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THE ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS
— OF THE —
Fourteenth Synod
Of Manitoba and the North-West Territories

HELD IN KNOX CHURCH, WINNIPEG, ON THE
10TH, 11TH, 12TH AND 13TH DAYS
OF NOVEMBER, 1896.

FIRST SEDERUNT.

*At Winnipeg, and within Knox Church there, on
the 10th day of November, 1896, and at 8 o'clock
in the evening.*

At which time and place the Synod of Manitoba and the North-West Territories met.

The retiring Moderator, Rev. Alex. Matheson, conducted divine service, preaching a sermon based upon the 16th verse of the First Chapter of Romans:—"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto Salvation to every one that believeth, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

The Clerk then called the Roll of Synod, marking those present with an asterisk. (See Appendix.)

The retiring Moderator intimated that his term of office had expired, and after thanking the Synod for the support given and the courtesy shown him during the Synodical year, requested Synod to proceed to the appointment of his successor.

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On motion of Dr. King, seconded by Mr. Farquharson, the Rev. Joseph Hogg was unanimously elected Moderator for the ensuing year. Mr. Hogg, on being conducted to the Chair, thanked the Synod for the honor conferred upon him in electing him to the Moderatorship and craved the sympathy and support of the Synod while he occupied the Chair.

Mr. Rumball presented the report of the Committee on Bills and Overtures which was received and considered, and after amendment was adopted.

In terms of above report the length of the Sederunts was fixed as follows :

- Morning Sederunt from 9.30 a.m. to 12 m.
- Afternoon " " 2.30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Evening " " 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

It was agreed also that the first hour to-morrow morning be spent in devotional exercises. Leave was granted the several Presbyteries to meet upon call of their respective Moderators or Clerks.

On motion of Mr. Rumball, seconded by Mr. McTavish, it was unanimously agreed that the thanks of the Synod are due and are hereby tendered to the retiring Moderator for the sermon with which he opened this Synod, and for his conduct in the Chair during the past year. After announcements were made, and certain Committees called by their respective conveners, the Synod adjourned to meet at half past nine o'clock to-morrow morning, the Moderator pronouncing the benediction.

SECOND SEDERUNT.

At the same place as above, the Synod met pursuant to adjournment, and after one hour spent in devotional exercises, was constituted by the moderator.

The minutes of the preceding sederunt were read and sustained.

It was agreed on motion of Mr. Rumball, seconded by Mr. Shearer, that the travelling expenses of members of Synod be equalized as last year, and that a committee be appointed

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to put the scheme into operation. The committee was appointed by the Moderator as follows:—Messrs. Rumball, MacBeth, and R. Crawford.

It was moved by Mr. MacBeth, seconded by Mr. Murray, and agreed that the minutes of this Synod be printed, and that a committee be appointed to take the matter in charge. The Moderator named the Clerk and Mr. MacBeth as a Publishing Committee.

The Presbytery of Winnipeg reported the licensure of Messrs. A. E. Camp, B.A., E. G. Perry, B.A., James Hood, W. T. McKenzie, John L. Small, B.A., John E. Smith and A. G. Bell, and that Mr. W. L. Atkinson had been referred to the Presbytery of Orangeville, under whose care he began his studies. The Presbytery of Regina reported the licensure of Messrs. W. Burton, B.A. and T. Hunter Boyd.

A memorial from the Rev. John Geddes was read, asking Synod to use its influence to secure further assistance from the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund.

It was agreed upon motion of Prof. Baird, seconded by Mr. Farquharson, that the memorial of Rev. John Geddes be remitted to the Presbytery of Melita to take action on said memorial and to report to this Synod to-morrow afternoon, and that a small committee be appointed to give any information wished by the Presbytery and to assist in preparing an overture to the Assembly for submission to the Synod. The Moderator appointed Messrs. Carmichael, A. Campbell and Prof. Baird, a committee to assist the Presbytery of Melita in dealing with the case of Mr. Geddes.

The following Committees to examine Presbytery Records were appointed, viz:—

1. *Superior Presbytery*—Messrs. MacBeth and Henry.
2. *Winnipeg Presbytery*—Messrs. J. A. F. Sutherland and Higgins.
3. *Rock Lake Presbytery*—Messrs. Shearer and Ferguson.
4. *Glenboro Presbytery*—Messrs. Hamilton and D. R. Noble.
5. *Portage la Prairie Presbytery*—Messrs. McTavish and A. B. Bompas.

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6. *Brandon Presbytery*—Messrs. W. L. H. Rowand and S. Thomson.

7. *Minnedosa Presbytery*—Messrs. A. Campbell and Reddon.

8. *Melita Presbytery*—Messrs. Rumball and Frew.

9. *Regina Presbytery*—Messrs. Whyte and Pitblado.

The following Committee to strike Standing Committees was appointed, viz :—The Clerks of Presbyteries and Messrs. Crawford, Patterson and Bompas.—Mr. Rowand, Convener.

In the absence of Dr. Robertson, Treasurer of the Synod Fund, it was agreed that Mr. C. W. Gordon act as Treasurer in the meantime, it being reported that the Treasurer had left the books and vouchers in Mr. Gordon's hands.

The Report of the Board of Trustees of Nisbet Academy was read by the Clerk. The report was received and remitted to a committee consisting of Dr. Bryce, Mr. Carmichael, Mr. Joseph Hogg and Mr. Crawford.

A request was read from Superior Presbytery requesting Synod to condone the action of said Presbytery in meeting at a different date from which they had adjourned to meet. The request was granted.

Messrs. Bowman and Henry were appointed to audit the Treasurer's accounts for the year.

Notices were given of the meetings of Committees, and the Synod adjourned to meet at half past two o'clock in the afternoon, the Moderator pronouncing the benediction.

THIRD SEDERUNT.

At the same place as above the Synod met pursuant to adjournment and, after praise and reading of the word, was constituted.

The minutes of the preceding Sederunt were read and sustained.

The following Committee on Synod Roll was appointed, viz :—Messrs. Farquharson, MacBeth and J. B. Mitchell.

Mr. Farquharson submitted a recommendation from the Home Mission Committee, anent the amalgamation of Home Mission and Augmentation Committees. Owing to the absence of Mr. Wright, the Convener of the Augmentation Committee, it was agreed to defer the consideration of the matter until Mr. Wright's arrival.

It was agreed on motion of Mr. J. B. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Ferguson, that the Synod next year be held in Winnipeg and within Westminster Church.

It was agreed on motion of Mr. Murray, seconded by Mr. Nairn, that the time of next meeting be fixed for the Second Tuesday of November next, at 8 o'clock in the evening. The Treasurer submitted a report of the state of the Synod Fund, but as further contributions were expected it was agreed that the matter be left in the hands of the Treasurer until to-morrow, when a fuller report could be given.

It was agreed on motion of Mr. MacBeth, seconded by Mr. Pitblado, that the motion re travelling expenses, submitted by Mr. Joseph Hogg at last meeting of Synod but laid on the table, be now lifted therefrom and considered. It was agreed on motion of Dr. Bryce, seconded by Mr. Pitblado, that the motion be referred to the Committee on Travelling Expenses, to which for above purpose Mr. Hogg and Dr. Bryce be added.

Dr. King then submitted the report of the Committee on Maintenance of Manitoba College by the Synod of Manitoba and the North-West Territories and of British Columbia. The report was received and considered after which it was agreed, on motion of Mr. Farquharson, duly seconded, that a small Committee be appointed by the Moderator to draw up a suitable resolution dealing with the salient points of the report. The following Committee was appointed, viz:—Mr. Joseph Hogg, Dr. King, Dr. Bryce, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Court, Mr. Carmichael and Mr. Farquharson.

Mr. Colin. H Campbell, Convener of the Committee on Church Law and Property, reported progress made in securing amendment to the Real Property Act, whereupon it was agreed, on motion of Dr. Bryce duly seconded, that Mr. Campbell be thanked for diligence and that the Committee be requested to continue its endeavors to secure the desired legislation. The Synod then adjourned to meet at eight o'clock, the Moderator pronouncing the benediction.

FOURTH SEDERUNT.

At the same place as above the Synod met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted by prayer by Mr. Fisher at the request of the Moderator.

As already arranged the sederunt was devoted to the interests of Foreign Missions and Home Missions. The Foreign Mission report was presented by Prof. Baird, who was followed by Mr. Rumball and Mr. Carswell on the same subject. The Home Mission report was presented by Mr. Gordon, who was followed by Mr. D. Munro. The discussion of Home Missions was continued by Messrs. Carmichael, Lang and Ross. These addresses were interspersed with appropriate hymns. The Synod adjourned to meet at half past nine o'clock, the moderator pronouncing the benediction.

FIFTH SEDERUNT.

At the same place as above the Synod met and, after praise and reading of the word, was constituted by prayer by Mr. Reddon, at the request of the Moderator.

The minutes of the preceding Sederunts were read and sustained. The report of the Committee on Bills and Ordinances was read and adopted.

An appeal from the finding of Rock Lake Presbytery, which had sustained the Congregation of Killarney in charging Mr. Hodnett rent for manse occupied by his family for nine months after his resignation of the Killarney Congregation, was read by the Clerk, together with documents from the Presbytery of Rock Lake anent the case, shewing that Messrs. Rumball and Farquharson had been appointed to defend the Presbytery before the Synod.

