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MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

Primitive Methodist Church,

CANADA,

HELD IN ALICE STREET CHURCH, TORONTO,

On 16th April, 1858, and following days.

Published by Order of the Conference.

TORONTO:

PUBLISHED BY JOHN DAVISON,

Mission Office and Book Room, King Street East.

1858.

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MINUTES, &c.

According to appointment of the Annual Conference held in Brampton, 16th April, 1857, the Conference of this year, being composed of Ministers and Laymen of the Primitive Methodist Connexion, assembled in Alice Street Church, Toronto; and after devotional exercises, conducted by the Ex-President, proceeded to the transaction of business.

THOMAS CROMPTON, PRESIDENT.
ROBERT BOYLE, SECRETARY.

Question 1. *Who compose the present Conference ?*

Answer. W. Lyle, *General Committee Delegate.*

J. Edgar, *English Representative.*

J. Davison, *General Missionary Secretary.*

Robert Walker, *Missicnary Treasurer.*

R. Boyle, *Agent of Friendly Society.*

Also Delegates appointed by their respective District Meetings :

TORONTO—T. Crompton, E. Barrass, J. Lacey, J. Garner, J. Kent, T. Burgess, H. Jennings, W. Daniels, F. Harper, R. Ward, W. D. Fitzpatrick, T. Spotswood.

HAMILTON—W. Rowe, R. Paul, I. Ryder, T. Adams, W. Wilkin, J. Darling, W. Lawson, J. Hart, I. Modeland, L. Walker, A. Thutlow, T. Lawson.

Q. 2. *What Ministers are taken into the Annual List ?*

A. J. Houldershaw, J. Markham, J. Milner, J. R. Swift.

Q. 3. *What Preachers remain on trial ?*

- A. R. Stephenson, who has travelled five years.
- W. Cook, who has travelled three years.
- W. Bee and J. Smith, who have travelled two years.
- M. Gray, who has travelled two years.
- W. Clayton, G. Watson, and C. Gilmore, one year.

Q. 4. *What Preachers have ceased to travel ?*

- A. W. Stephenson and T. Baldwin.

Q. 5. *What Preachers are received on pledge ?*

- A. M. H. Mathews and J. Cheetham.

Q. 6. *How are the Ministers stationed for the ensuing year ?*

- A. In the following order :

TORONTO DISTRICT.

TORONTO :

J. Davison, *Mis. Sec.*
and *Book Steward.*

Gasser J. Edgar.
J. Clarke.

ETOBICOKE :

Baldwin T. Crompton.
Heffer J. Houldershaw.
W. Lyle, *Sup.*
W. Jolley, *Sup.*

MARKHAM :

Heffer J. Garner.
W. Clayton.

DARLINGTON :

E. Barrass.

ALBION :

Frederick R. Cade.

SCARBORO' :

Frederick G. Wood.
M. H. Mathews.

LASKAY :

J. Milner.
R. Stephenson.

REACH :

J. Simpson.

KINGSTON & BATH ROAD :

Casey J. Natrass.
W. Gledhill.

PORTLAND :

Baldwin J. Lacey.
Bean W. Cooke.

NAPANEE :

J. Markham.

OSPEY :

T. Foster.

BRA
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GUE
ORA
PEEL
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A. 3

HAMILTON DISTRICT.

BRAMPTON :

R. Boyle.

HAMILTON :

J. R. Swift.

WALPOLE :

W. Bee.

J. Smith.

GALT & BLENHEIM.

T. Natrass.

GUELPH :

T. Adams.

ORANGEVILLE :

M. Grey.

PEEL & WELLESLEY :

W. Lomas.

C. Gilmore.

J. Towler, *Sup.*

LONDON :

W. Rowe.

T. Dudley.

BRANTFORD & PARIS :

J. Cheetham.

W. Newton.

BRANT :

I. Ryder.

BOSANQUET :

G. Watson.

WALSINGHAM :

R. Paul.

McGILLIVRAY :

One wanted.

ST. MARY'S :

One wanted.

MINTO :

One wanted.

Q. 7. *What are the Statistics for the present year ?*

A. (For the Statistical View of the Primitive Methodist Connexion in Canada see next page.)

Q. 8. *What is the nett increase during the past year ?*

A. 309 Members.

COMMITTEES.

