

Church, had offered to bear the expense of sending two missionaries to Japan, and the former gentleman promises \$500 additional, if the Presbyterian Church would begin a mission in Japan. Enkine Church, Montreal, at the celebration of its jubilee, gave \$1,000 to the Foreign Mission Fund. The work done by the Woman's Foreign Missionary Societies was gratefully acknowledged. In concluding Professor McLaren tendered his resignation of the Convener'ship of Foreign Mission Committee, on account of its largely increased duties, lest their discharge should interfere with his proper work.

Dr. McGregor, Halifax, presented the report for the Eastern Section. He confined his remarks principally to the state of the Trinidad Mission. Two missionaries had to retire on account of impaired health. It was thought a suitable missionary had been secured, but his medical adviser had pronounced him unfit for the climate. The results of the work during the past year had been very satisfactory. It took \$18,000 to carry it on. Canada had given \$8,000, and Trinidad the other \$10,000. God had blessed our Mission. Tributes were paid to the Sabbath schools of Ontario and the Ladies' Societies of the Maritime Provinces for their generous aid.

The Rev. George Flett, Indian Missionary in the North West, gave, with great pathos, humour and earnestness, an account of his work among the Indians. He described their heathen customs, and the difficulties attending his work in the great North West. He made an earnest appeal for increased effort among the Indians.

After praise and prayer,

The Rev. Hugh A. Robertson, missionary from Eromanga, was next introduced, who gave a description of the scenery in the New Hebrides, and of the condition of the people there. He gave a narrative of mission work in Eromanga. There were now thirty-three Christian teachers there. In his church they had 195 communicants on the roll. Largely attended communion services had been held lately near where Captain Cook and John Williams were murdered. The son of the latter's slayer had laid the first stone of the monument reared to the memory of the martyred missionaries. He concluded by singing a hymn in the native language.

Rev. Joseph Builder, who is about to proceed to India, in a most impressive manner gave an account of the motives that influenced him in choosing the Foreign Mission field as his sphere of labour. The intention of his youth and the prayer of his manhood seemed about to be fulfilled. He esteemed it the highest honour of his life to be asked to go to India. The joy is shaded by having to leave his own land with all its associations, but he went enthusiastically—he went with joy. He felt that his enthusiasm was pure; he hoped it would be purer.

Rev. Dr. R. F. Burns, Halifax, in a few brief but happy sentences moved. "That the reports of the Eastern and Western sections of the Foreign Mission Committee be received, and that the Committee on Bills and Overtures fix a time for their consideration." The motion having been seconded by Rev. K. McLennan, was adopted.

Rev. Principal Grant moved, and Prof. Forest seconded. "That the Foreign Mission Committee, Eastern and Western sections, be continued, *ad interim*, and that it be an instruction to the members present to meet together and consider whether it would be desirable and practicable to unite the two sections so that all the Foreign Mission work of the Church may come under the purview of one Committee, and report on the subject to a subsequent diet of Assembly."

FOURTH DAY.

Morning Session.

The deliverance of the commission appointed at the last General Assembly in the case of Rev. Dr. Barclay, and a memorial and petition from Dr. Barclay ancient the same were read, and with relative documents were remitted to the judicial committee.

MINISTERIAL SUPPORT.

The discussion on the question of ministerial support was resumed by Principal Grant, who then addressed the Assembly. He thought if the recommendations embodied in the motion of Principal Caven were adopted, the condition of poorer congregations would be even worse than before. He highly approved the action of the Presbyteries of Montreal and Quebec in increasing the salaries of ministers within their bounds, and claimed their perfect constitutional right to do so. He felt that the natural prominence and regard for local wants characteristic of the Montreal action was possible of producing similar results in all the Presbyteries. However, as it was felt that what was required was not an elaborate scheme, but some simple action of a tentative character, he proposed to withdraw his motion submitted last night in favour of one to be submitted by Rev. R. H. Warden.

Rev. R. H. Warden moved as follows, seconded by Rev. R. Campbell, of Renfrew. "That the motion of Principal Caven be amended by inserting the following: 'That with the further exceptions that the second regulation be expunged, and that the fifth regulation read as follows: That the general principle of the distribution of this surplus fund shall be an equal dividend to the ministers of the supplemented congregations on the list to the extent of \$750 per annum and manse, but that beyond this amount the committee be empowered to recognize exceptional liberality on the part of any supplemented congregations.'" Mr. Warden spoke at length in support of his motion. He thought the scheme submitted at last Assembly, but not adopted as pointed out by Principal Grant, would place the ministers of the weaker congregations in a less desirable position than before. If the motion of Principal Caven carried, and the supplemental allotment were refused to the Montreal Presbytery, then it might become necessary for that Presbytery to formulate a Home Mission scheme of its own. He hoped however, that the action of the Montreal Presbytery would be merged in the action about to be taken by the General Assembly.