Commissioners from the Killarney Congregation were present, viz :—Messrs. T. J. Lawlor and R. Monteith, and it was agreed that they be heard in the case.

Mr. Hodnett spoke in support of the appeal. The commissioners from the Congregation and Presbytery were heard in defence of their finding. After questions were put to the

parties in the case by members of the Synod, the Moderator declared all parties removed from the bar of the Synod, when it was agreed, on motion of Mr. McRae, seconded by Mr. Murray, that the case be remitted to a Committee to be named by the Moderator. The Moderator appointed the following Committee, viz :—Messrs. Pitblado, Rowand, J. A. F. Sutherland, J. E. Munro, Carmichael, John Paterson, R. H. Ferguson, R. Crawford and A. B. Bompas. It was further agreed that the Committee have leave to retire and take the matter into consideration.

Dr. Duval submitted the report on Church Life and Work, after which the Synod adjourned to meet at half-past two o'clock in the afternoon, the Moderator pronouncing the benediction.

SIXTH SEDERUNT.

At the same place as above the Synod met pursuant to adjournment and after praise was constituted by prayer, by Mr. Bompas, at the request of the Moderator.

The minutes of the preceding sederunt were read and sustained.

The report of the Committee on arrears appointed at last Synod was presented by Mr. Farquharson, received and considered. The recommendations were taken up seriatim and, after the second clause was amended, the report was adopted as a whole, as follows :—

1. That congregations and mission fields that are falling into arrears of stipend be instructed to report the same to the Presbytery of the bounds, and further that it be understood that the Presbytery will not be expected to take any action with regard to such arrears, if not reported within a year after the date at which they became due.

2. That as soon as a congregation or mission field is reported to be in arrears the Presbytery should enquire into the same, and that if it be found that the missionary has done his duty and that the congregation or mission station has done its duty, the Home Mission Committee be instructed to consider the case with a view to make up the whole or a part of the arrears.

3. That when it is found that a congregation or mission field is not meeting its financial obligation some readjustment should at once be made so as to prevent the accumulation of arrears.

4. That as a general rule, the salary of the missionary actually doing the work of a field should be the first charge on the revenue of the same, and that, unless in exceptional cases, the missionary's salary should be paid before he leaves the field.

The recommendation from the Home Mission Committee anent amalgamation of Home Mission and Augmentation Committees was taken up for consideration and adopted. The recommendation is as follows:—That the Synod instruct the Committee on Standing Committees to strike one committee to have charge of both Home Mission and Augmentation work within the bounds, thus amalgamating the two committees now in charge of the said work.

It was moved by Mr. Gordon, duly seconded, and agreed that the Home Mission report submitted last evening be received and the recommendations considered seriatim. After discussion and amendment the recommendations were adopted as a whole as follows:—

1. That the Synodical Home Mission and Augmentation Committee appoint annually a sub-committee of its members to be known as the Distribution Committee.
2. That Presbyteries be instructed to place the supply of their augmented charges as well as their mission stations under the Home Mission and Augmentation Committee of the Presbytery.
3. That the Distribution Committee distribute probationers on the application of the Home Mission and Augmentation Committee of Presbyteries, for the supply of augmented charges ready to call for a period, as a rule, of not less than one month, and that the Synodical Committee be instructed also to give supply to such vacancies as Presbyteries may be desirous of having thus supplied.
4. That for the supply of Augmented Charges, not ready to call and Mission Stations raising not less than \$10.00 a Sabbath, the distribution Committee appoint Missionaries for a period, as a rule, of not less than six months for each place, and that the Mission Stations here spoken of shall be known as Augmented Mission Stations, and shall be encouraged to accept the ordained missionaries sent for a two years' appointment.
5. That Presbyteries encourage Augmented Charges to call, and that the Synod express its opinion that, as a general rule, the grant made by the Augmentation Committee should not be reduced within two years of the settlement, unless with the consent of the Presbytery.
6. That the Synodical Committee's Distribution Committee, shall take order to send to these vacancies, Augmented Congregations and Mission Stations, only such men as are likely to remain in the country, and to be called by Congregations or appointed by the Presbyteries.

The report of the Committee on Synod Roll was submitted by Mr. MacBeth, as follows :—

Glenboro Presbytery.—The name of Rev. A. E. Driscoll, to whom a Presbyterian Certificate has been granted should be removed from the roll and the name of the Rev. D. Campbell should appear as a minister without charge.

Melita Presbytery.—The name of Rev. Wm. Hodnett instead of appearing here, should appear on the roll of Rock Lake Presbytery as a minister without charge.

Winnipeg Presbytery.—The name of John Paterson should be substituted for W. A. Dunbar as Elder from St Andrew's Church.

It was moved by Mr. Shearer, duly seconded and agreed, that the report be amended in the second clause, and that Mr. Hodnett's name be allowed to remain on the roll of Melita Presbytery.

The report was then adopted as amended.

The report of the Committee appointed to consider the report of the Committee on the Maintenance of Manitoba College was presented and adopted as follows :—

The Synod having heard the statement of Dr. King respecting the attendance in the College, the work of the students, and the degree of spiritual interest at present obtaining among them, and having had laid before it a detailed report of the congregational and individual contributions on behalf of the College within the Synod of Manitoba and the North West Territories and of British Columbia, resolves to record its great satisfaction with the condition of the College as thus presented and especially with the large increase in the amount contributed during the past year by the two Western Synods. In this connection it agrees to express its thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Ironside for their handsome donation of one thousand dollars to the funds of the College; and it approves of the action of the Board of the College in accordance with which the contributions in behalf of the College within these two Synods should be appropriated to the maintenance of the Institution as a whole, and no longer for the Theological Department only. The Synod has learned with much satisfaction of the amount of attention given to Manitoba College at the late meeting of the General Assembly and of the important steps there taken to secure a larger amount of support for the College in the Eastern Synods and it agrees to record its warm thanks to Dr. Robertson for his exertions as convener of a Committee of Assembly in already securing numerous personal donations to meet the expenses of the summer session.

The Synod desires to express its sympathy with Prof. Hart in the illness which has rendered his withdrawal from work for a few months necessary and to assure him of the earnest prayer and hope for his complete restoration. It would record its thanks to Dr. McLaren of Toronto, Dr. Beattie of Louisville for the valuable service rendered to the College during the past summer and to Dr. George Adam Smith of Glasgow for his instructive and stimulating course of lectures. The Synod further, in view of the increasing numbers in attendance on the College, and in view of the evident inadequacy of the present staff to

overtake the necessary work without undue demands on its members would recommend the appointment of another Professor of Theology who should also assist in the arts work of the College, at the very earliest moment at which in the opinion of the Board the state of the funds will warrant it.

The report of the Committee on the Report of the Board of Trustees of Nisbet Academy was presented by Dr. Bryce, which was adopted as follows:—

The action of the Synod of last year as to the beginning of classes in connection with the Nisbet Academy was:—"Your Committee recommend that what the Board asks, as to the disposal of property and the employment of a teacher, be granted. But it advises that, in case the services of a teacher be secured, the arrangement be provisional and for one year, it being understood that if the experiment prove satisfactory the Synod may sanction the continuance of the arrangement." Your Committee finds this year an application from the Board "for the erection of a suitable building with conveniences for the boarding and rooming ten pupils, with suitable rooms for school purposes." Your Committee is anxious to help in any possible way this Western institution, but is of opinion that some beginning of work as proposed last year, be made before a building is begun. It is therefore recommended that the finding of last year be reaffirmed.

The report of the Melita Presbytery anent the case of Rev. John Geddes was read, to the effect that the Presbytery for lack of any information in the case, finds itself unable to prepare any overture on the subject. It was agreed to remit the report to the Committee appointed yesterday to co-operate with Melita Presbytery in the case, with instruction to prepare an overture to the General Assembly.

The Synod then adjourned to meet at eight o'clock this evening, the Moderator pronouncing the benediction.

SEVENTH SEDERUNT.

At the same place as above the Synod met, pursuant to adjournment, and after praise and reading of the word by Mr. Shearer, was constituted by prayer by Mr. Scott at the request of the Moderator.

As already agreed the sederunt was devoted to the interests of Sabbath Schools and Young People's Societies. Mr. Alex. Hamilton submitted the Sabbath School report. Mr. Archibald Matheson addressed the Synod on the same

subject. The discussion was continued for a time by Dr. Bryce and Mr. McKechnie, after which it was moved by Dr. Bryce, duly seconded, that the report be received and the recommendations considered seriatim. After consideration the report was adopted as a whole. (See Appendix.)

Mr. MacBeth submitted the report of the Committee on Young People's Societies. Messrs. Henry and Wright then addressed the Synod on the subject, after which the report was received, recommendations considered seriatim and adopted as a whole. (See Appendix.)

The Synod then adjourned to meet at half past nine o'clock to-morrow morning, the moderator pronouncing the benediction.

EIGHTH SEDERUNT.

At the same place as above the Synod met, pursuant to adjournment, and after praise was constituted by prayer by Mr. Weir at the request of the Moderator.

