

The amendment on being put to the House was lost, and the report of the joint Committee adopted, and the Assembly ordered in terms thereof as follows :—The Assembly approves of the changes proposed, but finds difficulty in their immediate application ; it is therefore recommended that the changes proposed by the Special Committee of last Assembly be adopted, and that they be made at once to apply to the Western Section, and be again submitted to the Synod of the Maritime Provinces, with the hope that, on further consideration, the Eastern Section may see its way to accept them also.

In regard to Rule Three (3), it is specially recommended that it be made to apply to all ministers coming on the Funds for the future, and that until the next Assembly it be left optional with ministers already connected with the Fund to pay under the percentage plan, or under the scale of payments in the proposed change.

It is also recommended that the Assembly instruct the Committee to make such investigations as will elicit information, to show the probable effect of all ministers already connected with the Fund coming under the changed rule ; as well as the effect should all be brought under the plan of "Deferred Annuity-Rate" scheme proposed by the Presbytery of Toronto ; and report to next Assembly.

The Reports on the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund (Western and Eastern Sections) were then finally adopted, on motion of Mr. Macdonald and Principal McKnight, respectively.

SUMMER SESSION.

The Assembly now called for the Report of the Committee on a Summer Session for Theological Students, which was presented and read by Mr. D. M. Gordon, and consisted of a preamble and recommendations. The report was on motion received.

A minority report by himself and other dissentients was presented and read by Professor Bryce, and was received.

The Assembly agreed to consider the report of the Committee in the order of the clauses.

The Preamble of the report was considered, and adopted as follows :—The Committee to which the Overtures anent Summer Sessions in the Colleges were remitted, with instructions "to consider the proposals recommended in the Overtures," beg leave to report that, after lengthened and full deliberation as to how the lack of labourers in our Home Mission fields, and especially in the North-West, during winter, may be best supplied, and how the interests of Theological education and the standard of ministerial efficiency may be conserved, they find :—

1. That many of the mission fields are altogether without supply of ordinances during the winter, and that the supply given in many cases, from the scarcity of trained labourers, has not been such as to serve the highest interests of the cause of Christ.

2. That, owing to the fact that all the Colleges have their sessions during the winter months, the scarcity of men has arisen in a large degree from the withdrawal of the students.

3. That the Presbyteries have thus been compelled either to close up the fields for the winter or supply them by men who have had no definite training, and for whom the Church has hitherto provided no uniform or adequate scheme of training for the work intrusted to them.

Therefore the necessities of our mission fields are such as to require immediate action on the part of the Assembly to provide labourers, who shall be able, with some degree of efficiency, to do the work which the Great Head of the Church has laid upon us ; and your Committee recommend that action be taken along the following lines.

Mr. Gordon then moved the first recommendation of the Report as follows :—

1. In view of the serious difficulties and evils which would attend the establishment of a Summer Session for Theological students, your Committee cannot recommend that our present College system be disturbed by introducing such an arrangement.