hymns in the public worship of God had not been authorized.

Rev. Dr. Robb contended that that was quite consistent with his other statements. He moved that the clause be expunged.

The motion was voted on and lost; yeas forty-four, nays sixty-three.

Rev. J. Scott, (Bruce,) and several others dissented from the finding of the House.

Rev. Dr. Robb intimated that he would take no further part in the discussion.

On the second clause

Rev. Dr. Reid contended that the use of the English Presbyterian Hymn Book was not, as stated in the clause, allowed.

Rev. Mr. Wilson, (Kingston,) said the Hymn Book had not been ecclesiastically allowed, and there was great difference between being allowed and winked at; the Hymn Book had been rejected by the Presbyteries and by the Synod of the Canada Presbyterian Church.

Rev. D. M. Gordon said he adhered to the terms of the clause, but he would omit the word allow and say that the hymn-books were in use.

The clause was agreed to.

On the main motion,

A proposition was made to allow the Committee to take the hymns from other sources than the four hymn-books now in use. The proposition was not agreed to.

The Moderator—The Committee can't admit even original hymns to the book.

Rev. Principal Caven moved that the hymn-book before allowed be sent down to Presbyteries and Sessions to report upon to the next Assembly, with a view to making the collection as acceptable as possible to the Church.

Rev. Dr. Proudfoot seconded the motion.

Rev. Dr. Jenkins held that sending the book down to Presbyteries and Sessions would re-open the discussion on the use of hymns in every Session and Presbytery. If the Church was unanimous on the subject it would be different.

Rev. Dr. Proudfoot asked Principal Caven if he would send the hymnal down to Presbyteries only.

Rev. Principal Caven said he would not mind withdrawing the word "session."

Rev. D. M. Gordon said the proposal of Principal Caven would not be advisable because it would cause an unnecessary postponement in the publication of the Hymn Book.

The amendment of Principal Caven was carried.

The personnel of the Committee was then considered.

After some discussion the subject of the composition of the Committee was referred back to the Committee with instructions to appoint a Committee consisting of ten members only.

On motion of Rev. Mr. Laing the Assembly agreed to permit the Committee to select its hymns not altogether from the four hymn-books now in use but chiefly from those hymn-books.

The report was then adopted.

#### SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

Rev. Mr. McMullen presented the report of the Committee on Sabbath Observance. The Committee rejoiced that much was being done to promote the observance of the Sabbath. Reference was made to the G. W. R. Sunday train run from London to Port Stanley, which the report said was stopped because the support the train received was inadequate. A similar result had been the case with reference to the train which was run from Hamilton to Toronto during the time

that a well-known Church of England clergyman was preaching in the latter city. Allusion was then made, in complimentary terms, to the efforts of Dr. Christie, M.P., for Argenteuil, to secure the closing of the canals on Sunday, and a letter was read from Dr. Christie expressing a hope that the Post Offices would be closed on Sunday.

The Committee recommended that Synods and Presbyteries be requested to use increased diligence in dealing with all incipient forms of Sabbath profanation, and that a petition be sent to the Government praying that the Post Offices in Quebec be closed during the whole of the Lord's day.

Rev. R. Torrance moved the reception of the report, the presentation of thanks to the Committee for its diligence, and the adoption of the recommendations of the Committee.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. Mr. Laing, and carried unanimously.

#### REMITTS.

Mr. Taylor read again the report of the Committee on Remits.

The regulations anent the Widows' and Orphans' Fund were agreed to.

The proposition to appoint an agent for the mission schemes of the Church was negatived.

The proposal to have a common fund for the Colleges of Montreal, Kingston, and Toronto was negatived.

The House arose at six o'clock for recess.

#### EVENING SEDERUNT.

The evening Sederunt opened with prayer.

#### REMITTS.

The consideration of the report of the Committee on Remits was resumed for the proposal to retain the names of retired ministers on the Presbytery rolls.