Q. 9. Who compose the Committees ?

A. (1.) GENERAL COMMITTEE.

President and Secretary of Conference, and English Representative, with J. Davison, Secretary, R. Walker, E. Barrass, J. Lacey, W. Lyle, J. Garner, T. Adams, W. Rowe, R. Boyle, R. Sargant, L. Walker, I. Modeland, J. Kent, T. Cook, J. Lawson, W. Lawson, W. D. Fitzpatrick. Meetings to be held in the Mission Office, Toronto, at 1 p.m. on second Wednesday in July, Oct., Jan. and the day before next Conference, at 9 a.m.

(2.) GENERAL MISSIONARY COMMITTEE.

The General Missionary Committee shall be composed of the Members of the General Committee. Its meetings shall be held at the same times and places as those of the General Committee. All the Missionaries are particularly required to send their Quarterly Reports to the Secretary, at the Mission Office, Toronto, one week at least before the time of holding the Quarterly Meetings of the General Missionary Committee.

Three Members of these Committees being present at the time of meeting are competent to act. R. Walker, Treasurer ; J. Davison, Secretary.

(3.) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive of the two above-named Committees shall be composed of the following persons:—President and Secretary of Conference, J. Edgar, W. Lawson, R. Sargant, J. Kent, I. Modeland, J. Davison, Sec.— Meetings to be held at the Mission Office, Toronto, on second Wednesday in each month, at 2 p.m.

(4.) DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

TORONTO:—President and Secretary, R. Walker, W. Daniels, T. Lawson, J. Edgar, Sec.

HAMILTON:—J. Elliott, W. Marshall, W. P. Lacey, D. Walker, R. Boyle, Sec.

(5.) PUBLISHING COMMITTEE.

President and Secretary, E. Barrass, J. Edgar, W. Lawson, R. Walker, J. Davison, Sec.

(6.) BOOK ROOM COMMITTEE.

The same as the Executive.

(7.) CHILDREN'S FUND COMMITTEE.

The same as the Executive.

(8.) PREPARATORY COMMITTEE.

President and Secretary, General Committee Delegates, and General Secretary; to meet the day before Conference.

(9.) SUPERNUMERARY FUND COMMITTEE.

J. Lacey, T. Adams, W. Rowe, G. Raper, R. Walker, E. Barrass, Sec.

Q. 10. *Where and when shall the next Annual Meeting of the Ministers' Association be held?*

A. At Victoria Square, Markham, on Wednesday prior to Conference, at 9 a.m.; and a half-yearly meeting for Toronto District to be held at Twaddle's Chapel the day preceding October Missionary Committee Meeting; G. Wood, Sec. And a similar meeting for Hamilton District at Brantford, on 2nd Wednesday in September; R. Boyle, Sec.; to assemble at 10 a.m.

Q. 11. *When and where shall the next Conference be held?*

A. At Victoria Square, Markham, on Friday, 15th April, 1859., at 9 a.m.

The following persons are Members of the next Conference:—T. Crompton, as General Committee Delegate; R. Boyle, English Representative; R. Walker, Treasurer; J. Davison, Secretary; Wm. Rowe, Friendly Society Agent.

Q. 12. *When and where shall the next District Meetings be held? and by which of the General Committee Delegates shall each be attended?*

A. TORONTO :—At Laskay, first Wednesday in April, 1859; J. Edgar, G. C. D.

HAMILTON :—At Brantford, first Wednesday in April, 1859; W. Lomas, G. C. D.

Q. 13. *What are the further Regulations of Conference?*

A. (1.) That the Reports of the General Committee, Missionary Committee and Book Committee, and Church Property Committee, *now read* by the Secretary, be adopted.

(2.) That the Kingston and Bath Road Missions be united in one Station.

(3.) That the Walpole Circuit fall into the care of the Missionary Committee, as a Mission.

(4.) That Walsingham Station have leave to erect a Chapel. Economy to be exercised, as the Mission Fund *cannot* assist in any erection.

(10.) That in all cases where the Stations do not contribute their just proportion to the respective Funds, they be reported, and the cases printed in the Minutes.