Rev. Robert Campbell, of Renfrew, addressed the Assembly in support of the amendment of Mr. Warden. He hoped Principal Caven, in order to a consolidation of interests, might see his way to the withdrawal of his motion. He showed that fully one hundred ministers would not be benefited by the change. The congregations that were helping themselves would not be benefited by the surplus fund. The straggling, struggling congregations which were breaking down by the magnitude of the work, the ministers in charge would not be aided, but the more compact, more comfortable charges would reap the rewards of the system.

Rev. Dr. Proudfoot strongly disapproved of the motion offered last night by Principal Grant and subsequently withdrawn. He was also disposed to censure the action of the Montreal Presbytery. It seemed to him that the Montreal brethren had violated the laws of the Church, and now asked the Assembly to adapt the law to their transgression. He felt that time had not been wasted despite the length of the discussion.

Principal Caven suggested that both schemes should be submitted to a committee to frame a deliverance based upon them, and that it be printed and distributed to members of the Assembly.

Rev. Dr. Proudfoot moved. "That the motions be sent down to a committee to meet this afternoon, and that the scheme referred to in that of Principal Caven be printed and distributed among the members so that they may be able to give consideration to the motion to be submitted to them."

THE BISHOP OF HURON.

Rev. Principal Grant called attention to the fact that the Bishop of Huron was present, and he suggested to the Moderator that he be invited to take a seat upon the platform.

The Moderator said it gave him the greatest pleasure to welcome Bishop Hellmuth as a visitor to the Assembly, and cordially invited him to a seat on the platform.

The Bishop was warmly received, and in acknowledgment expressed his pleasure at the reception accorded him. He said they had always regarded the Presbyterian Church as a sister Church, and he wished for them God's blessing and all prosperity.

On the resumption of business Rev. D. J. Macdonnell supported the motion of Rev. Mr. Warden, because of the larger amount of provision made, and the more workable character of the scheme proposed.

The Moderator, having left the chair, spoke in support of the motion of Principal Caven. He said the scheme of Mr. Warden would incur an expense in working of from \$30,000 to \$35,000, and it would take away the leverage stimulating the liberality of supplemented congregations.

Rev. R. J. Laidlaw opposed the amendment of Mr. Warden as lacking in elasticity and adaptability.

Dr. Mathews, Quebec, supported the amendment of Mr. Warden, and defended the action of the Quebec Presbytery, and said that a reversal of the action of that Presbytery would wipe out many Protestant congregations in that Province.

Rev. R. Campbell, Montreal, spoke animatedly on Presbyterian rights.

On the first vote being taken, the amendment of Rev. Dr. Proudfoot was lost, and on the second the amendment of Mr. Warden was carried over the motion of Principal Caven.

An amendment moved by Professor Gregg was also voted down.

Principal Caven then asked that the following be added to the motion of Mr. Warden: "That in the administration of the scheme, respect shall be had to any obligations as to ministerial support incurred by Presbyteries for the current year."

This addition was agreed to, and the motion, as amended, was then passed unanimously.

THE DECISION.

The motion, with its various amendments, is as follows: "The General Assembly is deeply impressed with the duty of putting forth the most strenuous efforts for the better support of the ministry, so that if possible a minimum stipend of not less than \$750, with manse, shall be secured. The Assembly deems it inexpedient to pronounce in favour of the principle of a supplementary rather than a sustentation scheme, yet considering that our past working has been in the line of supplement, the General Assembly instructs the Home Mission Committee, east and west, to use their best endeavours to put into operation the scheme of augmentation presented to the Assembly last year. The Assembly thus hopes to be able next year to bring a valuable increase of experience to bear upon this great interest of the Church, with the view either of improving said scheme of augmentation or of preparing the way for the harmonious introduction of another scheme, towards which our experience shall be found to point.

"The Home Mission Committee are instructed to take measures to bring the whole subject of the better support of the ministry before the several Presbyteries and congregations of the Church in order to awaken such an interest in the matter as shall result in a large increase in the funds available for carrying out the objects of the scheme.

"Except that the extent of the supplement to ministers in the North-West shall be regulated by the action of the Assembly on the Home Mission Report, with the further exception that the second regulation be expunged, and that the fifth regulation read as follows: 'That the general principle of the distribution of this surplus fund shall be an equal dividend to the ministers of the supplemented congregations on the list to the extent of \$750 per annum and a manse, but that beyond this amount the committee be empowered to recognize exceptional liberality on the part of any supplemented congregation. That in the administration of the scheme respect shall be had to any obligations as to ministerial support incurred by Presbyteries for the current year.'"

The Assembly then adjourned till Monday morning.

FIFTH DAY.

Morning Session.

The Assembly opened at ten a.m., with devotional exercises.

