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Compare these Accounts

Savings Bank Account No. 711			
DATE	DR.	CR.	BALANCE
1919		50.00	50.00
1920		10.00	60.00
1921		10.00	70.00
1922		10.00	80.00
1923		10.00	90.00
1924		10.00	100.00
			57.91

Both started five years ago with \$50. One has remained dormant through neglect, the other shows a substantial balance gained by regular deposits of \$10 a month—a sum most people squander monthly on trifles.

Which is yours?

Savings Bank Account No. 712			
DATE	DR.	CR.	BALANCE
1919		50.00	50.00
1920		10.00	60.00
1921		10.00	70.00
1922		10.00	80.00
1923		10.00	90.00
1924		10.00	100.00
			157.91

The Royal Bank of Canada

Newcastle Branch Thomas Clarke, Manager

Rev. Dr. Gordon On Presbyterianism

The following letter from Rev. D. M. Gordon, D.D., ex-Principal of Queen's University, Kingston; Ont. was read in Parliament during the Church Union Debate. Dr Gordon is an ex-moderator of the General Assembly. He has had a long and successful career as a Minister, and College Professor in Eastern, Central and Western Canada, and knows the country as few know it. Born in the old town of Pictou, he was brought up in the Church of Scotland there, and later was for a time Minister of St. Andrew's Church, Halifax, and a Professor in Pine Hill College. As the letter indicates, he was a staunch Unionist at one time and he gives abundant reason for his change of view.

DEAR MR. MACDONALD:—

Permit me to draw your attention to some considerations connected with the bill at present before Parliament for the incorporation of the United Church of Canada. For ten years (1905-1915) I was a member of the Union committee of the Presbyterian church and a warm advocate of the movement, believing that, if it could be accomplished with the general consent of the members, it would tend to promote very greatly the spiritual life of our people and the progress of the Kingdom of God in our country.

At the outset, it was stipulated that the church would enter into the proposed union only on condition of the practically unanimous consent of the members. In the report of the Union Committee submitted to the General Assembly in 1905 it is stated that, "It was universally recognized that a union of the churches to be real and lasting must carry the consent of the entire membership." (Assembly Minutes, Appendix, p. 280) and this was adopted unanimously by the Assembly. (Ass. Minutes, p. 46.)

I can say with the utmost confidence that if we had imagined that the proposed union could be secured only at the cost of the disruption of the Presbyterian church the movement would have ended with the initial proposal of it in our General Assembly.

As negotiations proceeded year after year and the basis of union was gradually drawn up opposition to it developed in the courts of the church, so that it was determined to submit the matter to the members to ascertain the mind of the whole church concerning it. Accordingly, the Assembly remitted it to presbyteries in 1911, to consult with the congregations of the church.

It has been contended that the constitution and laws of the church

did not require the assent of the members and that the judgment of presbyteries, synods and General Assembly should be a sufficient guide and warrant for procedure in this matter, as in other important movements within the church these bodies being entitled to represent the entire membership. No organized society, however, makes provision in its constitution and forms of procedure for its own extinction, and, as the church consists not merely of its official courts but of its entire membership and as it was now proposed to merge the Presbyterian church in an entirely new ecclesiastical organization, this action in asking for the judgment of all congregations and members was both wise and essential. Moreover, the pledge given at the outset of the negotiations to consummate union only with "the consent of the entire membership" could not be evaded.

When, in the assembly of 1912 the votes of the members were received and considered, we were greatly surprised to find a substantial minority opposed to the union. Out of a total registered membership of 287,944 only 155,032 voted; and of those voting only 106,756 approved while 48,278 were opposed. That is 54 per cent of the total membership voted; 37 per cent of the total membership for union; 17 per cent of the total membership against union. See Minutes of Assembly for 1912 (Appendix, p. 330.)

In view of this opposition, the assembly resolved as follows:—"In view of the extent of the minority which is not yet convinced that organic union is the best method of expressing the unity sincerely desired by all, the assembly deems it unwise immediately to proceed to consummate the union, but believes that by further conference and discussion practically unanimous action can be secured within a reasonable time." (Min. of Ass. 1912, p. 45). Meanwhile closer relations might be fostered between the churches and greater co-operation promoted in missionary, educational and social activities.

In 1915 it was again agreed by the General Assembly to consult the members of the church, but when the vote was received and considered by the assembly in 1916, we were surprised to find that the opposition had greatly increased, that while 106,534 members voted in favor of the Union proposals, 69,913 voted against them. (Ass. Min. for 1916; Appendix, p. 279).

Evidently it would have been wise at this stage to halt further proceedings, even though a majority of presbyteries favored union. Clearly the time was not ripe for the proposed change. The mind of the church was not prepared for it; and organic union under such conditions would tend rather to hinder than to promote spiritual unity.

Instead, however, of calling a halt in the movement, the assembly in 1916 asserted its adherence to union as the policy of the church; but later, in 1917 the assembly agreed to suspend further action in connection with it until a year after the close of the war. It was expected that experience of the war, in uniting all citizens more closely for other purposes affecting the national life, might also move the members of all churches to closer unity.

No further action has been taken since 1916 to ascertain the mind of the members of the church regarding union. Within these intervening years many members have returned from service overseas and thousands of new members have been enrolled so that we cannot say what are the present proportions.



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NATIONS ASKED FOR SUGGESTIONS

Geneva, Oct. 21—All the states belonging to the League of Nations have been requested to forward to Geneva before Nov. 17 any suggestions which they may consider of value in the preparation of the programme for the international conference on reduction of armaments which is planned for Geneva next June. It is on November 17th that the first meeting of the special league council committee entrusted with the task of tackling the problem of agenda will be held.

HAS NO EFFECT ON DAWES PLAN

Dissolution of the Reichstag and the advent of the new Parliament in no way endangers the fulfillment by Germany of the London agreement on the Dawes reparation plan, Chancellor Marx told the press. Although the political complexion of the new Reichstag is wholly conjectured at this hour the Chancellor is convinced that the election, which has been set officially for December 7th, will retain a sufficient number of supporters of the Dawes plan and of the foreign and internal affairs of the present Government to ensure the construction of a workable coalition Government.

JOINT COMMISSION IS ESTABLISHED

Washington, Oct. 21—Exchange of ratifications between the United States and Canada of the convention to protect the halibut fisheries of the northern Pacific ocean took place today. The convention signed at Washington on March 2, 1923 establishes a closed season of the halibut fishery from November 16th to Feb. 15th of each year and provides for the appointment of a joint commission of four members to investigate and make recommendations for the preservation and development of the halibut fisheries in the North Pacific.

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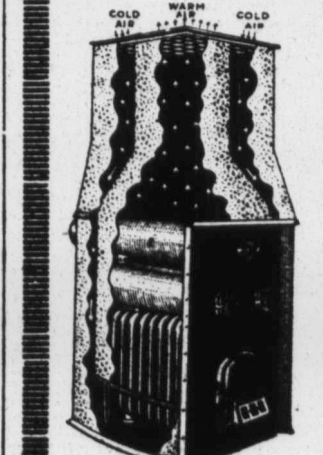
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