

CONCLUSION ASSEMBLY REPORT.

HAMILTON, Ont., June 10.—In the Presbyterian General Assembly to-day Rev. Dr. Bryce reported for the trustees of the western section, and the Assembly expressed its satisfaction with the character of the investments and the state of the funds of the church.

T. C. James submitted the recommendations of the committee on moral and social reform, and Dr. Shearer addressed the house on the work of the committee.

Rev. Dr. Pringle regretted that no statement appeared in the recommendations deploring the prevalence of political corruption, and then proceeded to furnish the Assembly with some facts gleaned from Sydney to Dawson. He spoke at length, and stirred up considerable comment for and against his remarks.

On motion of Rev. Dr. Ramsay a small committee was appointed to frame a resolution expressing the feeling of the Assembly regarding the desirability of peace among the nations of the world.

Rev. Dr. Ratcliffe reported for the committee on statistics, calling attention to the fact that the offering for last year for schemes was \$4,823,800 in excess of the previous year. There was no falling off in the number of families and communicants, though clerical errors in the report represent a decrease.

The afternoon session was occupied with the ends of a large number of reports and the smaller matters of routine that belong to the last sederunt. The hymnal committee announced the new edition of the book of praise, with music. They reported progress in producing the new version of the Psalms. The yearly receipts are \$3,583,70; after paying charges and donations there is a credit balance of \$763.09.

Committee on aids to devotion were reported, and the Assembly ordered that the aids be published forthwith. The Assembly approved of the careful conduct of the office of the church at Winnipeg. Rev. W. M. Rochester declined the position of superintendent of missions in Alberta as offered him. An overture asking for amalgamation of the committees on church life and work and social and moral reform was supported by Rev. David Lang and Principal Patrick and ordered to be sent to the committee to appoint sending committees with approval for that committee's consideration.

Sir Thomas Taylor reported for the church and manse building fund. The good work done was reviewed, and Sir Thomas was thanked for his offices in this matter for past years. A "peace resolution" offered was tabled, as no war scare is evident or expected.

The Moderator and Clerk were appointed a committee to draw up the customary loyal addresses and forward them to the proper authorities. T. C. James moved the vote of thanks to the Hamilton people. The minutes for to-day were read. The Moderator briefly addressed the court in suitable terms, and the Assembly adjourned to meet in Halifax next year.

The Ministerial Association of Galt and vicinity held its last meeting at Glen Morris, when the members were hospitably entertained at the manse by Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Pettigrew. Devotional exercises were conducted by Mr. Pettigrew and Mr. Newbery. The subject for discussion for the afternoon was, "The Virgin's Birth." It was introduced very ably by Rev. J. W. Newbery, of Sheffield, after which a very profitable discussion followed, participated in by almost all present. The meeting was closed by prayer by Rev. Dr. Dickson. At the conclusion of the meeting a most pleasant hour of social fellowship was enjoyed, after which the company sat down to tea together. A very pleasant afternoon was spent by all.

MONTREAL

A call from Calvin Church, Montreal, to Rev. James McKay was also sustained. Stipend \$1,500.

The call from St. Andrew's East to Rev. Dr. H. C. Ross, of Toronto, has been sustained by Montreal Presbytery. Stipend \$800 and a manse.

St. Gabriel's Church property on St. Catharine Street having been sold, the congregation is now worshipping in the High school, Sherbrooke Street West. Negotiations are going on with Chalmers Church people, with the view of consolidation and the formation of a strong congregation. Should success crown their efforts a new site will be secured, to be followed by the erection of a new church to accommodate the united congregations.

Mr. Reid and His Visit West.

In Taylor Church a large audience assembled to welcome back their pastor, the Rev. W. D. Reid, and also to celebrate the eleventh anniversary of his induction into that church. Mr. George Robertson presided, and, on behalf of the congregation expressed the pleasure they felt at having their pastor back amongst them after his two months' evangelistic tour in the Northwest.

The Rev. Mr. Reid thanked his people for their kindly welcome. He had an interesting time among the miners in British Columbia, and at a subsequent date he would tell them more about his experiences. For the present they might continue with their programme.

Interviewed on his work by a "Witness" reporter, Mr. Reid said there were twenty-five men in the campaign, some belonging to the United States and others to Canada. They began work in eleven different centres, carrying on the work for three weeks. Then eleven more centres were occupied, and the work carried on for another three weeks. Mr. Reid said his work lay principally amongst the miners in Moyle and Michel, and these men he found very frank. As a result of the work done the attendance in the churches was doubled, and in some instances trebled. They had not to go through so much voodoo to get at the real man as in the East.

