

THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN

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TORONTO.

In Canada reform of the Senate is also one of the questions of the day, though neither political party seems anxious to press the matter so long as it is in power and has a majority in the red chamber. Hon. R. W. Scott, who has just retired from the Government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, after a long and honorable service, 34 years of which was in the Senate, 17 in opposition and 17 as leader, has introduced a proposal for re-organization, which would make two-thirds of the Senate elective and bring it into closer touch with the people. Sir Wilfrid is strong enough to bring about such a reform. Will he do it? The Senate will have to be mended or ended.

NATIONAL CONGRESS AT TORONTO.

In many respects the National Congress of the Laymen's Missionary Movement next spring will be the most remarkable gathering ever held in Canada.

The churches of the entire Dominion, without regard to denominational lines, have never before come together with such hearty unanimity in behalf of any cause, and strong denominational conferences will be held every forenoon during the Congress, but in the great sessions in Massey Hall lines of division will be entirely obscured.

In no nation have the churches ever been called upon to formulate a national policy in regard to their missionary undertakings; and possibly the most remarkable feature is the fact that so large an undertaking is entirely in the lead-ership of laymen rather than the clergy.

The clergy, however, will be present in large numbers, and the first session Wednesday afternoon, March 31, will be of special interest to them. The Congress programme is planned with this in view, so that many of the pastors who attend will be able to get away Saturday, April 3, and yet not miss any of the features planned especially for them. The closing day, Sunday, April 4, will be marked by the strongest possible addresses to different groups of laymen and college students.

In connection with the Congress there will be special conferences for ministers, students and Sunday School workers. The women's societies of several communions are planning great meetings at the same time, and the denominational conferences promise to be of great profit.

In addition to the British and Canadian speakers, invitations to address the Congress have already been accepted by Mr. Robert E. Speer of New York; Bishop J. M. Thoburn, from India; Dr. J. M. Zwemer, formerly of Arabia; Hon. S. B. Capen of Boston; Mr. J. Campbell White of New York; Mr. Silas McBee of New York.

It is expected that there will be 2,000 regular commissioners in addition to the group of honorary commissioners composed of clergymen, theological students and visiting Americans. Special rates will be given by the railroad companies, and the action of Canada in her effort to meet the nation's share of responsibility in the world problem of missions will be watched by all Christian nations.

The theme of the Conference will be "Canada's National Missionary Policy," with such subdivisions as follows:—

"The Relation of the Ministry to a Missionary Church."

"The Victorious Progress of Missions."

"The Place of the Church in the Making of the Nation."

"The Stewardship of Life."

"How to Lead the Church to Its Highest Missionary Efficiency."

The Congress has been described as unique, broad, far-reaching, and epoch-making.

Wychwood Park Church reports another very successful year. The total membership is now 309. Amount contributed for all purposes was \$2,500. A committee was appointed to consider the erection of a new church.

Rev. George Macleod, M.A., Truro, N.S., has been unanimously invited to the pastorate of the Deer Park church. Rev. Dr. Hossack's successor is 45 years old, and a Canadian, but a graduate of Princeton, N.J. The Deer Park stipend is \$2,500.

There were 58 added to the membership of South Side church, and there was also an increased attendance at the Sabbath school. The induction of Rev. S. H. Pickup only took place six months ago, but good results are already visible from his labors.

The Davenport Church is growing under the ministry of Rev. Dr. Abraham. After paying all current liabilities there was a balance of \$210.06 in the treasury. The new building, it is expected, will be finished about the 1st of April, and it will seat 1,000.

Bloor street church reports a membership of 973. The receipts from all sources totalled \$34,500; the missionary givings being \$10,260, with \$2,000 additional contributed to outside objects. The new Sunday school building and the alteration of the old building will cost some \$30,000 and the new organ \$10,200.

Victoria Church, West Toronto (Rev. Dr. Pidgeon, pastor), is in a flourishing condition. Eighty-seven new members were added during the year, and the names on the roll now number 816. Receipts from collections amounted to \$4,093, and all the schemes of the church were well sustained. The Ladies Aid paid for the new organ which cost \$4,000.00.

Immanuel Church, East Toronto, is advancing. Amount raised, \$3,000; new manse completed at a cost of \$2,980, now occupied by the minister; and a large reduction in the church debt. The following managers were elected:—Messrs. Noel Drummond, Peter McLuckie and Alfred Taylor, for three years. All the church organizations report largely increased givings.

