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Contributors and Correspondents

(For the Presbyterians.)

HOME MISSION COMMITTEE.

The Home Mission Committee (Western District) met in the Deacon's Court Room of Knox Church, Toronto, on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th inst. The Rev. Dr. Cochrane, Convener.

The following members were present: Dr. Cochrane, Dr. Proudfoot, Rev. Prof. McLaron, J. McTavish, R. Torrance, R. Hamilton, J. Laing, J. M. King, J. Carmichael (King), W. Donald, J. R. S. Burnett, A. Brown, Jos. White, T. G. Smith, J. C. Smith, J. B. Edmondson, F. McQuig, R. Rodgers, J. L. Murray, D. B. Whitnaster, W. Walker, H. Crozier, G. Bruce, and R. H. Warden.

Mr. R. H. Warden, on motion of Mr. J. M. King, seconded by Dr. Proudfoot, was requested to continue to act as Secretary of the Committee.

CLAIMS FOR THE PAST HALF YEAR.

Before proceeding to consider the claims of the respective Presbyteries for services rendered in Supplemented Congregations and Mission Stations during the past six months, it was resolved, owing to the depressed state of the fund, that no special claims or applications for retrospective grants be entertained by the committee. The following sums were, after careful consideration, ordered to be paid:—

Presbytery of Quebec	\$489 00
Montreal	993 00
Glenagary	116 00
Brockville	719 28
Ottawa	1841 95
Kingston	1187 60
Peterborough	634 18
Whitby
Lindsay	237 00
Toronto	593 00
Barrie	1002 00
Owen Sound	388 17
Saugeen	407 00
Geolph	100 00
Hamilton	502 00
Paris	125 00
London	1816 00
Chatham	514 60
Stratford	100 00
Bruce	228 85
Huron	291 60
Total	\$11125 78

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The Convener stated that he had corresponded with Rev. R. Jamieson, of New Westminster, as to the action of the Assembly in his case, and that Mr. Jamieson, in reply, desired to know whether his connection with the Widows' Fund would continue as heretofore, were he to connect himself with the Presbytery of British Columbia, in connection with the Church of Scotland.

The Convener was instructed to write Mr. Jamieson, referring him to the resolution of the Assembly regarding the matter. (Page 57 of the Minutes.)

LAKE SUPERIOR.

The Committee considered at length the present condition and future prospects of the Lake Superior fields.

I. SILVER ISLET.

The Convener reported that Mr. Hamilton, Licentiate, who succeeded Mr. Caswell at this station, had done good service; but that, owing to the large majority of the population having left the place, the mine not being worked as formerly, the people were not able to contribute anything beyond the expense of board to the support of the missionary. The Committee, on the recommendation of the Convener, resolved to discontinue this mission for the present.

II. SAULT STE. MARIE.

The Convener reported that Mr. J. R. McLeod, student of Montreal College, supplied this field with much success during the latter half of the summer, preaching regularly at the Korah station as well as at the Sault, and that the people had agreed to contribute \$3 per week towards his salary. A letter was laid on the table and read from Mr. Brown of the Sault, (where a new church is being built to be completed this fall), urgently desiring winter supply, and offering on the part of the congregation \$250 per annum towards the support of a missionary. The committee instructed the sub-committee to secure if possible, a laborer, for this field immediately, conditional on the people contributing at the rate of at least \$250 per annum for the first six months, in the hope that this sum will be increased at the expiration of that period.

A letter was read from the Rev. J. Kay, claiming \$100 as still due him for services at Sault Ste. Marie. It was agreed to pay the claim.

III. THUNDER BAY.

It was reported by Rev. D. McKerracher, missionary at this point. He reported that the attendance at the Sabbath school was increasing, and the finances were good, especially at Port Williams. The Convener was instructed to correspond with Mr. McKerracher and express to him the satisfaction of the committee with his labors, and urge him to continue his services. The Convener was also instructed to call on the congregation, first, as to the salary of the pastor; and secondly, as to the salary of the laborer, the committee being prepared to pay beyond their efforts in this respect. The Convener was empowered to take such action as they may deem desirable.

MANITOBA.

The Convener reported that

Borthwick and J. S. Stewart had both proceeded to their fields of labour in Manitoba. A communication was received and read from the Home Mission Committee of the Presbytery of Manitoba, containing interesting information concerning the work there, and urgently asking for additional Missionaries. A telegram of a more recent date was received from Messrs. Robertson and Bryce, stating that a Missionary was required immediately for Sunnyside, and that the people there were prepared to guarantee \$450 per annum towards his support. It was agreed to endeavour to secure another Missionary for Manitoba, to labour in this field.