Rev. Mr. Laing moved that retired ministers be allowed to remain on the rolls, providing that the Assembly had consented on their retirement, and that they resided in the Presbytery, which received a vote of fifty.

Mr. Sedgwick moved that they be not allowed to sit in Presbyteries, which received a vote of fifteen.

Mr. Croil moved that ministers should sit in the Presbyteries, that they should take part in the deliberations, but not vote, which received a vote of sixty-seven, and became the judgment of the House.

The proposal to allow missionaries engaged for one year or more to remain on the rolls was agreed to. One or two other unimportant proposals were also agreed to.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF PROBATIONERS.

Rev. A. MacLean, Blyth, presented the report of the Committee on the Supply of Probationers, which recommended:—

First—That the names of probationers and ministers on the roll for the last four years remain for four months longer, and that then if not settled they should be struck off.

Second—That those on the roll for the past three years be continued six months longer and that those on the roll for two years be continued one year more.

Third—That probationers be allowed three years on the roll.

Fourth—That ministers who are on the roll shall be on for the first time for two years, and those who have resigned their charge more than once one year on the roll.

Fifth—That ordained ministers coming from other churches be allowed one year on the roll.

Sixth—That Presbyteries recommend to pay probationers as liberally as possible, it being understood that the minimum be \$8, with board.

Seventh—That Presbyteries be instructed to regard probationers as having a prior claim to be heard in vacancies.

Eighth—That Presbyteries be instructed to consider the propriety of continuing probationers at vacancies for not less than two weeks, in order that the duties of the pastoral office may be conducted by them.

Ninth—That students be not appointed to vacancies save in exceptional cases.

Tenth—That Presbyteries be enjoined not to report as a vacancy any congregation not prepared to call.

Eleventh—That Presbyteries be instructed to put the names of congregations prepared to call on the list of vacancies, and that congregations be allowed to procure their own supply from the Presbytery for half the time that they may desire.

Twelfth—That thereafter employment be given to none by this Committee but those whose names have been transmitted to this Committee through a Presbytery.

Thirteenth—That Presbyteries be instructed to report to this Committee the names of all ministers without charge and licentiates seeking appointments, and that no appointment be given to such unless by the authority of this Committee.

The report said that unless the above regulations were enforced, the whole scheme of distribution of probationers must fail, and recommended that the call of Mr. McQueen be remitted to the Presbytery of Brockville to be dealt with, and that the Presbytery of Quebec be instructed to pay Mr. West's claim, and in future probationers should send such claims to the Presbyteries concerned.

The recommendation with regard to Mr. West was, on the motion of Mr. Laing, remitted to the Presbytery of Quebec for consideration.

The fourth clause was, on motion of Mr. Laing, referred back to the Committee with instructions to provide for allowing ministers who resigned to continue on the roll for two years after any resignation.

The fifth clause was sent back to the Committee for reconstruction on motion of Rev. Principal McVicar.

Rev. Mr. Laing proposed to strike out the thirteenth clause on the ground that it was placing a committee in a superior position to a Presbytery.

Rev. D. J. Macdonnell said the idea was to require that all ministers who were disengaged should be on equal footing, and in order to be on equal footing be on the roll.

Rev. Dr. Reid thought the proposal of the thirteenth clause would be inoperative.

Rev. Dr. Proudfoot moved that the words "who are entitled to have their names on the roll" should be inserted.

After some discussion the clause was, on a vote being taken, expunged.

The report was then referred to the Committee.

#### HYMNOLOGY.

Rev. D. M. Gordon stated that the proposed Committee on Hymnology was as follows:—Rev. Dr. Jenkins and Rev. Dr. Gregg, Joint Conveners; Rev. Dr. James, Revs. Prof. Mowat, Donald McCrae, J. S. Black, D. J. Macdonnell, John Thompson, of Ayr, and Messrs. Robert Murray and W. B. McMurrich.

The Committee was agreed to, and the Assembly adjourned.