The 30th annual meeting of Parkdale Church, (Rev. A. Logan Geggie, minister), was probably the best in the history of the congregation. An active membership of 1,214 was reported, with a Sunday school enrollment of 915. The total revenue was \$17,799, and missionary receipts from all sources \$3,123.00, of which \$650 is contributed by the Sunday school.

At the annual meeting of Avenue Road Congregation, the salary of the pastor, Rev. J. W. Stephens, was increased by \$250. The membership was increased by 53, and now stands at 533. The receipts for general purposes during the year amounted to \$6,436.59, and the balance on hand at the end of the year was \$80.61. The increase in envelope subscriptions was \$4,218. The contributions to the schemes of the church amounted to \$1,029, as compared with 611 last year. The missionary contributions were \$1,541.

Bonar church commences another year with most encouraging prospects. The membership is 705, one hundred and thirty-five having been received during the past year. The following are the principal items of revenue:—Managers, \$4,359; New Site Building Committee, \$3,562; Sabbath school, \$750; Ladies' Aid, \$475; missions, \$696; total, \$9,842. The Sabbath school reports an enrollment, including teachers and officers, of upwards of 1,100. Three hundred and forty-one new scholars were enrolled during the year.

Cowan Avenue Church reports 418 members. The church is free of debt. The total amount of money received during the year from all sources was \$11,942.85, including the \$6,754 which was raised to pay off the mortgage. The pastor, Rev. F. M. Macdonald, is encouraged in his work.

The financial report of the new Rosedale church showed that the receipts for 1908 amounted to \$3,035; expenditure \$2,730.56, leaving a balance of \$604.50 to the good. Rev. D. Strachan, whose induction took place last week, has received a hearty welcome from the congregation, and enters on his work with most encouraging prospects for the future.

A unanimous call to Rev. Clarence Mackinnon, B.D., of Westminster Church, Winnipeg, is being forwarded from St. James Square Church in this city, the pastorate of which was recently resigned by Rev. Dr. Gandier, on his appointment to the principalship of Knox College. Rev. Mr. Mackinnon is one of the most popular preachers in western Canada. He is a fine scholar with a philosophical bent, which combined with warm Celtic temperament and cultured literary style give distinction and power to his preaching.

In Westminster church, Rev. M. B. Davidson, who has been taking part of the pastorate work for some time, has been called to be assistant minister. The receipts for the year amounted to \$10,522.17. After paying current liabilities there was a balance of \$13.47. During the year the board have installed a new organ, at a cost of \$5,800, of which \$2,397.28 has already been paid. Rev. Dr. Neil, the pastor, stated in his address that 118 had been received into the membership of the church, and 105 had been removed, and the total number on the roll was 940.

As in former years, St. James Square congregation makes an excellent showing in all departments of the work. Pledged to raise \$12,000, as its share of \$125,000 from Toronto for the Laymen's Missionary Movement, \$12,079 was reported as contributed. The total givings amounted to \$23,341.34. Of the \$15,539.76, \$12,222 was for distinctively missionary purposes, the balance of \$3,317.48 being for educational and benevolent objects. The outlay for running expenses was about \$7,500. A resolution introduced by Dr. W. B. Gekke, seconded by Mr. C. S. McDonald, was adopted with hearty enthusiasm by the entire congregation, expressing gratification at Dr. Gandier's appointment by unanimous choice of the authorities of Knox College to the Principalship of that institution, and sincere good wishes for his future welfare. It expressed the deep sense of loss felt by the congregation, to every member of which he had become endeared during his almost eight years of pastorate by his faithfulness and earnestness, his watchful care having caused the church to prosper greatly, and they rejoiced to know that he would still be amongst them, and that they could count on his continued work and interest as a member of the congregation. This resolution was ordered to be engrossed and framed and presented to Principal Gandier. A pleasant feature of the meeting was the presence of Rev. Louis H. Jordan, B.D., who was pastor for seven years previous to Dr. Gandier's coming. He expressed his gratification at the encouraging reports of the church's progress. Mr. Jordan is filling the pulpit for a few Sundays. The election of managers resulted in the choice of Messrs. W. A. Cameron, Andrew Gunn, Fred. R. Hamilton, A. T. Reid, George H. Tod, Thomas Woodbridge and Dr. G. G. Hume for two years, and Mr. A. E. Trebilcock for one year.