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GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT.

the West, if we are not to fall down before it. The tremendous growth of the west was pictured by Dr. Gordon, 400,000 of an immigration being expected this year and the likelihood of 3,000,000 to 5,000,000 more people in the west than there are to-day. This year they were getting only 57 out of the colleges and not one of them for the west, needing 250 men this year and with 1,000 vacant posts. He considered this the most solemn thing before the assembly.

Rev. Dr. George Arthur, in an address, asked for a scheme of education among the Galicians, of whom there are 50,000 in Alberta. The churches' efforts in this respect needed strengthening. The plan he outlined was endorsed by the Synod of Alberta, and he asked that the assembly approve of it, and authorize the raising of money to finance it. Five thousand dollars would be needed at the start. Carried.

SKILL AND KING CASE.

At the evening session the assembly dealt with questions arising out of the Skill and King case, reported on by the Moral and Social Reform Committee. After reciting the leading facts of the case, the assembly said: "Whereas the assembly, in the light of the facts narrated above, cannot but feel that a situation of the utmost gravity has in consequence been created, inasmuch as if the action and utterances of the Minister of Justice remain unchallenged and are to influence the administration of law in similar cases, our country lies exposed to the unrestricted continuance of the traffic in such debasing literature, therefore the assembly deems it to be its solemn duty respectfully to lay before the Right Honorable the Prime Minister this deliverance, and it appeals to him to take such action as will avert this grave peril, which imminently threatens our national life." The motion was unanimously adopted. Rev. R. G. MacBeth, of Paris, Ont., made a strong speech on the various subjects embodied in the report and moved their adoption.

WEDNESDAY—Seventh Day.

In introducing the proposed union of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational churches Principal Patrick placed before the General Assembly the following motion: "The Assembly declare their approval of the documents agreed upon by the joint committee as a basis upon which the church may unite with the Methodist and Congregational churches, and they direct that this resolution, along with the above-mentioned documents, be transmitted to Presbyteries for their judgment under the Barrier Act, instructing Presbytery Clerks to report the decision arrived at to the Clerks of the General Assembly not later than May 1, 1911. The Assembly are of opinion that in the event of the returns from Presbyteries warranting further steps being taken in the direction of union, the Assembly of 1911 will proceed to consult sessions and congregations regarding the whole matter."

Dr. Patrick said the goal was the wider union of all the Protestant churches, but in the meantime the union now contemplated is the more practicable. "This movement," he declared, "is the greatest thing that has been attempted, and the greatest that has been accomplished since the beginning of Protestantism. The basis is one in which all three churches can unite. In Korea, the problem of the church union arose, and the committee there has adopted the doctrinal basis framed by the Union Committee in Canada. Union is a duty wherever it is not forbidden by conscience. Will anyone challenge the doctrines which the Union Committee has drafted? There is in them no barrier to union. There is nothing in the basis of union at variance with the convictions of Presbyterians as expounded to-day. Are the doctrinal articles,

as framed by the Union Committee, orthodox? The late Principal McLaren was satisfied with those doctrinal statements, and what satisfied him should be satisfactory to any man. He deplored very much the fact that some times four or five men labored in a little village where one or two would do more and better work. "A man should have an adequate stipend, but he needs far more, an adequate sphere in which to labor. The situation in Canada is almost intolerable. The rival churches are so near that they must unite. There is no other solution. Canada cannot play her part in the world's evangelization unless union takes place. Having to provide for such a large immigration, can we find men enough if we continue our present methods? The sooner all Christian men meet and plan to give the Gospel to our incoming population the better. "The subject which will now be sent down to Presbyteries for their approval or disapproval will not be the abstract question of union, but the basis of union as framed by the Union Committee. The issue is a grave one, but it is inspiring. The Presbyterian church is able to do to-day what she is doing because of the unions of the past, and a larger union will produce larger results."

In seconding the resolution Lieutenant-Governor Fraser said: "I am in accord with the basis of Union so far as I, a layman, understand it. Certainly the foundation of truth is in it. I yield to no man in my love for the Presbyterian Church, but I shall not be so small as to live on the memories of the past rather than work on the achievements of the future. There may be much in a name. We love the name Presbyterian, but we must not forget that there is a name above every name. I appeal to you, for I believe that union will be a blessing to our country and will advance the glory of God."

The Action Questioned.