Much time was spent in considering the best means of successfully prosecuting the work in Manitoba, and the following resolutions were adopted:—With a view to bring the conduct of Mission work in the Presbytery of Manitoba in harmony with that in other Presbyteries of the Church, the Committee resolved,

I.—That each Station or group of Stations be hereafter required to guarantee a certain sum per annum, or for each Sabbath's supply, according to the ability of the people.

II.—That the Presbytery of Manitoba be instructed to forward immediately, to the Convener, a statement of the amount they deem an equitable sum to be contributed by each of the Stations,—said statement to be submitted to the Sub-Committee of this Committee, and if, by them deemed satisfactory, to form the basis of the grants to be made to the various fields from this date.

III.—That when a minimum contribution of \$300 per annum, from any field is reached, the Presbytery be recommended to take steps to have the congregation call a Pastor in regular form,—this Committee being most unwilling that the system of stated supply should, as heretofore, be any longer carried out in such cases.

There was laid on the table and read, a communication from the Rev. A. Fraser, claiming the amount of his travelling expenses in returning from Manitoba to Ontario. It was unanimously agreed to disallow the claim.

The College in Manitoba having been placed by the General Assembly under the care of a Special Committee, who were entrusted with the duty of procuring funds for carrying on the same, it was agreed to instruct the Treasurer to pay no monies towards the support of the College from the Home Mission Fund after the 1st of April last—the beginning of the ecclesiastical year.

MISCELLANEOUS.

I. GRANT FROM IRISH CHURCH.

The Convener reported the receipt of £100 sig. from the Irish Presbyterian Church, which he had duly acknowledged.

II. AID FROM EASTERN SECTION.

The Convener reported that he had corresponded with the Home Mission Committee of the Eastern Section of the Church, as to securing their co-operation and financial assistance in carrying on Mission Work in Manitoba, and that in reply, Mr. Grant promised to bring the matter before the Committee, of which he is Convener, at their first meeting.

III. BYNG INLET.

A letter was laid on the table and read from the Rev. W. S. Ball, pointing out the importance of opening a New Mission at Byng Inlet, stating that a gentleman there was prepared to contribute \$800 per annum towards the support of a Missionary. The field referred to being within the bounds of one of the Presbyteries of the Church, it was resolved to direct their attention to it, and to delay further action in the meantime.

IV. REV. A. McNAUGHTON.

An application was received from the Rev. A. McNaughton, recently of Adelaide, for an appointment during the next half year in some Mission field. It was agreed to put his name on the list of Missionaries available for work during the winter months.

V. NOTICE OF MOTION.

Mr. Laing gave notice that at the April meeting he would move that the Committee recommend the General Assembly, at its next meeting, to appoint a Home Mission Superintendent.

VI. APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEE.

The following were the sub-committee appointed to attend to the various matters referred to them, as per the foregoing minutes, viz.: Dr. Cochrane, (Convener); Messrs J. M. King, J. Laing, F. McQuig, and G. Bruce. To the same Committee was also referred the remit of the General Assembly, as to the continuous supply of Mission fields. (See Minutes of Assembly, page 60.)

STATE OF THE FUND.

The Treasurer reported that, up to the 30th of Sept., a little over \$2,000 had been received by him on account of the deficit of last year, but that there was a fair prospect of a large proportion of the full amount being obtained. Arrangements were made to secure the full amount, if possible, within the next few weeks. The debt on 1st October was \$8,500, exclusive of the claims for services during the past six months passed at this meeting. Including these, the debt at the present date is about 20,000.

The Committee resolved, owing to the state of the fund, that, in proceeding to revise the grants for the ensuing year, an effort be made to reduce by 25 per cent. the aggregate of the grants to Supplemented Congregations and Mission Stations.

[Want of space prevents us giving the remainder of the Minutes in this issue. These will appear next week, including the complete List of Supplemented Congregations and Mission Stations, with the revised grants for the year beginning 1st October.—Ed. B. A. P.]

The District of Muskoka.

MISSIONARY REPORT OF REV. A. LINDLAY.

I beg leave to make the following report of labors, as ordained Missionary in the District of Muskoka, under the care of the Presbytery of Barrie, Presbyterian Church in Canada.