The minutes of the preceding Sederunts were read and sustained.

The report of the special Committee appointed last year on Sabbath Observance was submitted by Dr. King. The report was received and the Committee thanked for their diligence. The report is as follows :—

The Committee appointed to wait on the Manager of the Manitoba and North-Western Railway, for the purpose of calling attention to the great amount of Sabbath desecration caused by the times at which the trains leave and depart from Yorkton, beg to report that the Manager received us cordially, expressed himself in full sympathy with the aim of the Committee, but was unable in the present state of the Company to hold out any hope of an early change in the train arrangements for the service of Yorkton. The choice, it was said, was really between the present service or none at all.

The report of the Committee on Church Life and Work, presented yesterday by Dr. Duval, was on motion of Mr. Murray, duly seconded, received, the recommendations considered seriatim and afterwards adopted as a whole. (See Appendix.)

Mr. Rumball presented the report of the Committee re Travelling Expenses dealing with the motion laid over from last year, recommending the adoption of Mr. Hogg's motion with the following change:—That after all other expenses are paid the balance be used to equalize travelling expenses of all members of Synod whose expenses exceed \$4.00, no member having anything to pay toward equalizing said expenses.

The following is the original motion submitted last Synod:—

That the Synod appoint a standing committee on the Synod Fund; instruct said committee to use all diligence to secure a contribution from each congregation and mission station, to receive bills of travelling expenses of members of Synod, and after other necessary expenses are met, use the balance in paying whatever portion of the travelling expenses the fund will permit. It being understood, however, that the representatives of any congregation from which no contribution has been received during the year shall not participate in the benefits of the fund.

It was moved in amendment by Mr. Joseph White, seconded by Mr. A. Campbell, that the system followed in former years be continued for at least another year and that the Committee on Standing Committees be ordered to strike a Committee on Travelling Expenses.

The Treasurer's report, duly audited, was submitted by Mr. Gordon, received and adopted.

Mr. Pitblado submitted the report of the Committee on appeal of Mr. Hodnett from the finding of Rock Lake Presbytery recommending that the appeal be dismissed and the decision of the Presbytery sustained, and moved that the recommendation be adopted. It was moved in amendment by Mr. Joseph Whyte, seconded by Mr. A. Campbell, that the appeal be laid on the table until such time as the Presbytery of Rock Lake has determined the matter of arrears as between the Congregation and Mr. Hodnett. The amendment was lost. It was further moved in amendment by Dr. Bryce, seconded by Mr. Arch. Matheson, that the appeal be dismissed with respect to the nine months claimed by the Congregation, but that the appeal be sustained in so far as affording reasonable compensation for the failure of the Congregation to provide for seven and a half months claimed. The amendment was lost.

The recommendation then became the finding of the Synod. Mr. Hodnett gave notice of appeal from the finding of the Synod to the General Assembly, for reasons to be hereafter submitted. The Moderator appointed Messrs. Pitblado, MacBeth and John Paterson, to prepare answers to Mr. Hodnett's reasons for appeal, and to defend the Synod before the General Assembly.

The report on Finance and Statistics was presented by Prof. Baird, who moved the reception of the report and the consideration of its recommendations. The motion was duly seconded, the recommendations considered, amended and adopted. (See Appendix.)

The Committees to examine the records of Presbyteries, viz—Superior, Winnipeg, Rock Lake, Glenboro, Portage la Prairie, Brandon, Minnedosa, Melita and Regina, reported that they had examined the records of the respective Presbyteries and that they found the same carefully and correctly kept, and recommended Synod to attest the several records accordingly. The recommendations were adopted by the Synod.

The Synod then adjourned to meet at half-past two o'clock, the Moderator pronouncing the benediction.

NINTH SEDERUNT.

At the same place as above the Synod met pursuant to adjournment, and after praise was constituted by prayer by J. A. F. Sutherland, at the request of the moderator.

The minutes of the preceding sederunt were read and sustained.

Mr. Rowand presented the report of the Committee on Standing Committees, including Committee on Travelling Expenses. The report was considered seriatim and adopted as a whole, as follows:—

Home Missions.—Dr. Robertson, Convener, Dr. King, Mr. C. W. Gordon, the conveners of the committees of several Presbyteries and Mr. Wright.

Church Life and Work.—Dr. DuVal, Convener, Messrs. T. Beveridge, John Hogg, P. Wright, A. Campbell, C. B. Pitblado, Andrew Chisholm, J. McNaughton, James Murray, D. R. Noble, A. G. P. Smellie, J. B. McLaren and the conveners of the committees of the several Presbyteries.

Sabbath Schools.—Mr. A. Hamilton, Convener, W. L. H. Rowand, T. R. Scott, Arch. Matheson, the conveners of the committees of the several Presbyteries, and Messrs. W. D. Russell, John Paterson, J. L. Logie, J. A. Fraser, D. McNaught, J. E. Young, Alex. Begg, R. Beale.

Finance and Statistics.—Prof. Baird, Convener, the conveners of the committees of the several Presbyteries, the Synod Clerk, the Presbytery Clerks and Dr. Robertson.

Church Law and Property.—Mr. C. H. Campbell, Convener, Dr. King, Dr. Robertson, R. G. MacBeth, Chief Justice Taylor, J. H. Haverson, J. B. McLaren and R. H. Myers.

Maintenance of Manitoba College.—Dr. King, Convener, Prof. Baird, Dr. Bryce, Dr. Robertson, C. B. Pitblado, W. McK. Omand, M. C. Rumball, D. Campbell, P. Wright, E. A. Henry, T. C. Court, J. A. Carmichael, J. McArthur, P. Fisher, Chief Justice Taylor, G. A. Young, Alex. McDonald, George Lister, John Murray, John Craig, D. Mackay, K. A. Gollan, S. Polson, the Winnipeg members of the Committee to form the executive.

Foreign Missions.—Professors Hart and Baird, Joint Conveners, Dr. King, Dr. DuVal, Dr. Bryce, Dr. Robertson, John Hogg, Joseph Hogg, P. Wright, H. McKay, A. J. McLeod, C. W. Whyte, R. Frew, W. S. Moore, A. Lee, W. Beattie, D. Carswell, R. Crawford, N. Gilmore and A. D. McKay.

Board of Trustees of Nisbet Academy.—Mr. A. Lee, Convener, Dr. Robertson, Joseph Hogg, John McTaggart, D. C. McLellan, S. McLeod, J. A. F. Stull, H. J. Montgomery, C. H. Campbell, J. B. Kernaghan.

Bills and Overtures.—Clerk of Synod, Convener, the Moderator, Clerks of Presbyteries, one member chosen by each Presbytery and the Minister of the Congregation in which the Synod may meet.

Obituary Notices.—Mr. C. B. Pitblado, Convener, Dr. Robertson, Prof. Hart, A. Campbell, Dr. Bryce and P. Wright.

Young People's Societies.—Mr. R. G. MacBeth, Convener, D. Munro, R. Nairn, D. Carswell, J. A. Reddon, A. Bowman, I. Pitblado, W. W. Miller, W. H. Irwin, R. Fairley, E. F. Stephenson, S. W. Thompson and J. G. McKechnie.

Synod Arrangement.—The Pastor of the Church where meeting is held, Convener, the other city Pastors with representative Elder from each of the city Congregations.

Equalization of Travelling Expenses.—Mr. M. C. Rumball, Convener, R. G. MacBeth, Dr. Robertson, Joseph White, C. W. Whyte, A. B. Bompas, A. Carmichael and D. M. Telford.

Mr. MacBeth, one of the parties appointed by last Synod to support the overture anent an Assembly General Committee, before the General Assembly, made a verbal statement anent the action of the Assembly in respect to the overture. It was agreed to receive Mr. MacBeth's report, to thank those appointed to support the overture for their diligence and to call the attention of the Presbyteries to the remit sent down by the Assembly in the case.

Prof. Baird reported for the Committee in the Geddes case submitting an overture to the General Assembly requesting additional assistance for Mr. Geddes from the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. The overture was adopted, and the Committee was instructed to secure all the documents in the case and transmit with the overture to the General Assembly. Prof. Baird and Mr. Carmichael were appointed to support the overture before the General Assembly. Dr. Bryce, for the Convener of the Augmentation Committee, submitted a statement of the general condition of the Augmentation Scheme in so far as this Synod is concerned. The statement was received.

The attention of the Synod having been called to the fact that notice had been received of several bequests to various bodies in the Northwest, it was agreed, on motion of Dr. King duly seconded, to appoint a Committee of three to take such action as may be necessary to protect the interests of the Church in the matter; the Committee to consist of the Moderator, Dr. King and Dr. Bryce.

It was agreed on motion of Mr. Rumball, seconded by Prof. Baird, that the clerk be authorized to call for the reports of Committees and other documents to come before the Synod, to be submitted to him at least eight days before the meeting of Synod—that the Committee on Arrangements be authorized to spend up to fifty dollars in having the reports, or such of them as may seem necessary, printed in time for the meeting of Synod, and to arrange for railway rates, and that the Committee on Equalization of Expenses be authorized to issue a circular to all members of Synod explaining the equalization scheme, and giving assurance that it has been definitely adopted for the next Synod.