Principal Mackay questioned the right of the Assembly to take the step proposed, because the Barrier Act was intended for the protection of the Church, whereas the contemplated action was for the annihilation of the Church. He said it was intended to railroad the question through the Assembly. The Moderator besought the speaker to be careful of his language, but Dr. Mackay said he had chosen his language deliberately. He quoted several of the Scottish divines to the effect that the Church was not intended to be one. Dr. Denney and others, he said, took this view. He quoted Thomas Chalmers in favor of his position, and referred to some of the living Scottish divines. He questioned the right of Dr. Patrick to predict that there would be a great religious forward movement if union took place. Such had not been the results in the Scottish churches. The only organism without differentiation in it is a jelly fish. That surely is not a model for the church. Every denomination feels kindly toward the Presbyterian Church, but if union takes place many will go into the Anglican Church. The plea has been put forward that we ought to have a national church. That sounds well. But the Presbyterian Church is, to all intents and purposes, national now. The only possible national church is a federation of all the churches. The creed formed by the Union Committee is one of compromise. Shall we try to convert the world with such a creed? We shall have to go through life apologizing for that creed. Our old creed put iron into the blood. Dr. Mackay was no better satisfied with the policy than with the doctrine in the proposed basis of union. No guarantee was, he said, provided for safeguarding of funds, and none for the perpetuity of our colleges. The provision made for the settlement of ministers is altogether unsatisfactory. It will result in wimping and hypocrisy. The speaker warned the Assembly that if it passed Dr. Patrick's resolution the Union would be forced upon the people whether they liked it or not. He could worship with

Roman Catholics or the Salvation Army or Plymouth Brethren, but we should lay emphasis upon the things in which we agree and we ought to go together to form a federation. He charged that the result of history given by Dr. Patrick was inaccurate and misleading.

In amendment, Principal Mackay moved, seconded by Rev. R. G. MacBeth, M.A., of Paris:—

"That the proposed Basis of Union be sent down simpliciter without further delay to Presbyteries, sessions and congregations for the fullest discussion and for the expression of their opinion thereon, their decisions to be reported to the clerks of the Assembly not later than the first day of May, 1911, in time to be considered by the General Assembly of 1911, thus placing that Assembly in a position to decide what steps should be taken under the circumstances, be taken, and that Presbyteries, sessions and congregations be invited to consider at the same time, the feasibility of some scheme of co-operation or federation between all Protestant churches in the Dominion of Canada."

When the vote was taken at the close of the debate this amendment was lost by a vote of 85 to 81 for an amendment by Rev. W. C. Clark, of Quebec, and Mr. Brown, of Winnipeg, to the effect, that the Basis of Union be sent down to the congregations and sessions as well as to Presbyteries, but without mention of federation as an alternative for union. On the next vote 107 stood for Mr. Clark's amendment and 171 for Principal Patrick's original motion. When the yeas and nays were taken on the original motion the vote stood 184 yeas and 73 nays.

THURSDAY.—Eighth Day.

Perhaps the most important deliverance in to-day's proceedings was that on the Coronation Oath. Dr. McLaren, Rockytn, from the committee appointed to deal with the matter brought in this resolution: "Whilst we hold that the constitutional principles determining which the Coronation Oath is intended to guard shall be duly preserved, we are of opinion that it would be inadvisable to take any action in regard to it at present."

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES.

The Committee on Young People's Societies, Rev. Dr. W. S. McTavish, convener, recommended as follows:— "That, in view of the immense growth and the hopeful outlook of the Dominion and the supreme importance of holding the young people in living connection with the Church, your committee, having studied the matter for years, is convinced that the future of this vital work depends on the appointment of a Field Secretary to organize and develop it, and recommends that such an appointment be now made. The total membership of young people's societies is 29,961 in 855 societies, as compared with 39,978 in 835 last year. Of these, 11,364 are young men and 16,131 young women. The number in communion with the Church is 15,797, which is 2,006 fewer than last year. The contributions for all purposes were \$42,962, an increase of \$107. All the recommendations were adopted except the last, and that one which had reference to the appointment of a Field Secretary was sent down to the Presbyteries to be considered and reported on next year."

Having presented his report, Dr. McTavish resigned the Conventorship of the committee, and on motion of Rev. R. Haddow and Dr. Gaudier he was cordially thanked for his long and efficient services as Conventor. Rev. W. R. Macintosh, Elora, was appointed in his stead.

Protection of Church Property.

For Sir Thomas W. Taylor, convener of the Committee on Protection of Church Property, Dr. Somerville reported the enactment of an amended act securing a needed change in the legislation respecting the property of religious institutions. By this amended act, when land is held for the use of a congregation, and a separate congregation is formed therefrom, the trustees for the time being may convey to trustees of the separated congregation such part of the land as is no longer required for the original con-