In accordance with instructions received from the Convener of the Presbytery's H. M. Committee, I entered on this field of labor on the 12th November last. At that time I found matters in Bracebridge and associate stations, especially the latter, to be in a very unpromising condition through circumstances to which I need not refer. So far as I can judge a much more hopeful feeling now prevails. During these past months I have visited all the stations in the district, 21 in number, with the exception of the Muskoka and Turtle Lake. On the day appointed for visiting the former, the Bay proved so rough that no one ventured across for us as previously arranged; while my visit to the latter was indeed unnecessary, as Mr. Panton visited that point and performed the required duty. Perhaps the most satisfactory way of presenting this brief report will be to notice the work under the following heads.

1. Dispensation of Ordinances.—The ordinance of the Lord's Supper has been dispensed at the following stations on the dates affixed to each, viz: at Bracebridge, Dec. 19th and July 16; Monck, Jan. 25th; Port Carling, Feb. 6th and Aug. 27th; South Falls, June 4th; Gravenhurst, July 23rd; Baysville, July 30th; Huntsville, and Allansville, August 6th; Raymond, August 20th; Doe Lake, Sept. 17th.

At each of the stations the attendance was comparatively large, and the interest taken in things spiritual seemed to be deep.

The Ordinance of Baptism was dispensed at nearly all the stations; 86 children were thus received into the visible church. The following is the number of names on the Communion roll of each station respectively, viz: Bracebridge, 41; Monck, 19; South Falls, 20; Gravenhurst, 35; Baysville, 16; Huntsville, 16; Allensville, 22; Draper, 12; Raymond, 12; Bluebank, 8; Port Carling, 24; Rosseau, 21; Turtle Lake, 18; Doe Lake, 13.—282.

2. Organizations.—In accordance with the request of parties interested, I have organized stations in the following localities, at Baysville, on July 19th; at Draper, on August, 8th; and at Doe Lake, Sept. 16th. The friends at Sisseton have also expressed a desire to become an organized congregation, but press of duty has prevented my visiting them as yet. I purpose doing so at an early day. I may mention in this connection also, that Elders were elected and ordained at Port Carling on the 20th and 27th of August.

3. Church Building.—Knox Church, South Falls, which has been in process of construction for some time past, has been so far completed that we now have the use of it for purposes of worship. Something now is necessary however in the way of flooring and seating before it can be said to be finished. We hope to have the use of the Church, erected in Monck this season, in a few weeks, though we do not expect it to be finished this year. The new Church in Bracebridge is being pushed forward to completion, and we hope to have it formally opened before the close of this year.

At Gravenhurst, Draper, and Huntsville, the frames of new churches will be erected before the season closes, to be finished next year. The friends at Port Carling purpose preparing material this winter, and going on with the building next season. It is to be hoped that the same will be true in the case of Rosseau. The want of proper places of worship is felt very much in the District, and hinders we believe the progress of our cause greatly in many of our stations. Not only are they required for public worship, but also for carrying on more vigorously the work of school instruction. School houses are not always attainable, and private houses are not in all cases suitable.

4. Sabbath Schools.—Very little is being done in this important department of Christian instruction in the stations. In most cases where schools do exist, they are conducted on union principles from which the short Catechism is carefully excluded. There has been one in operation in Bracebridge for some time in connection with our church. Another was organized at Huntsville this summer, and a third at Baysville, as a union school, but with the distinct understanding that the Catechism be used. As Church Buildings increase in number, we hope that the number of schools will also increase. It may be proper to notice in this connection that gifts of Books and Illustrated S. School Papers were received from the schools of Bay St. and Gould St., Toronto, for which thanks are due to Messrs. Adamson and Kerr, their respective superintendents. These books have been distributed among the schools above mentioned, and have been gratefully received by them. I have also to acknowledge a donation of several hundred pages of Tracts from the Depository in Toronto, which are being distributed as opportunity presents itself.

5. Exploration.—In answer to a request from friends at Baysville, I visited that point twice last winter, and found quite a number of families connected with our church settled in that neighborhood. The services of a student was secured for them during the summer, whose labors have been highly appreciated. The prospects of our cause in this locality are very encouraging. As previously noticed, a congregation was organized here on the 18th of July last with a membership of 16, and a certificate.