It was further agreed on motion of Mr. Rumball, duly seconded, that the Treasurer be instructed to pay the sum of Ten Dollars to the Caretaker of Knox Church for his services during this meeting of Synod.

Also moved by Mr. Rumball, duly seconded, that the thanks of this Synod are due and are hereby tendered to:

1. The Authorities of Knox congregation for the use of their church for this Synod.

2. The Friends in Winnipeg for their kindness in entertaining the members of this Synod.

3. The Press for the full reports given of the proceedings of this Synod.

4. The Canadian Pacific, the Northern Pacific and the Manitoba & North-Western Railway Companies, for half fare permits to ministers and missionaries of this Synod during the year, for reduced rates to elders attending this Synod, and for their general kindness and courtesy to ministers when travelling on their lines of railway.

The minutes of this Sederunt were read and sustained.

The Synod united in singing a portion of the 122nd Psalm, and Dr. King at the request of the Moderator led the Synod in prayer after which the Moderator declared the Synod adjourned to meet in Winnipeg and within Westminster Church there, on the Second Tuesday of November, 1897, and at eight o'clock in the evening, and pronounced the benediction.

S. C. MURRAY,
Synod Clerk.

APPENDIX.

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Synopsis of the Reports of Standing Committees presented to the Fourteenth Synod of Manitoba and the North-West Territories.

—\$08:—

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NISBET ACADEMY.

Rev. Archibald Lee, Chairman.

The Trustees of Nisbet Academy beg to report that nothing was effected during the year 1896 as to the re-establishment of a school for young ladies at Prince Albert, as no suitable building could be procured. The Board feel that it is unwise to attempt the work of a Ladies School without a suitable building and a competent staff of teachers. They think a suitable building for the accommodation of ten pupils should be erected.

The Trustees desire to know whether or not the funds held in trust by the General Assembly would be available, to the amount of three or four thousand dollars, should they desire to erect a building next summer.

The following is a statement of the finances:

Nov. 2, 1895. To Cash on hand..	\$23 23	
Jan. 14, 1896. By Lots sold for arrears of taxes.....		15 40
Mar. 7, James McKay.....		5 00
Nov. 7, G. W. Baker.....		75
Balance on hand.....		2 08
	\$23 23	\$23 23

ASSETS.

Lots unsold....	\$2390 00	
D. C. McLellan, Note.....	89 60	
John McTaggart, Note.....	62 00	
Lots unsold—in dispute.....	280 60	
	\$2821 60	

LIABILITIES.

H. W. Newlands..	\$9 25	
	\$9 25	

REPORT OF THE FOREIGN MISSION COMMITTEE.

Andrew B. Baird, Convener.

In this report no detailed description of the present standing of the Indian Missions will be attempted. Information of that character may be found in the somewhat full report presented to the General Assembly last June. The statement now offered to the Synod while making some allusions to work in the earlier part of the year will be devoted especially to features which have come to the front within the past summer.

1. **EVANGELISTIC WORK.**—The attitude of the pagan Indians towards Christianity is improving year by year. Even yet there is always a period at the opening of a new mission when some of the Indians will have nothing to do with the missionary, will not speak to him or recognize him in any way, but this trying stage in the missionary's experience is neither so prolonged nor so acute as in the old days. Our new missions at the Hurricane Hills and at Moose Mountain, both of which were opened within the year, are making their beginnings under comparatively favorable circumstances and many of the Indians are distinctly friendly. The next stage is even more discouraging, and it is the stage at which many Indians at all our missions are at the present time. They come to the meetings, they listen readily and reverently to the truth; they admit the superiority of the Christian religion, but they do not accept it for themselves. There have been a few instances in the past year of the acceptance of Christ by adult Indians, but most of the instances of conversion have been in the schools, the most conspicuous instance being the Regina School where 31 pupils were received into full communion at once.

2. **SCHOOL WORK.**—There has been no change in the number of schools since the last report was presented to the Synod, but the Lakesend school which recently has had only a small attendance of boarding pupils has again been closed in the hope that the children may be transferred to Regina.

The schools are doing their work under much more favorable circumstances than a few years ago and consequently they are doing it better. Thanks partly to the greater confidence which the Indians put in the schools, and partly to the influence of the Government the attendance is much more regular. The number of pupils has grown considerably at Portage la Prairie, Birtle and Regina, and the Government at our request has increased the grant to the Birtle school so as to provide for 40 pupils instead of 25 as heretofore.

3. **CHANGES IN STAFF.**—The Rev. George Arthur of Lakesend has resigned and is entering Home Mission work; no successor to him has yet been found. The closing of the Lakesend school severs the connection of Miss McWilliams and Mrs. Leckie with our work. Mr. G. W. Sahlmark of Round Lake and Mr. James Hamilton of the Crowstand have entered Manitoba College. Mr. Sahlmark's place as teacher has been filled by Mr. Robert McKay of Kintore, Ont. Mr. Hamilton's duties are overtaken in a great measure by other members of the staff. Mrs. Lockhart resigned her position at the Crowstand last spring on account of ill health, and Miss. M. McIlwaine of Hamilton, Ont. has taken her place.

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4. **BUILDINGS.**—The deficiency in the Foreign Mission funds as reported to the last Assembly interfered with our building plans and three projected buildings have been given up. Those which have been erected are a stone building at Hurricane Hills, a frame building at Moose Mountain and some repairs and extensions at Round Lake.

5. **MANAGEMENT.**—The Rev. R. P. McKay, Secretary of Foreign Missions, and the Rev. Professor Baird visited nearly all the missions in the month of September and found that a great deal of faithful and devoted work is being done.

A conference of missionaries and other mission workers was held in Winnipeg on the 5th and 6th inst. It was attended by twenty of those who are engaged in work among the North-West Indians. Three sessions were held on each day and a valuable store of information has been collected and collated by the missionaries and the committees; the most successful methods of mission work have been discussed and the benefits of one another's experience have been fully appropriated. Not the least benefit of the conference consisted in the opportunity it gave for a wider acquaintance of the missionaries with one another and a better understanding by the Committee of their work and difficulties. This was the first conference of the kind in this department of our work, and it has fully justified itself in the way it has cheered the hearts and strengthened the faith of those who took part in it.

The Committee has had under its consideration the preparation of a code of regulations for the guidance of mission workers corresponding to those in use by the General Assembly's Foreign Mission Committee. They will provide for the auditing of the accounts of the several boarding schools (in the past only the accounts of the Committee have been audited) for the examination of missionaries in the Indian languages and similar matters.

The Committee regrets very much the absence from this Synod of the Rev. Professor Hart who has been one of its conveners ever since the committee, on its present basis, was constituted and who has given time and thought ungrudgingly to its work. Its prayer is that the journey he is now making may result in his complete restoration to health.

HOME MISSION REPORT.

Presented by Rev. Charles W. Gordon in the absence of Rev. Dr. Robertson, Convener.

MISSION FIELDS.

The Home Mission Committee of the Synod beg to report that during the past year one hundred and eleven (111) Missions in connection with the nine Presbyteries of the Synod received supply. Of these thirty-two received supply for less than forty Sabbaths—many of them for less than twenty-six Sabbaths.

PROGRESS.

During the year three missions assumed the rank of congregations and are taking steps with the view of calling Pastors. Ochre River, Cypress River, and Slate River were organized as separate Missions,

NEW CHURCHES.

Very little building was done last year. Churches were built by three stations and two others are taking steps to build soon. The outlook for building at present is not very hopeful. The low price of wheat last year and the damage done by hail in some parts, as well as the crop shortage this year, account in part for stagnation in Church erection.

TOTALS.

According to the returns to the General Assembly's Home Mission Committee last spring the one hundred and eleven Missions had four hundred and forty preaching places or stations, an average Sabbath attendance of 131,123, 4,077 Presbyterian families, 1463 single persons, and 5359 communicants. As the reports from Presbyteries are defective, several Missions not reporting, these figures are below the actual facts. It may be of interest to note that, since 1891, twenty missions have risen to the status of congregations, and that, of these one-half are self-supporting.

FINANCES.

For the year 1895-6 the General Assembly's Home Mission Committee voted \$17,000 for the prosecution of mission work within the bounds of the Synod. The legislation of the Assembly of 1895, by increasing the remuneration to be given to student-missionaries, caused this amount to be slightly increased, the total sum charged to the Synod for the year being \$17,205. Owing to reduction in grants, although new ground has been broken, it was thought that the necessities of work this year could be met by a vote of \$16,750, and this was the amount placed at the disposal of your Committee. Of this sum, \$8824.50 has been paid to Presbyteries for work done up to the 30th of September last. Although the remuneration of students for winter is \$1.00 per Sabbath higher than in summer, and although a larger proportion of missions is likely to be supplied than last winter, yet it is confidently expected that the expenditure will not exceed the vote. The amount above stated is for salaries alone, the Assembly's Committee paying all travelling expenses.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF MISSIONS.

The stations in the Synod of Manitoba and the North-West Territories contributed about \$30,600.00 for the support of their missionaries, or about 64 per cent of the expense of maintaining ordinances.

SUPPLY.