(11.) That the Stations shall not be required, in future, to send subscriptions to the Conference and Relief Funds, for Members on Trial.

(12.) That each District Meeting shall appoint a Board of three persons, to examine probationers, as to their studies, and especially in regard to the course of reading specified in Regulation 24th of the Can-

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ada Conference Minutes, 1855 ; and that as soon as possible after each District Meeting such Examiners shall prepare and place in the hands of each probationer a List of Questions on the specified reading ; and that the said Examination shall take place *one* day before, or *at* the time of the District Meeting, as the said Examiners may appoint. Moreover, the said Board shall correspond with each probationer once or twice in the year, by way of encouragement and instruction ; and should they find, that from distance or other just cause, any of the probationers cannot attend the examinations, they shall appoint some fit person in the vicinity of the probationer to examine him ; which examination shall take place not less than twenty-one days before District Meeting, and of which a Report shall be sent to the Board of Examiners ; and that the said Board shall make a Report to the District Meeting, as to the mental and ministerial progress of the probationers within its jurisdiction.

THE BOARDS.

Toronto District Board of Examiners :—T. Crompton, J. Edgar, J. Garner.

Hamilton District Board of Examiners :—W. Rowe, T. Adams, W. Lomas.

- (13.) The venerable William Lyle to deliver the next Ordination Address.
- (14.) That a Deputation of two Brethren be appointed to proceed to England to solicit contributions for the purpose of establishing more Missions in Canada ; and the subscriptions signed for in Conference, (216.) and what amount can be obtained on each

Station, to defray the expenses of the Deputation, be transmitted to the Missionary Secretary by each Superintendent, in a letter, as soon as possible.

(15.) That as Christian Union is an object greatly to be desired, we therefore recommend and agree, that Addresses of a fraternal character shall be transmitted to all the Methodist Conferences to be held in Canada.

(16.) That all our Missionaries on Mission Stations are required to take up *at least four week evening preaching appointments*, except they be engaged in *Protracted Meetings*, or other important Services; and a Plan of the Station, to accompany the Quarterly Report, regularly sent to the Missionary Committee.

(17.) That the Conference expresses its sympathy with Brother Lyle in his weakness, and on his retiring from the active work; and trusts he may be long spared to assist the Connexion with his counsel and prayers.

(18.) That the Addresses now read be approved of, and sent to the Wesleyan, New Connexion, Episcopal, and Bible Christian Conferences; to the Connexion in Britain; and to the Eastern and Western States Conferences, United States. Also that the Pastoral Address be accepted; and the Address to the House of Assembly, to resist Intemperance and the Desecration of the Sabbath.

CAMP MEETINGS.

(19.) That a Camp Meeting be held at Portland, in the Summer; Bros. Crompton and Edgar, with the Ministers in the East, to attend. Also one on the

London Mission, under the direction of Bro. Wm. Rowe.

SEMI-MONTHLY JOURNAL.

- (20.) That we endeavour to publish a semi-monthly paper, to be called "The Christian Journal," to be commenced in the middle of July; the Ministers to proceed *immediately* to get up their number of guaranteed copies, as settled at Conference, in their respective Circuits and Missions. The "Christian Journal" will be a Record of Religious, Social, Literary, and Political Progress. Brothers Edgar and Davison to be joint Editors. Names of subscribers and post-offices to be sent before July, to the Mission Office, King Street, Toronto.

GRANTS TO MISSION STATIONS.

- (21.) That the Schedule of Grants to the Mission Stations, now read be adopted, as follows:—

Kingston and Bath Road	£80	0	0
Portland	80	0	0
Napanee	75	0	0
Osprey	70	0	0
Galt and Blenheim	60	0	0
Guelph	70	0	0
Peel and Wellesley	70	0	0
Brantford and Paris	140	0	0
Brant	50	0	0
Walsingham	45	0	0
Bosanquet	45	0	0
Walpole	50	0	0
Orangeville	50	0	0
London	170	0	0

SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHILDREN'S FUND.