On the 18th of this month I went north to the new field opened up by the Students' Missionary Society, in the Townships of Ry-

erson and McMurrich, and the Maganaton region. Here much good has been accomplished by Mr. Farquharson the Students' Missionary. I found at Doe Lake that they were desirous of organization, and as arrangements had been made for my so doing, I organized on the 16th, and dispensed the ordinance of the Supper on the 17th. Much interest is manifested in Church matters by the friends in this locality, and I doubt not that here we have the nucleus of a flourishing congregation at no distant date. It was not thought desirable to organize at Bogsboro this season, the friends there are hopeful however. A site for a church occupies a prominent place on the plan of the future village of Bogsboro. On Monday I proceeded to Maganaton, where I had services in the evening. The attendance was somewhat small, as that time honored institution the "Logging Bee" was in full operation close at hand. Yet our prospects here are good. The country is more thinly settled than at points farther south. Many of those who are going in are either members of our Church or are favorably inclined towards it.

At the suggestion of S. G. Best, Esq., Land Agent at this point, I purpose making application to the commissioner of Crown Lands for the lots for church purposes in the town plot of Maganaton. Though the town is as yet only on paper, we know not what changes may be wrought in these parts in a short time when projected lines of railway are carried out. We will require a site for a Church soon, and may require one for a Manse sooner than at present anticipated.

On Tuesday I turned my face homeward, which I reached in safety on the day following, after a ride on this tour of about 150 miles chiefly in the saddle. This field will require soon to be divided as it is too extensive for one laborer, Mr. Farquharson having to walk 24 miles between the extremes of his stations. There are points to the north and west of the Maganaton which must soon receive attention, which could advantageously be worked in connection with this field. By another season it might be well for some one to go up on a prospecting tour to Lake Nipissing, 34 miles north of the Maganaton, as I learn there are settlements of our people forming around the shores of the lake who are without ordinances. Mr. Farquharson visited the Lake Region this season, and his report will doubtless be before the Presbytery.

6. Finance.—The congregation at Bracebridge has paid in full the amount due for the current year. They have adopted the system of payment quarterly in advance, and find that it works well. Monck and South Falls have each paid the amount promised for three-quarters of the current year. In addition, I may state, that all my expenses in attending the church courts have been borne by the stations. As the result of Mr. McKee's visit at our missionary meetings last winter, a Missionary Association was formed at Bracebridge, which have contributed the sum of \$15.25 to the Home Mission Fund of the Church, part of this being from the Sabbath-school children. This is for six months only. It is to be hoped that something more substantial may be accomplished in this direction throughout the district. Money is by no means plentiful among them yet, the people are not unmindful of, nor ungrateful for past favors from this fund; but they require to be assisted. All my expenses in travelling in the district have been met by the stations supplied, with the exception of \$3 for horse hire, in connection with my visit to the Maganaton.

Looking at this district from an ecclesiastical stand-point, it forms a most important part of our Home Mission field; second only, if indeed second, in importance to the far-famed Province of Manitoba. Our missionaries are heartily received wherever they go, and were the interests of our Church more zealously cultivated, there is no doubt that in time, and that not far distant, many supplemented, if not self-supporting, congregations could be erected out of what are now weak stations; while as the country settles to the north many new stations would be organized, calling for the fostering care and continued liberality of the church in their support.

What is urgently needed in the meantime is winter supply for these stations already organized, and an increased number of labourers for the next summer. Others are vigorously cultivating the field, and are leaving no stone unturned to secure as large a following as possible. It becomes us to be up and doing now that we may retain those who already belong to our church, as well as by doing evangelistic work in the true sense of the term, greatly add to the number of those who claim connection with our beloved Zion.

In order to the carrying out of the work in the district, allow me to conclude this brief report by making the following suggestions:

- 1) That a member of Presbytery be appointed as a delegate to correspond with me in holding missionary meetings in the various stations throughout the district during the coming winter.
- 2) That Rosseau and Port Carling with associate stations be assumed by the Presbytery, and that the Students' Society be requested to take up another field in lieu thereof in the township of Ferry.
- 3) That as the station of Etherson has been practically dropped, a new station instead be taken up in the neighbourhood of Port Sydney.
- 4) That the Presbytery take steps to secure the services of catechists or other labourers for the field during the winter months.
- 5) That provision be made for establishing a fund to assist stations which may require aid in erecting church buildings.
- 6) That as soon as the Home Mission

Fund will warrant the necessary salary, I least one more or labored missionary be appointed to this field.
Bracebridge, Sept. 20th, 1876.

Presbytery of Peterborough.