About one-third of the missions were supplied by ordained missionaries, and the remainder by students or catechists. An effort was made last spring to secure the services of a number of young men from the graduating classes but without success. There seems to be a growing disinclination on the part of eastern graduates to accept appointments in the West; and the difficulty of securing a sufficient number of suitable missionaries to man our fields is proving a positive hindrance to the success of our work. In a very few years with the increase in the number of graduates, a change for the better may be confidently expected, but much harm may be sustained in the meantime.

SUPPLY FOR WINTER OF 1896-7.

The indications are that missions will be more fully supplied this winter than any winter in the history of our work. But many of the missionaries are without much experience and however earnest and zealous cannot be expected to give the most efficient supply.

SUPERINTENDENT OF MISSIONS.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Synod :

The Synod of Manitoba and the North-West Territories now in session in Winnipeg learning with great pleasure that the Rev Dr. Robertson, Superintendent of Missions, is at present in Great Britain under commission from the Home Mission Committee of the General Assembly to present before the churches there the needs, claims and opportunities of the mission work under the charge of the Presbyterian Church in Western Canada, considers this a fitting opportunity to record its thankfulness to God for all that Dr. Robertson has been enabled to do for the cause of religion in Western Canada, bears testimony to the efficient, faithful, and heroic labors of Dr. Robertson during the last twenty-five years and respectfully commends him and the cause he represents to the earnest and prayerful sympathy of the churches in the motherland.

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REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ARREARS OF STIPEND.

James Farquharson, Convener.

Your Committee corresponded with all the Presbyteries of the bounds about arrears of stipend, and learned from the correspondence that most of the Presbyteries had given the matter very careful consideration. At least one Presbytery held a special meeting to discuss the situation. In several cases Presbyterial deputations visited congregations in arrears of stipend with good results. In a few instances a re-arrangement of stations was made to prevent the accumulation of arrears in future.

The total arrears of stipend due by congregations and mission fields within the bounds as reported to the General Assembly of 1895, and again to the Synod a year ago, is \$6,839.00; the report to last Assembly reduces the amount to \$6,127.00; the first report received directly from Presbyteries by your Committee in March last puts the amount at \$4,500.00, and your Committee is pleased to add that the latest returns, several of which have come to hand since the Synod met, show that the arrears have been reduced to about \$2,293.00. Another year's effort should leave the column of arrears in our Statistics a blank.

Turning to Presbyteries—Superior, Portage la Prairie, Brandon and Regina, report that all arrears have been paid up. The amount of arrears due in the remaining Presbyteries are as follows:

Winnipeg	\$785 00
Rock Lake.....	50 00
Glenboro	630 00
Minnedosa.....	338 00
Melita	490 00
Total.....	\$2,293 00

N.B.—The recommendations appear in the body of the Minutes.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CHURCH LIFE AND WORK.

Rev. F. B. Duval, D.D., Convener.

Your Committee desire to state briefly and without specification the general consensus of the Presbyteries, on the subject of Church Life and Work, and urge upon the churches more diligence in the reformation of what may seem lacking, if perchance God may give grace to conform our church, in Life and Work, to the example of the disciples who were taught of the Lord and moulded by His personal influence.

There could not be a worthier question than that which elicits an estimate of the Christian life of our congregations.

1. In the public conduct of its members. Reports generally speak in high terms of our members, though we hear from some of avarice and haste to be rich that blind the eyes to the rights and interests of others, while now and again we hear of some who stir up strife. It is a happy feature that the heart of our people is right, as is shown by a zealous espousal of every reasonable movement for a higher citizenship, and liberal giving to all truly humane objects.

2. As touching family religion. In some sections formal family worship is quite general, in others seldom engaged in. In many homes we are assured where there is no formal family worship there is true individual devotion. The Synod must, however, record its earnest exhortation that all heads of families being members of our communion, so far as it is possible, should engage their households in some solemn if brief reading of God's word and prayer either morning or evening or both. The statistics show both a greater degree of reverence in the community and a larger number of youths, from 14 to 20 years of age, members of the communion in those sections where family religion is practised.

3. As touching congregational life and activity, reports show that religious services, including sabbath schools, are generally well attended. An average of about 66 per cent are found at the communion services—an encouraging average when we remember that many are not fully settled, some for more than half their time are absent from home, and mothers are often kept away through lack of help in caring for their little ones,

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4. The mid-week prayer meeting suffers most from non-attendance and reasonably so, because in country places the farmer after daily toil and the evening feeding of his flock is naturally weary, and in towns and cities besides the daily work a multitude of business, school, lodge and social engagements, are more and more absorbing the people's attention. If the Wednesday evening prayer meeting is to be continued as a regular service of the church then the best reasons for it ought to be set forth forcibly and the elders at least ought to set the example of strict attendance.

5. As to the financial support of ordinances and missionary schemes not much is said, but we find from what is done a generally commendable liberality—more in the support of ordinances than mission schemes, which is quite natural in a new country where the erection of places of worship and the support of the minister by a sparsely settled community is often a heavy tax upon its ability. The following tabulation of the past two years will perhaps be satisfactory.

Presbytery.	1894.			1895.			Diff.
	Benev'ce.	Com.	Average.	Benev'ce.	Com.	Average.	
Winnipeg	6329	3714	1.70	5061	4033	1.26	— .44
Rock Lake	880	1257	.70	1935	1163	1.66	+ .96
Glenboro	455	767	.60	707	695	1.05	+ .45
Brandon	1127	1526	.74	1688	1729	.98	+ .24
Portage la Prairie.	1550	1446	1.07	1920	1709	1.12	+ .05
Regina	893	1642	.54	987	1867	.53	— .01
Melita	238	523	.46	303	460	.66	+ .20
Minnedosa	808	1068	.76	1052	1385	.76	— .02
Superior	625	459	1.36	466	557	.84	— .50
Synod							
				14119	13578	1.00	— .04

Omitting in both years special gifts to Manitoba College the average would be in 1894 82 cents, in 1895 90 cents, an increase of 8 cents per member.

3. What is doing to increase spiritual life? Besides the regular preaching and pastoral work some note Evangelistic services of special nature, with varying estimate of the good accomplished. Generally, however, the result is favorable. The elders generally engage in Sabbath school work, but are not so universally engaged as the nature of the elder's office demands. Very few congregations have elder's districts, and the church in general is not so organized as to do the best work in rescuing the lapsed masses. In towns and cities where the lapsed masses are, the unfortunate burden of debt under which our churches labor prevents their taking hold of the matter in a rational Christian manner. We will never reach the so-called lapsed masses until the church is recovered from its lapsed condition, and returned to a more perfect conformity to its early model, and taught so to use its economic forces as to go readily to him who is fallen among thieves in obedience to the will of the Master, who said, concerning the rescue work of the good Samaritan, "Go thou and do likewise."

4. Reports show that the Sabbath is generally well observed. Some grievances are complained of in connection with railway traffic. The Superintendent of the C. P. R. gives us the assurance that he endeavors to reduce Sunday labor to a minimum.

5. Reports are quite unanimous in the judgment that intemperance is decreasing and the majority of the people are in favor of prohibition.

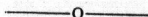
RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That Synod records its gratitude to God for the evidences of spiritual life and efficiency noted in the reports.

2. It calls very special attention to what is said upon the subject of family religion.

3. It exhorts all its people to a spirit of true loyalty to the principles of the Gospel of Christ in their dealings with one another and especially with the world without, and its ordained officers to think prayerfully of their sacred vows.

4. It prays for a still more generous spirit in support of the wide missionary schemes of our beloved Church for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom, and that the grace of God may make all our congregations fruitful in every good work unto the fuller praise of the Saviour's name.



REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Alex. Hamilton, Convener.

Your Committee beg to report that no effort has been put forth to procure statistics additional to those obtained by the Assembly's Sabbath School Committee. Some additional reports have been recently received. These have been added to those found in the report to Assembly and are herewith respectfully presented.

All Presbyteries but that of Superior have sent in reports this year. In the reports of Presbyteries Winnipeg has four schools which have not made returns, Brandon has six and Melita twelve.

The number of schools believed to be established within the bounds of this Synod is two hundred and six. Yet only one hundred and eighty-two, including five Indian schools, have reported. There are known to be fifteen of these of an interdenominational character, only the Presbyterian element in them being reported.

By comparison with the statistics of 1893 it is seen that whilst our mission stations and churches which now number four hundred and ninety-eight have increased sixteen per cent., the number of sabbath schools has increased at the rate of nineteen per cent. Yet this increase falls far short of the ideal of having a sabbath school in connection with each preaching station.

The number of those engaged in sabbath school work is 1259, an increase of forty-six per cent. on the numbers of 1893. The number of scholars is 10,865, an increase of thirty-three per cent. This is satisfactory progress considering that in the same time the number of families in the Synod has increased by twenty-two per cent., the number of single persons in our congregations by thirty-three per cent., and the number of our communicants by twenty-five per cent.

Of the 177 schools reported, excluding the 5 Indian schools, 107 are conducted during the whole year, 24 for varying periods between six months and the year, 39 are six months' schools and 7 are for shorter periods of the year.

The average attendance is fairly good, being 1075 officers and teachers and 7401 scholars.

