

Dominion Presbyterian

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OTTAWA

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Assembly Notes

The pulpit of the Assembly Church (Knox) was filled in the morning by a former pastor, Rev. Principal Gordon, of Queen's; and in the evening by Rev. Alex. McGillivray, M.A., of Bonar Church Toronto.

For the first time, probably, in the history of Methodism in Manitoba a preacher wore a gown while delivering a sermon—unless on the occasion of the Wesley college annual baccalaureate. Rev. Dr. H. H. Hedges, of Ottawa, on rising to preach in Grace church Sunday morning, said that he had at first felt a little diffident about following his custom of wearing his gown in the pulpit, but on seeing the ladies and gentlemen behind him (the choir) wearing gowns, he felt that after all it was the right thing. He thought it was only a question of time when the practice would become general. In the evening Rev. Dr. Milligan, of Toronto, followed the example set in the morning and no unfavorable comments were heard. Both ministers, says the Manitoba Free Press, are prominent members of the Presbyterian general assembly.

The opening service in Knox church, says "A Chiel" in the Manitoba Free Press, was worthy of the best traditions of the church and the retiring moderator's sermon was able and ample from every point of view. Rev. Dr. Campbell is facile princeps in the rules, proceedings and doctrines of Presbyterianism. He is a strong opponent of the proposed union that means the extinction of the Presbyterian church. He has made some observations on the question, at previous meetings of assembly, that have as yet been evaded or forgotten, for they have not been set aside by argument. Dr. Campbell is a highlander and a high-typed one at that. His devotion to the church of his fathers is deep and he has reasons good and great to submit in support of his devotion.

"Cleric," in the Winnipeg Tribune, makes mention of several of the younger commissioners to General Assembly in the following terms: The city Winnipeg will learn that "there are others" besides her own well-appointed ministers. There are, for example, Rev. D. R. Hammond, of Hamilton, whose first "gains" were made as a student of Queen's and assistant of Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, of Toronto, Rev. R. Wm. Ross of Guelph, joins the ranks in Halifax as the pastor of Fort Massey church, whither he was called on the advice of a special committee. Rev. R. E. Knowles, of Galt, "authoritative" of the church, is present. Prof. D. J. Fraser, of Montreal, is "a treasure" only modestly recognized. Rev. Dr. Pidgeon, of Toronto, is the "local option" leader of Ontario. Rev. A. T. Love, of the old city of Quebec, is popular like that proud city. Rev. Gordon Dickie, of St. John, has added to his genius and zifts a worthy bride, who accompanies him to the assembly. Rev. R. Martin, of Stratford, and president of the Knox college alumni, is a fine "all round man." Then looking over the delegation from the far west, men who are known better by Winnipeg than the writer, we catch a view of Fraser, of "the Portage;" Henry, of Regina; McLean of Moosejaw; Strachan, of Arcola; McAfee, of Indian Head; Young, of Prince Albert; Gallup, of Saskatoon; Henderson, of Westminster, and a long line of others.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thirty-Fourth Annual Meeting

REV. FRED B. DUVAL, DD, MODERATOR.

FOURTH DAY.

On the assembly resuming this morning Principal Patriek gave notice of a resolution ON CHURCH UNION REPORT that the Assembly receive the report of the committee, record gratification at the progress made and learn with much satisfaction that in the judgment of the committee, so far as the have prosecuted their labors, the proposed union appears practicable; that the Assembly direct the report and a copy of the deliverance to be sent down for information and suggestions to the Presbyteries, sessions and congregations, instructing those who desire to offer suggestions to forward them to Dr. E. D. MacLaren, Secretary of the committee, by December 1, so that they may be dealt with by the committee meeting that month.

Dr. Campbell's Amendment.

Dr. Campbell, late Moderator, gave notice of an amendment that the report be received and thanks tendered to the committee, especially the Convener, for diligence in the important matter entrusted to them, and that the committee be reappointed; that the Assembly express satisfaction at the measure of harmony of sentiment and views which has prevailed during the negotiations of the joint committee, "but as there is unmistakable opposition in our Church to the further prosecution of negotiations for organic union, inasmuch as the union if brought about would add one more to the many denominations of Christendom, and break up the valuable alliances of the Church which give it a catholic character, the committee be instructed to confine their attentions during the next year to consideration of the question of co-operation, not only with the Congregational and Methodist Churches of Canada, but also with other evangelical Churches, and so prevent the overlapping and secure the greatest economy of resources possible."

Dr. William MacLaren, in response to a unanimous request, consented to continue as Principal of Knox College until his successor is appointed by the Senate and the Board of Management.

Young People's Societies.

The Committee on Young People's Societies, reporting through its Convener, Dr. W. S. McTavish of Kingston, took an opposite attitude to the Committee on Sabbath Schools on the question of amalgamation. It expressed decided opposition to amalgamation of the committees, but also said that in its opinion the time has come when a conference should be held of those committees having to do with young people and their work, with a view to framing a general co-operative policy, and for the initiating of a much-needed forward movement, and respectfully requested the Assembly to arrange for such a conference. The hopeful signs of the work were noted. Almost without exception, for one thing, the reports of pastors who had made trial of societies, were eulogistic. Young People's Day is growing in favor. A growing interest in mission study was reported. Lectures on the work of young people's societies were given in the theological colleges. The need of

a Field Secretary was urged, and pastors were recommended, when they discover young men and women of ability and consecrated talent, to encourage them to enter upon a ministerial or missionary career. The receipts, including \$340.91 from the sale of literature, totalled \$997.87 and there is a balance on hand of \$59.91. Eight important recommendations at the close of the report were carefully considered, the first and last being held over for further consideration. The balance of the report was adopted.

Greeting From the United States.

Dr. Andrew Christie Brown, Dakota, was introduced as the official representative of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, and conveyed the greetings of that body. He said that in matters of doctrine they had always on both sides of the line stood, as did their ancestors, in reliance upon the Scriptures as the Word of God. He extended an offer of co-operation and fellowship from the Presbyterian Church of the United States.

Dr. DuVal replied briefly, thanking Dr. Brown for the messages.

New Superintendent.

Mr. E. D. MacLaren, Secretary, submitted the resolution of the Home Missions Committee, recommending the appointment of Rev. S. Childerhoe, Parry Sound, to succeed the late Dr. Findlay as Superintendent of Missions for New Ontario. The resolution was adopted, and the Presbytery authorized in the case of Mr. Childerhoe's acceptance to release him at once.

FIFTH DAY.

The presentation by Mr. J. K. Macdonald for many years the undefatigable convener of the committee, of the report on the AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS' FUND, was the first business placed before the assembly this morning.

The report shows that the committee has paid to the annuitants in both sections the full amount permitted by the rules with the result that the debt balance carried forward from the previous year has been considerably increased. It was felt that this should be done rather than decrease the annuities, which were none too large. The debt brought forward was \$4,975.96. It is now \$5,795.54. The ordinary fund receipts showed \$39,242.52, and disbursements \$39,242.52, less debit of \$5,000 March, 1907.

The adoption of the report and the various recommendations was moved by Judge Forbes of New Brunswick, who paid a glowing tribute to "our own statesman" Mr. Macdonald, who had devoted so much care and ability to stimulating an interest in the fund among the congregations. He also made an appeal to his hearers to arouse the interest of all in the fund. He thought the sum aimed at ought to be \$500,000, not \$200,000 which was the aim of the committee.

The Rev. Dr. Milligan, of Toronto, seconded the adoption of the report. He wished to show that there was no connection between being loyal to the fund and going on it. He had been