This Presbytery met at Cobourg on the 20th of September. Commissioners from the congregation of Cobourg proffered a request for a moderation in a call. The request was accompanied with the statement that the salary would be \$1200 per annum, with a manse, and that a large amount of unanimity prevailed in the congregation. In compliance with the petition, Mr. Donald was appointed to moderate in a call, at some time convenient for himself and the congregation. Mr. Cameron gave in a report of his visit to the mission field in Chandos and Burleigh, where he preached nine times, dispensed the sacrament of the Lord's Supper at four different places, and baptized six children. The list of supplemented congregations was revised, and, in connection with the revision, the Presbytery took up the consideration of Mr. Lochead's resignation of the congregation of Somerville, which was tendered in order that he might give his whole time to Fenelon Falls. Accompanying the resignation, was a petition from the congregation of Fenelon Falls,—for an increase of the grant to that congregation,—so as to make the supplement \$800 per annum. It was resolved, unanimously, that, under existing circumstances, the resignation should not be accepted, nor the proposed increase of supplement sought. It was finally resolved to apply to the Home Mission Committee for the same grants as last year, to Supplemented Congregations and Mission Stations, the same as last year. Mr. McKay was appointed Convener of the Presbytery's Sabbath school Committee, in the place of Mr. Douglas, and Mr. Torrance was added to the committee. Mr. MacLennan, from the committee to make inquiries in reference to the Old Presbyterian Church at Cobourg, gave in a report, which was unanimously adopted. The report recommended that Mr. Arnott be requested, with the aid of Mr. John Sutherland, to take such steps as may be desirable for placing the graveyard in a proper state of repair; and, also, to solicit information from those interested in the property in question, as to the best ultimate disposition of it; and, in the meantime, that those gentlemen be authorized to apply the Church edifice to such transient uses as they may find expedient, having due regard to the interests of the Presbyterian cause,—with instructions to report their actions from time to time to the Presbytery. It was agreed to order the production of Session Records at the next meeting of Presbytery, which was appointed to be held in the Mill Street Church, Port Hope, on the last Tuesday of October, at ten a.m., or at the next quarterly meeting, which will be held in St. Andrew's Church, Peterborough, on the third Tuesday of January, at eleven a.m.—W. DONALD, Presbytery Clerk.

Presbytery of Toronto.

A meeting of this congregation was held in the village of Shelburne, on the 10th current, especially for the ordination of Rev. John R. Gilchrist. The preceding Sabbath, Rev. J. M. King had conducted services, both in the morning and the evening, in connection with the opening of the new church in said village. On the day of ordination, a sermon was preached by Rev. A. Gilray from Isaiah xxvii. 3. The questions of the formula were put to Mr. Gilchrist and the congregation by Mr. King; and these being announced satisfactory, Mr. Gilchrist was, by prayer and the laying on of the hands, ordained to the office of the ministry, and inducted to the pastoral care of Shelburne and Primrose. He was afterwards addressed by Mr. King on the duties of his office. Rev. A. Garriek addressed the congregation; and the remaining ordination services, consisting of prayer and the benediction, were conducted by Rev. Dr. Robb. At the same meeting of Presbytery, a letter was read from Rev. George M. Milligan, declaring his acceptance of the call from the congregation of Old St. Andrew's church, Toronto. Also, a letter was read from the Permanent Clerk of the Presbytery of Detroit, setting forth that said Presbytery had released Mr. Milligan from the pastoral charge of central Presbyterian Church, Detroit, and had given him a letter of dismission and recommendation to this Presbytery. On motion made and seconded, it was resolved that the introduction of Mr. Milligan shall take place in Old St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, on the 24th current, services to be commenced at 7.30 p.m.; Rev. I. Carmichael, of King, to preach, Rev. Professor McLaron to preside, put the questions, and deliver the charge to Mr. Milligan, and Rev. Principal Cayon to address the congregation. A letter was read from Rev. Walter Amos, declining the call from Alton and Melville Church, Caledon, and declaring his acceptance of a call from the congregation of Aurora; which call was that day reported on by the regular moderator, and sustained by the Presbytery. The Clerk was appointed to assign Mr. Amos subjects of trial for ordination; and in the event of his trials being given in at next ordinary meeting, and proving satisfactory, it was agreed to ordain him at Aurora on the 9th of this month, services to commence at 10.30 a.m.; Rev. D. Mitchell to preach, Rev. I. Carmichael, of King, to preside, put the questions, and deliver the charge to Mr. Amos; and Rev. R. D. Fraser to address the congregation. The next ordinary meeting of Presbytery was appointed to be held in the usual place, on the first Tuesday of November, at 11 a.m.—R. MONTGOMERY, Presbytery Clerk.