(22.) That the Scale of Contributions from the Stations to the Children's Fund be as follows;—

Toronto	£23	0	0
Etobicoke	16	0	0
Markham	15	0	0
Darlington	8	10	0
Albion	10	10	0
Peel and Wellesley	11	0	0
Napanee	9	0	0
Brant	7	0	0
Hamilton	10	0	0
Walpole	10	0	0
Galt and Blenheim	10	0	0
Guelph	9	0	0
Orangeville	8	0	0
Portland	10	10	0
Brantford and Paris	11	10	0
Brampton	14	10	0
Walsingham	8	0	0
Laskay	10	0	0
Scarboro'	10	0	0
Réach	10	0	0
Kingston	12	10	0
London	14	0	0
Osprey	5	0	0
Bosanquet	8	0	0

PRAYER FOR A GENERAL REVIVAL.

(23.) That, in humble reliance on Almighty God to favour us with a General Revival, we set apart

the first Friday in October next as a day of Prayer and Fasting; and that each of our Ministers be desired to preach to the people previously on these duties, and solemnly invoke a larger baptism of the Holy Spirit from Heaven on our labours.

- (24.) That the Conference records its thanks to the Great Head of the Church, that, notwithstanding the numerous removals, &c., we have an increase for the year of 309 Members.
- (25.) That the period of Ministers' Services on their old Stations terminate May 18th, and commence on their new Stations May 30th.
- (26.) That the thanks of the Conference be given to the Friends in Toronto, for the hospitality and kindness shown to the Delegates attending the Conference.

THE RELIEF FUND.

Q. 14.—*What is the state of the Relief Fund for the year ending April 30th. 1858 ?*

A.—

Dr.		Cr.	
Balance on hand	£32 9 8	By Cash to Miss. Com. for	
Cash from Toronto District	26 6 6	W. J. Deane's illness ..	£17 6 14
" " Hamilton "	11 1 0	By do. J. Simpson's illness	13 18 0
		By do. W. Rowe's illness	7 0 0
		Balance on hand	31 13 04
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	£69 17 2		£69 17 2
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	£370 . 45		£370 . 43

THE CONFERENCE FUND.

Q. 15.—What is the state of the Conference Fund, for the year ending April 30th, 1858?

A.—

Dr.		Cr.	
Balance on hand	£3 8 6	By printing Conf. Minutes	£6 10 0
To Cash from the Toronto District	26 6 6	“ Child Fund Forms, District Book	0 11 9
“ Cash from the Hamilton District	11 1 0	“ Ordination Bibles, Binding and Stationery for Conference	1 11 0
		“ printing Stations, extra Tickets, extra Travel expenses	1 11 3
		“ Delegates exp. to Conf.	22 10 11
		Balance on hand	8 1 1
	£40 16 0		£40 16 0
	\$163 . 90		\$163 . 90

THE BOOK ROOM.

Q. 16.—What is the state of the Book Room for the year ending April 1st, 1858?

A.—

Dr.		Cr.	
Stock on hand	£443 8 6	By debts due Office	£292 4 7
Debts recvd. from District Book Stewards	285 4 3	“ Books sold	323 6 1
Office Expenses	13 14 9	“ Stock on hand	152 0 8
Balance	25 3 10		
	£767 11 4		£767 11 4
	\$3070 . 26		\$3 70 . 26

THE CHILDREN'S FUND.

Q. 17.—What is the state of the Children's Fund for the year ending April 30, 1858?

A.—

Dr.		Cr.	
To Cash from Circuits and Missions	£276 15 0	By balance due Treasurer for 1857	£33 5 11
“ Balance due Treasurer	17 9 6½	“ Cash paid on Account	260 18 7½
	£294 4 6½		£294 4 6½
	\$1176 291		\$1176 . 91

THE MISSIONARY FUND.

(See the yearly Missionary Report now publishing.)

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Pastoral Address

TO THE MEMBERS

Of the Primitive Methodist Church, IN CANADA.

DEAR FRIENDS,

We, your Ministers and Representatives, assembled in Conference, for the transaction of business concerning the welfare of our Zion, address you once more. Another year has gone, with its labours, privileges, and opportunities of usefulness; and we hope that some progress has been made by us all in the way of holiness. We again assure you of our unabated affection; and that our aim has been, through all the anxiety and deliberations of Conference, your good and the extension of the work of God in the land.