In recitation 2503 are reported to be committing scripture to memory, 2303 the Shorter Catechism, 125 having repeated the whole of the latter during the year. 5187 study their lessons at home. There are only 21 weekly teachers' meetings and only 15 have taken the studies connected with the Higher Religious Instruction scheme during the year.

In regard to Church relations we have 1324 scholars communicants, 282 of whom became such last year; 4745 scholars attend the church services and 165 (out of a possible 423) elders are engaged in the work.

The contributions for the past year have been \$7128 altogether. Of this, \$4406 have been expended on the schools and \$1912 contributed to schemes, \$947 to those of our own Church. \$468 has gone for various religious and missionary purposes and \$303 expended on other benevolent objects. Congregations have contributed to the maintenance of schools \$270.

Besides these are five Indian schools with eleven officers and teachers, one hundred and eleven scholars, seventy-one of whom are reported to be on attendance at church, seven being communicants. They contributed \$13 during the year.

The Committee would recommend as follows:

1. That all Superintendents and Secretaries of schools be urged to procure full, definite and accurate returns, and that Presbytery Conventions be enjoined to make every effort to get reports from all schools.
2. That as soon as possible schools make use of the registers, class books, helps and the Home Study series issued by our Sabbath School Committee.
3. That attention be called to the important scheme of studies provided by our Committee.
4. That the attention of elders be drawn to the importance and privilege of taking part in this work.
5. That in their distribution of funds, schools be urged to consider the claims of our own Church Schemes and to contribute liberally to them.

SABBATH

REPORT ON YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES.

Rev. R. G. MacBeth, Convener.

The report opened with reference to the action of the General Assembly of 1895 in appointing a standing committee for oversight of Young Peoples Societies and for reporting on their operations. This was felt to be a wise and timely action, ensuring the close connection of the Societies with the doctrine and work of the Church. This closer connection is likely to give the Young People's movement definite aim and direction. Touching on statistics the report stated that seven out of the nine Presbyteries have sent in reports, in all 54 societies reported with a total membership of 1581. The fact that the so-called stronger sex is somewhat in the minority was dwelt upon and ministers and sessions were urged to impress upon the minds of the boys and young men the manliness of doing right and the weakness of doing wrong. The words of the old king to his son should be made to ring in the ears of every growing lad—"Be thou strong therefore and show thyself a man." The faithfulness of the women to the work is at once a rebuke and an encouragement to the men.

Turning to the practical work of the Society the report rejoiced in the fact that such work as visiting the sick in hospital and elsewhere, relieving the poor and distressed, sending out literature, etc., was being done. Religion of this kind commends itself in a world of sin and selfishness and wins the approval of the compassionate Lord of Life.

Passing on to the matters of the moneys contributed it was gratifying to know that the givings were comparatively liberal and were devoted largely to the missions and colleges of our own Church. The report dwelt at some length on the quickened interests manifested by the Christian Endeavor Societies in the missionary enterprises of the Church as one of the most hopeful matters and one that augured well for the permanence and success of the Society.

The following resolutions were proposed for adoption:

1. The Synod rejoices in the knowledge that so many of the young people in our land are banding themselves together in the service of Christ, and urges ministers and sessions to give loving encouragement and counsel to those who are thus striving to advance the cause of the Master.

2. The Synod urges upon Presbyteries the desirability of securing full information as to the Societies within their bounds; also the formation of Presbyterial Societies, when such is considered advisable, and the holding of an Annual Conference on the subject at some Sederunt of Presbytery.

3. The Synod reiterates to Societies the recommendation of the Assembly in regard to moneys:—(1) To adopt some systematic method of raising funds. (2) To give the first place to the support of work connected with their own congregation, and to the great missionary educational and benevolent schemes of our own Church.

4. The Synod warmly approves of the plan of study proposed by the Assembly's Committee with a view to bringing more adequately before the young people the doctrine, polity, history and work of the Church, and earnestly requests ministers and sessions and Young People's Societies to carry it out as far as possible.

SOCIETIES.

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REPORT ON FINANCE AND STATISTICS.

Andrew B. Baird, Convener.

It is a pleasure to your Committee in reporting to the Fourteenth Synod to call attention to the continued growth and prosperity of all the departments of its work. Before going on to a detailed consideration of the figures of the year and comparing them with the year immediately preceding, it may be of interest to take a view at longer range and note the advance we have made during the last nine years, let us say, of our history. The year 1887 was a good year in a material way. The country had recovered in the main from the reaction following the boom, there was a very large harvest and business was in a healthy condition, so that year ought not to be taken as representing a period of anything like depression. Leaving out of consideration for our present purpose the Presbyteries which now constitute the Synod of Columbia, and which at that time belonged to our Synod, so that the comparison concerns for both years a territory with the same geographical boundaries, it will surprise many of the members of Synod to know that we have practically almost doubled our strength in these years. In fact we have more than doubled it in the number of our communicants and in the amount of stipend paid by our congregations, in the number of manses and in the total revenue, and we are not far from doubling it in the number of families and in gifts to the schemes of the church. The figures are 4,648 families in 1887 and 8,078 in 1895; 5,873 communicants as against 13,497; 23 manses (including 2 church manses) as against 46; \$38,813 paid as stipend by congregations as against \$80,272; \$7,365 for schemes of the church as against \$13,963; and \$83,980 total revenue as against \$180,180. The number of places where services are held has not of course increased in the same proportion since the geographical boundaries remain the same. The increase in this respect is from 320 to 498, a gain of 64 per cent. The only feature in which there is a noticeable falling off is in the number of transfers by certificate. The number for instance added by certificate has been falling off steadily for the last four years and was less last year (737) than nine years ago (879). Of course there is nothing in this column to indicate whether those who present certificates come from other congregations in the neighborhood or from places beyond the limits of the Synod. Making allowance for this, the decrease seems to indicate not only lessened immigration but a more settled feeling on the part of the people and less inclination to move about.

Turning now to a consideration of the figures for this year by themselves, the number of non-reporting congregations is 14 as against 14 last year. Were it not for serious failure on the part of two Presbyteries this report would have been by far the most complete ever presented to the Synod. Nine of the fourteen failures occur in these two Presbyteries. The honor-roll of Presbyteries which have presented some kind of report (often defective enough) from every field includes Superior, Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie and Brandon. The clerks of Rock Lake, Minnedosa and Regina have shown commendable diligence but Melita sends reports from only half its fields, and Glenboro from scarcely more than two-thirds. It will be remembered that when the project for increasing the number of Presbyteries was advocated some

three or four years ago, one of the chief arguments in favor of the proposal was that a more careful and more minute supervision would be exercised over the charges constituting a small Presbytery. It must be admitted that in the very defective reports which have come for the past two years from these two small Presbyteries, the fruits of this more minute supervision are not yet very manifest.

The number of reporting stations stands at 498, an increase of nine over the preceding year. The number of families shows an increase of 262, and the number of communicants which is 13,497 shows an increase of 1115. The number received on profession of faith shows an increase of 66 over the previous year, and the number received by certificate shows a decrease of 75. The number of infant baptisms reported is 1308, a decrease of 109, and the number of adult baptisms 92, an increase of 15. The number reported as attending the weekly meeting shows a gratifying increase of 200, but it is still less than a third of the total membership. The Sabbath Schools report an increase of 1,200 pupils and more than 200 teachers. There is a slight increase in the number of Woman's Foreign Missionary Societies, Manses and Churches erected during the year.

Passing now to Finances we find that the amount paid for stipend by congregations alone is \$80,272, an increase of nearly \$4,000 of which \$1787 is in Regina, but all the other Presbyteries share the increase except Rock Lake, Glenboro and Melita. In the matter of arrears of salary, thanks to the persistent action of the Committee of Synod, there has been a reduction of about two-thirds as compared with the sum owing last year. There are now no arrears in the Presbyteries of Superior, Portage la Prairie, Brandon and Regina. There was paid for church and manse building \$42,376. This was \$18,000 short of the year before which had been very active in church building, especially in Winnipeg, but it was an advance upon the record of any previous year.

The gifts to the schemes of the church amounted to \$13,963 an increase of a little more than \$1,000 over the previous year. All the schemes shared in this increase except that for Aged and Infirm Ministers and that for Widows and Orphans of Ministers, the payments to both of which one regrets to find have been declining for several years. The largest payment under the head of the schemes goes as is proper in this Synod to Home Missions, which receives \$3,572, and its little sister Augmentation gets \$1,400. Next in amount after Home Missions comes Foreign Missions which receive \$3,202; then comes the College Fund which receives \$3,137, all of which but \$12 comes to Manitoba College. These four schemes receive eighty-one per cent of the Synod's payments to the schemes.

The total payments for all purposes amount to \$180,180 a falling off of more than \$5,000 as compared with the year before, due to the smaller sum expended for church building as already indicated and the smaller sum in the extremely miscellaneous column devoted to other benevolent and religious objects.

Your Committee makes the following recommendations:

1. That ministers and others in charge of congregations be urged to report the work of their congregations as fully as possible in the forms provided for the purpose, and that the clerk be instructed to

write to the clerks of the Presbyteries of Glenboro and Melita calling attention to the defective reports sent in by them, and asking for greater diligence in this matter.