#### NINTH DAY—MORNING SEDERUNT.

The General Assembly met again this morning.

#### TELEGRAM FROM DR. M'LEOD.

The Moderator read a communication from the ex-Moderator as follows:

("By Telegraph from North Sydney, Cape Breton.)

"To Dr. Reid, General Assembly.

"Dr. McLeod warmly thanks the Assembly for their affectionate sympathy, by which he feels refreshed and strengthened. He prays without ceasing for the fathers and brethren, and rejoices in believing that the Master's presence is with them."

#### SERMONS BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

The Moderator announced that the following ministers were appointed to preach before the Assembly on Lord's Day next:—Rev. A. M. Sinclair in the morning; Rev. W. Armstrong in the evening.

#### APPLICATIONS TO RETAIN NAMES ON PRESBYTERY ROLLS.

Rev. Dr. Reid read the following application to retain the names of ministers on Presbytery rolls:—Newfoundland, to retain the names of Rev. M. Harvey and Rev. J. D. Patterson.

The application was granted.

#### THE BROOKDALE CONGREGATION.

A petition from members of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland at Brookdale, asking that they be taken into the Presbytery of Stratford, was sent to the Judicial Committee.

Rev. Mr. Laing moved that the petition be thrown out, because it had not been sent up through one of the Presbyteries, but the motion was lost.

#### STANDING COMMITTEES.

The Standing Committees were then appointed.

#### THE STATE OF RELIGION.

Rev. Mr. Mitchell read the report of the Committee on the State of Religion, which had been returned for reconsideration. The report was amended so as not to state the exact number of those who did not engage in family worship, the returns not being satisfactory, to exclude references to the Gospel Temperance movement, and to recommend the issuing of a pastoral letter by the very rev. the Moderator.

Rev. Dr. Robb objected to the Moderator being called the "very rev." He did not know that such a title had been admitted in the Presbyterian Church, and he objected to anything like Romanism or Ritualism in the Church.

The Moderator thought the "very" should be struck out. Rev. Mr. Mitchell struck it out, stating that it had escaped his observation.

Rev. Dr. Fraser said there was one Presbyterian minister who was entitled to be called "very rev.," and that was the Principal of Queen's University.

Rev. Dr. Robb said that was only a state title and this was not a state church.

The Moderator said he had not much faith in pastoral letters. He wrote one once and all the thanks he got was from ministers who were saved from preparing a sermon for the Sabbath morning on which it was read.

A short discussion arose on the report, after which the Assembly rose for recess.

#### AFTERNOON SEDERUNT.

The Assembly met again at three o'clock.

#### OBITUARY NOTICES.

Mr. Croil read the report of the committee on obituary notices. The report stated that five ministers had been removed by death during the year, as follows:—Rev. George Cheyne, M.A., who had labored in the Church for forty-seven years and who died at the age of seventy-six, while minister at Saltfleet and Binbrook; Rev. J. M. Roger, M.A.; Rev. J. S. Rose, of Grand River, N.B., who had been twenty-three years a minister; Rev. D. Taylor, of New Brunswick; and Rev. Andrew Dryburgh.

It was ordered that the report should be incorporated in the minutes, and the following were appointed the committee on obituary notices for next year:—Drs. Reid, Fraser, and McGregor, Prof. McKerras and Mr. Croil.

#### THE STATE OF RELIGION.

Mr. Croil continued the discussion on the report of the committee on the state of religion. He favored evangelistic services, but hoped that ministers would frown down any doctrines taught which were contrary to Presbyterian principles. No efforts in the direction of saving souls should be discountenanced, which was the doctrine taught by the Saviour when the disciples complained that others which were not of them were casting out devils in His name. "Those who are not against me are for me," said the Saviour.

Rev. Mr. McMullen said it was to be remembered that every one who split his hair in the middle, and carried a limp Bible in his hand, was not authorized to preach the Gospel. There never was a time when there were more nondescript men preaching without authority, and it was a sub-