In laying before you a few particulars of our state, we beg to say:

1st. That the Session of Conference has been characterized for general peace and harmony, and though widely different views have sometimes been taken on various subjects, there has, notwithstanding, been a general oneness of feeling. The Conference has had to deal with some difficult and perplexing cases, an

hopes that with respect to them it has been guided by wisdom that cometh from above.

2nd. As to our numerical state, we are happy to inform you that the great Head of the Church has given to his servants souls for their hire, and seals to their ministry; for, after making up for the loss of 279 members by removals and 17 by deaths, we report a nett increase of 309 members.

3rd. Our friends are in as good condition, on the whole, circumstances considered, as we can expect them to be. The great pressure of the times has necessarily affected our revenues, and hence the Missionary fund particularly has sustained loss, in consequence of which we have not been able to meet all demands.

4th. The Religious Services connected with Conference have been deeply interesting, and we trust profitable. Four of our young Brethren, who had honourably finished their Ministerial probation, were publicly received into our regular Ministry. It was an impressive service; and our earnest prayer is, that God would bless them, and make them a blessing.

Having given you this brief information, we submit to you a few considerations respecting the all-important duties of the Christian life,

Let us be truly devoted to God. What is any Church without this? and what can it do for God's glory, and the salvation of man? Just as a Church is minus in this, it is unreal, and outward only; and in the same proportion, it fails to accomplish the end of its existence. Warm and deep devotedness to God is, and must ever be, the true life of the Church. Spirituality

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of mind, and nearness of soul to God, gives reality, efficiency, and glory to the Christian Church. Let us, dear friends, never forget this ; and therefore offer our bodies and souls a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service.

Let us be holy. We are called unto holiness : to be perfected in love. Clean hearts, right spirits, and the bliss and usefulness they involve, form our glorious heritage as the people of God. Oh ! how much happiness we might enjoy ; how much elevated above the world we might live ; how sublime and heavenly might be our spiritual state ; and what blessings we might prove to each other, and to precious souls, if entire holiness were the experience of all who are members with us ! This would enable us to enjoy ourselves in God, and be blessedly useful to our families, to the Church, and to the world.

Let us have the welfare of the Church at heart, and zealously promote its interests. We know that the prosperity of the Church consists in the revival and spread of vital religion. The Church must be extended : souls must be converted : the truth must prevail : and the song of salvation must ultimately sound through the earth. God has chosen his Church as the great instrument, in connection with the influence of his Holy Spirit, to accomplish his gracious purposes, relative to the conversion and happiness of fallen man. Let us, dear friends, feel our position ; and in the exercise of every talent and all our means, act our part in helping the Church in her mission of mercy to man.

Let us be importunate and fervent in prayer. This is necessary ; for, whatever we do beside, with a view to promote the work of God, without the efficacy of

prayer, we cannot have great success in our religious operations : but, if we fervently and believingly pray in connection with our zealous and persevering efforts to promote true religion in the world, we enlist the influence of the Holy Spirit upon all we do.

Dear Brethren, be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know your labour shall not be in vain in the Lord. May the God of all Grace bless you in body and soul, and prosper you in all good, is the prayer of our hearts.

On behalf of the Conference,

THOMAS CROMPTON, PRESIDENT.

ROBERT BOYLE, SECRETARY.

Toronto, 22nd April, 1858.

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Address of the Canadian Conference

Of the Primitive Methodist Church,

TO THE ENGLISH CONFERENCE.

DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHREN,

Grace be multiplied unto you, and the Israel of God. It is with no ordinary degree of pleasure that we again present you our Annual Address, from this distant field of the Master's work ; the more so, as we still look up to you as our Parent, and feel the close relation existing between us. It is a source of pleasure to us to remember your past success : the difficulties you have surmounted : the privations you have endured : the sacrifices you have made, and the trophies you have won, which will be only fully known when the great Shepherd shall appear.

It inspires us with confidence to look our trials in the face, when we call to mind the origin, the growth, and the present status of Primitive Methodism throughout the world. Our past year, in the Canadas, has been marked by the greatest financial difficulties of the last half century. Nearly all our Institutions, in the New World have tottered under the pressure, and many have fallen. Our Church, in common with others, has been burdened, and is still struggling with difficulties. We are looking to God to help us, and shall follow the "Cloud," knowing that He will help us, and that right early. After mature deliberation, our Conference appointed two of our Ministers, Bros.