Asked as to the character of the country, Mr. Reid said it was principally a mining district, and silver, lead, and coal were very plentiful. People from the United States were settling there in large numbers and going in for farming as well as mining. There was a great future before the West. He had organized moral and social reform councils in different districts and these were doing a great deal of good in suppressing vice.

Questioned as to the views on church union, Mr. Reid said his visit to the West had made him more strongly in favor of church union than ever. It would prevent a small town with a population of about one thousand having to support two or three Protestant churches. Indeed, in one town they visited they had a Methodist and a Presbyterian church, and there were only twelve persons in each congregation.

Mr. Reid concluded by saying that he was glad he visited the West and had been able to do something towards leading the miners to a better and more noble life.

Any cynic who thinks chivalry is a memory of the past should have seen Dr. Morton, the veteran missionary, as he led his wife to the platform and said: "Now, gentlemen, this is the wife I told you of. She has been with me forty-one years."

It would appear that Dr. Lyle, moderator of the Assembly, does not think union impossible. In welcoming the representative from the Hamilton Methodist Conference he said: "We are one in spirit. We are one in aim. Because we are one in Christ Jesus."

SELECTED ASSEMBLY NOTES.

Somewhat outnumbered though they are, the laymen are yet unafraid. They take part freely, and with force, in all the debates.

Rev. Dr. McLeod, Barrie, deplored that men in the ministry should be driven to invest in stocks, trade horses, etc., to get something for old age.

Mr. C. Blackett Robinson, editor of 'The Dominion Presbyterian, Ottawa, is the pioneer of Presbyterian journalism in Ontario. He is attending the sessions.

Mr. Wm. Drysdale, a commissioner from Montreal and a useful member of Assembly, was a newspaper man in early life. Moreover, he is proud of it, and likes to talk to the reporters.

Some of the missionaries in the eastern provinces are not the best, according to Dr. J. S. Sutherland, of Halifax. "He is a pretty poor kind of a parson," he said, "who does not know enough to baptize a baby."

"Dr. Grant still stands as the peerless university president of Canada." This tribute paid the memory of the late head of Queen's by the present incumbent of that high office was greeted with cheers.

This is a man who is not afraid or says smooth things. On the contrary, he is blunt and must often make it hard for spineless individuals. Listen to one of Dr. Armstrong's "shots": "I do not believe in a Carnegie-god."

A new face appeared on the platform at the clerk's side. Dr. Radcliffe was absent, and Rev. D. W. Best, minister of St. Andrew's Church, Beaverton, and clerk of Lindsay Presbytery, was filling his place very efficiently.

Dr. W. G. Jordan, of Queen's, appears the typical professor. His clean cut face, snow-white hair, and the large glasses, announce in a minute the scholar. When Dr. Jordan speaks it becomes evident that professors are not necessarily dry.

Mr. Walter Paul, of Montreal, is keenly enjoying the debates. He takes part occasionally himself, and when he does everyone listens, but usually he is content to sit in the front seat and listen. Mr. Paul can appreciate a good point on either side.

An odd side-step movement was executed by Professor W. G. Jordan Thursday afternoon during his able speech on the Queen's constitution changes. He began his argument standing beside the moderator's small table. Presently he edged behind this table and looked at his audience as we fancy he looks at his students. As the table is close to the moderator's chair, the professor had a neat task to perform, and we are haunted by the suspicion that the head of the house got his toes treaded a wee bit. It looked to an impartial observer as if Professor Jordan was going to "say things" and wanted to have the reassurance that is born of "good backing in a mix-up." This, however, was an erroneous conjecture, as the professor is always able and willing to fend for himself.

Rev. E. D. MacLaren, D.D., is a man you don't meet every day. He combines excellent executive ability, clear and vigorous power of expression, power of comprehensive grasp and rare geniality. He is not an ecclesiastic, though he wears the collar. He is as human as one of the best loved men of his church ought to be, and as modest and unassuming as proper balance makes a man. He is a big man in a small body, and that is better than vice versa. The sky-pilots in the lonely west love him and deem his hand clasp and his smile worth a long ride. He is an overworked man, but you never hear him say so. The church should let up on this practice it has of playing Mocha to its most willing and worthy workmen. Dr. Robertson was sacrificed to delay and easy contentment on the part of the assembly. Gardlands are better than grave stones.