2. That inasmuch as 46 fields have, so far as the reports show, given nothing to any missionary or benevolent work of the Church beyond their own borders, the Committee recommends that the Clerk of Synod write to each Presbytery asking that ministers and students be urged to give at the least an opportunity to every congregation and mission station to contribute to the schemes of the Church, either by a collection or, better, by the formation of a Missionary Association or the appointment of missionary collectors.

avor of the provision would be tery. It must ve come for the e fruits of this

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to \$13,963 an ear. All the Infirm Minis- e payments to several years. s as is proper d its little sis- ome Missions es the College to Manitoba of the Synod's

,180 a falling e, due to the ndicated and n devoted to

is: ons be urged ssible in the nstructed to

1. PRESBYTERY OF SUPERIOR.

Those Present are marked with an Asterisk (*)

No.	MINISTERS.	Date of Ordination.	ELDERS.	Congregations.	Post Offices.
1	*R. Nairn, B.A.	Dec. 16, 1882.	A. Carmichael.	Kat Portage.	Kat Portage.
2	*W. L. H. Rowand, B.A.	April 14, 1885	William Hadden.	Fort William.	Fort William.
3	*S. C. Murray, B.A.	October 13, 1885.	R. A. Mather	Fort Arthur.	Fort Arthur.
4	*W. McK. Omand, B.A.	July 14, 1886.		Keewatin	Keewatin.
	MISSION STATIONS.				
				Fort Francis.	Fort Francis.
				Rainy River	Emo.
				Schreiber	Schreiber.
				Ignace	Ignace.
				Slate River.	W. Ft. William.

W. L. H. ROWAND, *Presbytery Clerk.*

2. PRESBYTERY OF WINNIPEG.

No.	MINISTERS.	Date of Ordination.	ELDERS.	Congregations.	P. O. Address.
1	*John M. King, D.D.	Oct. 27, 1857		Prin. Man. Col'ge	Winnipeg.
2	*Alex. Matheson	Nov. 28, 1860	John Matheson.	Springfield	Springfield.
3	John Hogg	Aug. 2, 1864	John Craig	St. Giles, Wpg.	Winnipeg.
4	*C. B. Pitblado	Feb. 15, 1865	*J. B. Mitchell	Westminster, Wpg	"
5	*Joseph Hogg	Oct. 1, 1868	*John Patterson	St. Andrew's	"
6	James M. Gray	Aug. 4, 1869	L. Moncrieff	Selkirk.	Selkirk.
7	*George Bryce, LL.D.	Sept. 1, 1871		Prof. in Man. Col.	Winnipeg.
8	Thomas Hart, B.D.	July 30, 1872		"	"
9	*F. B. DuVal, D.D.	May 17, 1875	*D. M. Telford	Knox, Winnipeg.	"
10	*Alex. McFarlane	Oct. 31, 1878		Clearsprings	Clearsprings.
11	*Andrew B. Baird, B.D.	Aug. 16, 1881		Prof. in Man. Col.	Winnipeg.
12	*Wm. McKinley	July 11, 1882	John Sutherland.	Kildonan	Kildonan.
13	*James Lawrence	March 16, 1883		Stony Mountain	Winnipeg.
14	*Alex. Hamilton, B.A.	Sept. 29, 1885	J. P. Matheson	Stonewall	Stonewall.
15	*D. Munro	Sept. 12, 1888	J. G. McKinnon.	P't Douglas, Wpg	Winnipeg.
16	*R. G. MacBeth, M.A.	June 24, 1890	E. F. Stephenson	Augustine,	"
17	*C. W. Gordon, B.A.	July 11, 1890	*D. McArthur	St. Stephen's,	"
18	*D. Robertson	Jan.	Emerson	Emerson	Emerson.

PRESBYTERY OF WINNIPEG.—(Continued.)

VACANCIES AND MISSION FIELDS.

John G. Brown.	Morris	Morris.
John Robertson.	N. & S. Plympton	Dugald.
J. McNaughton.	Victoria & Dundas	Balnoral.
Wm. Leask	Dominion City	Dominion City
P. R. Young	Little Britain	St. Andrew's
John Armstrong.	Meadow Lea	Marquette.
	Blythfield	Starbuck.
	Martin Lth'r. Wpg	Winnipeg.
	Clandeboye	Clandeboye.
	Gretna	Gretna.
	Rosenfeld	Rosenfeld.
	Whitemouth	Whitemouth.
	Union Point	Niverville.
	Oakville	Oakville.
	Lk. Wpg Fisheries	Selkirk.
	Beausejour	Beausejour.
	Lundyville	Lundyville.
	Seamo	Seamo.
	Stuartburn	Stuartburn.
	Posen (Icelandic)	Seamo.
	W. Selkirk (Icld'c)	Selkirk.
	Bird's Hill	Bird's Hill.
	Elm Creek	Elm Creek.

Winnipeg, Oct. 31, 1895.

ANDREW B. BAIRD, *Presbytery Clerk.*

3. PRESBYTERY OF ROCK LAKE.

No.	MINISTERS.	Date of Ordination.	ELDERS.	Congregations.	Post Offices.
1	*Walter R. Ross.	Feb. 16, 1858.	C. Martin.	Belmont	Belmont.
2	William Caven	Oct. 18, 1865	Sam'l Forrest	Manitou	Manitou.
3	*John Baikie	Aug. 1, 1871.	Jas. Campbell	Miami	Miami.
4	Joseph Andrew.	May 29, 1874.	T. S. Menary	Cartwright.	Cartwright.
5	*Jas. Farquharson, B.A.	Jan'y 4, 1892.	R. Aitken	Pilot Mound.	Pilot Mound.
6	*M. C. Rumball, B.A.	Oct. 8, 1889.	Neil Fox.	Morden	Morden.
7	*J. A. Bowman, M.A.	Dec. 9, 1890.	George Much	Crystal City.	Crystal City.
8	*Peter Fisher	June 30, 1891.	D. McCuaig	Boissevain	Boissevain.
9	H. McLennan	Sep. 14, 1892.	*R. McKay	Thornhill	Thornhill.
10	*Geo. P. Tattrie	July 14, 1896.	C. Strachan	La Riviere.	La Riviere.
11	*G. C. Little, B.A.	July 28, 1896.	Dr. Macklin	Roland.	Roland.
	MISSION FIELDS.				
			*R. Monteith	Killarney	Killarney.
			Alex. McQuarrie.	Swan Lake	Swan Lake.
			M. McMillan	Glenora	Glenora.
				Ninga	Ninga.
				Riverside	Riverside.
				Bellafield	Ninnette.
	WITHOUT CHARGE.				
1	H. J. Borthwich, M.A.				Morden.
2	D. Lantrow				Langvale.

WM. CAVEN, *Presbytery Clerk.*

4. PRESBYTERY OF GLENBORO.

No.	MINISTERS.	Date of Ordination.	ELDERS.	Congregations.	Post Offices.
1	*A. McTavish, B.A.	Aug. 12, 1884	A. Ross	Treherne.	Treherne.
2	*A. McD. Haig, B.A.	July 14, 1886	*R. H. Ferguson.	Glenboro	Glenboro.
3	*A. Currie	Aug. 10, 1886	G. Ross	Wawanesa	Wawanesa.
4	K. A. Gollan	July 13, 1892	Wm. Cox	Hilton	Hilton.
5	H. C. Sutherland, B.A.	Oct. 4, 1892	T. B. Meikle	Carman	Carman.
	VACANT.		W. R. Ross	Holland	Holland.
			John Deyell	Souris	Souris.
	MISSIONS.		A. Skinner	Ravenaswood	Carman.
			W. Paterson	Nesbit	Nesbit.
	WITHOUT CHARGE.			St. Luke	Souris.
	D. Campbell, B.A.	Aug. 11, 1891			
	RETIRED.				
	G. Bremner				Treherne.

A. MCD. HAIG, *Presbytery Clerk.*

A. MCD. HAIG, *Presbytery Clerk.*

5. PRESBYTERY OF PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.

No.	MINISTERS.	Date of Ordination.	ELDERS.	Congregations.	Post Offices.
1	*Joseph White, B.A.	Aug. 7, 1862.	J. Beaton.	Macdonald.	Macdonald.
2	James Douglas	Aug. 2, 1865	R. McLeod.	H. Bluff & Prosp't	High Bluff.
3	*P. Wright, B.D.	Aug. 23, 1870	H. Grant	Portage la Prairie	Portage la P.
4	*A. H. Cameron.	Nov. 12, 1874	D. Hay	Rosedale	Neepawa.
5	*F. McRae, M.A.	Jan. 3, 1878	J. L. Logie.	Burnside	Burnside.
6	*L. C. Emes.	July 23, 1889	W. F. Young	McGregor	McGregor.
7	*J. E. Munro, B.A.	July 15, 1891		Gladstone	Gladstone.
8	*R. Paterson, B.A.	Oct. 25, 1893.		Neepawa	Neepawa.
9	John J. S. Gourlay	July 8, 1895		Lake Dauphin	Lake Dauphin.
	WITHOUT CHARGE.				
	Isaac Hargrave, M.D.				Danville, Que.
	James Patterson				Aitken side, Man.