Hon. Alex. Morris moved, and Principal Caven seconded: "That the scheme of augmentation, as modified by the action of the Assembly, on Saturday, be printed as an appendix to the minutes of Saturday's proceedings." Carried. Rev. Dr. Proudfoot, as convener of the Judicial Committee, asked that the committee be permitted to sit this evening during the session of the Assembly, in order to overlook the large amount of work committed to them. Granted.

Dr. Proudfoot also requested to have his overture on Standing Orders of the Church taken from the table, which was granted.

THE APPEAL OF MR. SPENSER.

The hearing of the appeal of Rev. Adam Spenser from the decision of the Synod of Toronto and Kingston in the matter of arrears due to him by St. Andrew's congregation, Darlington, was resumed. The Moderator, Dr. King, being a member of the Synod of Toronto and Kingston, left the chair, which was taken by Principal MacVicar. Mr. Spenser concluded his defence, interrupted on a previous occasion, and was followed by Principal Caven on behalf of the Synod of Toronto and Kingston, Rev. A. A. Drummond, clerk of the Presbytery of Whitby, appeared for the Presbytery. The argument of these gentlemen was, in effect, that many of the original members of the Darlington congregation were dead. Many had removed, and it was therefore impossible to collect the amounts in the original subscription, given as a guarantee for payment of the stipend of \$400 agreed upon: that the Presbytery or Synod had not ordered the resignation of Mr. Spenser, but requested it; that the pastoral relation was not a pastoral relation, as the congregation had disappeared; and it was contended that grave injury had resulted to the Church by the action of Mr. Spenser in continuing his claims upon congregations which had practically rejected his pastorate, in order to make good his financial claim up to the time at which a dissolution of the pastoral relationship should be effected by a full recognition on the part of the congregation of the claims of Mr. Spenser.

After a lengthy discussion Rev. John Laing moved, seconded by Rev. Dr. Proudfoot: "That the appeal be dismissed."

This carried unanimously, and the parties to the case were formally notified of the decision of the Assembly.

The representatives of the Synod and Presbytery acquiesced, and Mr. Spenser stated that he submitted to the decision of the Assembly.

Afternoon Session.

The session opened at half-past two with devotional exercises.

REFERENCES.

From the Presbytery of St. John as to the work of the Woman's Home Missionary Society, organized to aid the Home Mission work and for which the Presbytery had enjoined the churches under its jurisdiction to take up collections in behalf of the Woman's Mission to assist in the payment of a missionary employed by that organization. It was contended that the Presbytery had no power to enjoin the taking up of collections for this special purpose.

Rev. Geo. Bruce, of St. John, supported the reference in a brief, lucid speech.

Revs. R. Campbell moved, and W. R. Cruickshank seconded: "That the reference is sustained, and the General Assembly recognize the right of the Presbytery of St. John to appoint the collections in question." Carried.

From the Presbytery of Montreal, as to the status of Rev. James Patterson, of Hemmingford, asking that his standing be not affected by his appointment as city missionary. Granted, on motion of Rev. Dr. Cochrane.

From the Presbytery of Montreal, as to the status of Rev. Mr. Coubovie, an ex-priest, asking that he be recognized as an ordained missionary of the Presbyterian Church. Rev. R. Campbell presented the case.

Rev. John Bennett, Almonte, moved. "That Mr. Coubovie be accorded the standing of a licentiate, and that the reference be sustained."

He claimed that by the doctrines of the Presbyterian Church Mr. Coubovie could not be received as a minister; a full standing. He had received his orders from an apostate church, and these orders, therefore, could not be recognized by the Assembly.

Professor Cousirat, Montreal, seconded the motion, and endorsed the contention of Mr. Bennett.

Dr. Robert Thomson, Drummondville, also spoke in disapproval of the recognition of the orders of the Church of Rome by this Church.

Rev. R. Campbell, Montreal, explained that, although not inducted, Mr. Coubovie had been for the past year performing the functions of the Presbyterian ministry.

Rev. W. J. McMullen, Woodstock, strongly censured the action of the Montreal Presbytery, in permitting Mr. Coubovie to perform any of the rites of the Church.

Rev. Chas. A. Doudiet, Montreal, could not consent to the ordination of Mr. Coubovie, except under the usual conditions.

Principal McVicar said the Church of Rome, with which they were in conflict, was thoroughly ultramontane in character throughout this Dominion, and they could not recognize its orders as valid in this Church.

Rev. John Laing gave a short *résumé* of the various steps taken by the Assembly in reference to the case.

After discussion the motion of Mr. Bennett was adopted. From the Presbyterians of St. John and Wallace to unite the congregations of Shediac and Shernague. Granted.

A report on the Missionary Record was read and received.

ON THE HYMNAL COMMITTEE.

Prof. Gregg read the report of the Hymnal Committee, announcing that 35,000 copies have been sold during the year, which, with the number previously sold, made up a total of 74,000. The amount received for royalty was