Barrass and Boyle, to visit your Conference, as our Representatives, and get your sanction to allow these brethren to visit your work, hold public meetings, set the peculiarities of our Church before the Christians of England, and receive their pecuniary support for our Missions. England is noted for its Missionary spirit, and it will still retain that character until the affrighted spirits of darkness seek their own place, and Jesus reigns the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Notwithstanding the panic which has convulsed our country, we have made progression numerically. You will be pleased to hear, that after supplying all deficiencies, we report an increase of 309 members. To God be all the praise. We regret to report that one of our senior Ministers, who has long laboured in word and doctrine among us, and whose praise is in all the Churches, is compelled, through mental infirmities, to retire from the actual work: we refer to Father Wm. Lyle. We trust that God will yet, for years, protract his invaluable life, that he may assist us by his counsel and presence; and then, Aaron-like, be gathered to the land of the blest. We have lost a young Minister, who could not live upon the small income of a Primitive Methodist Minister, and therefore has gone elsewhere!

The important grant from the English Missionary Society has enabled us to assist our young and struggling Missions, which otherwise could not subsist. The genuine results arising from the labours of our Missionaries on those Stations cannot be fully known until the Saviour gathers His people into the "rest which remains for the people of God."

We are still under the necessity of casting ourselves upon you for further help; and pray that God may

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assist you in all things, according to His will. The appointment of Bro. John Davison as Missionary Secretary and General Book Steward has been of signal benefit, and we hope that the coming year will be still more so.

Our Conference has been the most agreeable. The Members assembled have been remarkably united: oneness of feeling has characterised the Session: love and peace have abounded. General and deep sympathy with our present embarrassment has been expressed by all present; and the earnest prayer of the Conference follow the Deputation to visit you shortly.

And now, dear Fathers and Brethren, our object is the same as yours,—to bring a revolted world back to God: to bind up the broken-hearted: to loose the captive: to strengthen the weak: to save the lost: and to stud the crown of Jehovah-Jesus with imperishable gems—the souls of human beings. We wish you great and manifold good from the riches of God's grace. May you abound and increase in all power, and wisdom, and love, until the Master shall say, "Well done, good and faithful servants, enter ye into the joy of your Lord."

(Signed,)

THOMAS CROMPTON, PRESIDENT.

ROBERT BOYLE, SECRETARY.

Toronto, 22nd April, 1858.

Addresses of the Stations, &c.,

FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

President of Conference—T. Crompton, Malton.
Secretary of Conference—R. Boyle, Brampton.
Connexional Treasurer—R. Walker, Toronto.
Missionary Secretary—J. Davison, King street, Toronto.
 Toronto—J. Edgar, Agnes Street, Toronto.
 Etobicoke—T. Crompton, Malton.
 Markham—J. Garner, Victoria Square.
 Darlington—E. Barrass, Bowmanville.
 Albion—R. Cade, Bolton Village, Albion.
 Scarboro'—G. Wood, Ellsmere.
 Laskay—J. Milner, Laskay.
 Reach—J. Simpson, Epsom.
 Kingston—J. Natrass, Kingston.
 Portland—J. Lacey, Sydenham.
 Napanee—J. Markham, Napanee.
 Osprey—T. Foster, Feversham.
 Brampton—R. Boyle, Brampton.
 Hamilton—J. R. Swift, Hamilton.
 Walpole—W. Bee, Selkirk.
 Galt and Blenheim—T. Natrass, Galt.
 Guelph—T. Adams, Guelph.
 Orangeville—M. Gray, Orangeville.
 Peel & Wellesley—W. Lomas, Hawksville, Waterloo.
 London—W. Rowe, London.
 Brantford & Paris—J. Cheetham, Brantford.
 Brant—I. Rider, Walkerton.
 Bosanquet—G. Watson, Widder.
 Walsingham—R. Paul, Walsingham.

Signed by Order of the Conference,

THC

THOMAS CROMPTON, *President.*

ROBERT BOYLE, *Secretary.*

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