FARQUHAR MCRAE, *Presbytery Clerk.*

6. PRESBYTERY OF BRANDON.

No.	MINISTER.	Date of Ordination.	ELDER.	Congregations.	Post Office.
1	James Robertson, D. D.	Nov. 18, 1864.		Supt. Missions	Winnipeg.
2	*T. C. Court.	Aug. 10, 1886.	Wm. Gibson.	Well'rd & Beark'e	Petrel.
3	*T. R. Shearer, B. A.	July 16, 1889.	*D. R. Noble.	Rounthwaite.	Rounthwaite.
4	W. Beattie.	May 14, 1891.	Jas. Elder.	Virten.	Virten.
5	*D. Carswell.	June 6, 1893.	W. Tennant.	Carberry.	Carberry.
6	*E. A. Henry, B. A.	Aug. 2, 1885.	J. McDiarmid, MD	Brandon.	Brandon.
7	A. M. McQuarrie.	Sept. 1, 1896.		Pipestone & Rest'n	Pipestone.
8	*John Ferrie.		T. Lockhart.	Griswold.	Griswold.
	Vacant.		A. J. Todd.	Oak Lake.	Oak Lake.
	Vacant.		Edwin Ives.	Elkhorn.	Elkhorn.
			A. Ballantyne.	Alexander.	Alexander.
	MISSIONS.				
			O. Broad.	Douglas.	Douglas.
			R. Richards.	Chater, Zion, &c.	Chater.
			J. A. Fraser.	Breadalbane.	Michie.
				Tarbolton.	Brierwood.
				Petrel.	Petrel.
				Parkissimo.	Parkissimo.
				Hargrave.	Hargrave.
	WITHOUT CHARGE.				
	G. Roddick.	May 4, 1892			
	W. Chestnut, B. A.	Oct. 3, 1894.			
	C. McDiarmid.				Winnipeg. Scotland.

T. R. SHEARER, *Presbytery Clerk.*

7. PRESBYTERY OF MINNEDOSA.

No.	MINISTER.	Date of Ordination.	ELDERS.	Congregations.	Post Office.

W. Chestnut, B. A.
C. McDiarmid

May 4, 1892
Oct 3, 1894

Winnipeg,
Scotland.

T. R. SHEARER, *Presbytery Clerk.*

7. PRESBYTERY OF MINNEDOSA.

No.	MINISTER.	Date of Ordination.	ELDERS.	Congregations.	Post Office.
1	*J. A. F. Sutherland.	May 4, 1864.	Hugh Steele.	Minnedosa.	Minnedosa.
2	Alex. Smith.	Sept. 22, 1866.		Retired.	"
3	George Flett.	June, 1869.		Retired.	Elphinstone.
4	J. H. Cameron, B. A.	July 6, 1882.	J. M. Stewart.	Russell.	Russell.
5	*George Weir	1884.		Strathclair.	Strathclair.
6	*J. McArthur.	Sept. 21, 1886.	Jas. A. Frazer.	Beulah.	Beulah.
7	John Kovacs.	Nov. 12, 1887.		Hungarian.	Othon, Assa.
8	*C. W. Whyte, B. A.	Aug. 5, 1890.		Crowstand Resr'e	Kamsack, Assa.
9	*Robert Frew, B. A.	Jan. 5, 1892.	C. Webster.	Birtle.	Birtle.
10	Cunningham Moore, B. A.	May 24, 1892.	D. Henderson.	Hamiota.	Hamiota.
11	*James Lang.	July 26, 1893.	A. G. P. Smellie.	Biscarath.	Biscarath.
12	*Andrew Chisholm.	Nov. 5, 1894.	D. McNaught.	Rapid City.	Rapid City.
	Vacant.		D. D. Fraser.	Shanks & Oak River.	"
	MISSIONS.				
	Wm. Russell.		Geo. Coutts.	Basswood.	Basswood.
	Wm. Stewart.			Newdale.	Newdale.
	Campbell.		D. McAnish.	Shoal Lake.	Shoal Lake.
	F. Lettis.		John Miel.	Rosburn.	Rosburn.
	Allan Morrison.			Saltcoats.	Saltcoats, Assa.
	J. H. Jarvis.		James Brown.	Yorkton.	Yorkton.
	J. H. Magee.			Dongola & Crescet	Dongola, "
	W. Sutherland.			Thadore, Whites'd	Thadore, "
				Shell River.	Shellmouth.
	WITHOUT CHARGE.				
1	John McKay.	May 28, 1889.			Strathclair.
2	John Hosie.	July 15, 1891.			Glasgow, Scotl'd
3	Wm. Gordon.	Oct. 8, 1893.			
4	D. McLeod, M. A.	July 31, 1894.			
5	John Wray.	Aug. 6, 1895.			

J. H. CAMERON, *Presbytery Clerk.*

8. PRESBYTERY OF MELITA.

No.	MINISTERS.	Date of Ordination.	ELDERS.	Congregations.	Post Offices.
1	*Wm. Hodnett, M.A.	July 4, 1869		Carlyle	Arcola, Assa.
2	*S. Polson	Jan. 14, 1880	*W. J. Biggins	Hartney	Hartney, Man.
3	*John Cairns, M.A.	Feb. 2, 1885	G. Middleton	Carnduff	Carnduff, Assa.
4	*T. R. Scott, B.A.	Sept. 14, 1892	J. J. Heaslip	Oxbow	Oxbow, Assa.
5	Jas. Stuart, B.A.	Sept. 1, 1896	Dr. Livingstone.	Napinka	Napinka, Man.
6	J. N. Guthrie	Sept. 1, 1896	John McKague	Melita	Melita, Man.
			D. Colquhoun	Pierson	Pierson, Man.
				Gainsboro	Gainsboro, Assa.
				Waskada	Waskada, Man.
				Alameda	Alameda, Assa.
				Estevan	Estevan, Assa.
			Robt. Douglas	Deloraine	Deloraine, Man.
	WITHOUT CHARGE.				
	John Geddes				Can'ton Manor.
	A. F. McKenzie				Deloraine, Man.

SAMUEL POLSON, *Presbytery Clerk.*

9. PRESBYTERY OF REGINA.

No.	MINISTERS	Date of Ordination.	ELDERS.	Congregations.	Post Offices.
1	*Alex. Campbell, B.A.	Oct. 5, 1873		Broadview	Broadview.
2	*John A. Carmichael	May 24, 1875	*R. Beale	Broadview	Regina.
3	*Hugh McKay	July 11, 1877	W. Rothwell, B.A.	Knox Church	Regina.
				Round Lake	Whitewood.

PRESBYTERY OF REGINA.—(Continued.)

4	C. W. Bryden, M.A.	May 24, 1880		Willoughby	Willoughby.
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3 *Hugh McKay
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PRESBYTERY OF REGINA.—(Continued.)

C. W. Bryden, M.A.	May 24, 1880	John Taggart	Willoughby	Willoughby
Archibald Lee, B.A.	June 17, 1884	*Robert Crawford	St. Paul's Church	Prince Albert.
W. S. Moore, M.A.	Nov. 2, 1886		Mistawasis	Indian Head.
D. F. McMillan	Sept. 14, 1887		Cathcart	Aldina via D.L.'k
A. J. McLeod, B.A.	May 30, 1888		Industrial School,	Earlswood.
C. O. Hofstrand	Nov. 17, 1888		Swede Missionary	Regina.
*A. Matheson	Sept. 10, 1890		Balgownie	On 'Appelle St'n.
*J. W. Muirhead, B.A.	May 22, 1893	James Murray	Knox Church	Whitewood.
*J. G. McKechnie, B.A.	July 25, 1893	*A. B. Bompas	Wolseley	Wolseley.
*J. A. Reddon, B.A.	Oct. 10, 1893	J. R. Anderson	Moosomin	Moosomin.
Hugo McLellan	Jan. 23, 1895		Kinistino	Kinistino.
Geo. Arthur, B.Sc.	April 25, 1895		Muscowpetung's	Fort Ou'Appelle.
J. C. Cameron	June 25, 1895	R. K. Thompson	Moose Jaw	Moose Jaw.
*A. Kemlo, B.A.	Sept. 24, 1895	A. T. Fother'ham	Grenfell	Grenfell.
J. S. Dobbin	Oct. 1, 1895		Glen Adelaide	Fairmede.
*S. W. Thompson, B.A.	Oct. 15, 1895	J. Bersea	On 'Appelle Sta.	On 'Appelle St'n.
W. Burton, B.A.	June 15, 1896	W. Motherwell	Fort Ou'Appelle	Fort Ou'Appelle.
*T. Hunter Boyd	Sept. 29, 1896		Carsdale	Lumsden.
John Fotheringham	Feb. 28, 1856		Retired	Grenfell.

RETIRED.
 WITHOUT CHARGE.

1 Geo. Laird, B.A.	Oct. 6, 1867
2 J. M. Douglas	Dec. 13, 1887
3 J. K. Welsh	April 24, 1889
4 A. W. Lewis, B.A., B.D.	July 11, 1894
5 M. S. Mackay	

J. W. MUIRHEAD, Presbytery Clerk.