

OCTOBER, 1879.

MINUTES OF MEETING

OF THE

HOME MISSION COMMITTEE

(WESTERN SECTION)

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA.

TORONTO, 7TH AND 8TH OCTOBER, 1879.

At Toronto, and within the Deacons' Court Room of Knox Church there, on Tuesday, the 7th day of October, 1879, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, the Home Mission Committee (Western Section) of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, met and was constituted with prayer. Rev. W. Cochrane, D.D., Convener, in the chair. The Committee continued in session till 10.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 8th October.

The following members were present: Dr. Cochrane, Messrs. A. F. Tully, D. H. MacLennan, F. W. Farries, R. Campbell (Renfrew), G. Burnfield, T. G. Smith, J. Cleland, A. A. Drummond, E. Cockburn, J. M. King, R. Moodie, J. Somerville, John Campbell (Harriston), A. Stewart (Clinton), R. Torrance, G. Bruce, G. Cuthbertson, W. Walker, R. Hamilton, R. Leask, A. Tolmie, D. J. Macdonnell, A. Findlay, and R. H. Warden, ministers; and Messrs. J. L. Blaikie, T. Gordon, T. McCrae, T. W. Taylor, and Hon. A. Morris, elders.

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held in Ottawa on 19th June last were read and sustained.

CLAIMS FOR THE PAST HALF-YEAR.

The claims of the respective Presbyteries in Quebec and Ontario, for services rendered in Supplemented Congregations and Mission Stations during the past six months were considered, and the following sums ordered to be paid as soon as funds are forthcoming to enable the Treasurer to do so:—

Presbytery of Quebec	\$610 00	Presbytery of Saugeen	\$231 00
“ Montreal	1073 00	“ Guelph	47 85
“ Glengarry	200 00	“ Hamilton	622 00
“ Ottawa	813 50	“ Paris	128 00
“ Lanark & Renfrew	814 00	“ London	1095 00
“ Brockville	367 00	“ Chatham	324 00
“ Kingston	1433 00	“ Stratford	25 00
“ Peterborough	399 30	“ Huron	204 84
“ Whitby	75 00	“ Maitland	139 50
“ Lindsay	389 00	“ Bruce	757 00
“ Toronto	649 00		
“ Barrie	1528 55	Total	\$12239 39
“ Owen Sound	313 25		

N.B.—These are the nett amounts due on the 1st October, 1879, including special claims, etc., passed at this meeting, particulars of which are here given:—

PRESBYTERY OF QUEBEC—

Valcartier,—extra claim of \$24,—disallowed.

Hampden,—the supplement not to be paid till all arrears of stipend are paid.

PRESBYTERY OF LANARK AND RENFREW—

Mattawa,—claim of \$15, expenses of Presbytery's Deputy,—allowed.

PRESBYTERY OF PETERBOROUGH—

Warsaw, etc.,—the supplement not to be paid till all arrears of stipend are paid.

PRESBYTERY OF BARRIE—

Collingwood Mountain, etc.,—claim of \$4.50, overlooked in March,—allowed.

Rosseau,—claim of \$45, overlooked in March,—allowed.

Maganetawan,—claim of \$32, missionary's moving expenses,—disallowed.

Rev. A. Findlay,—the Committee made a special grant of \$100, to meet expenses incurred in the work of superintending the missions in the Muskoka District.

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PRESBYTERY OF CHATHAM—

Florence and Dawn,—claim of \$50 for past six months,—disallowed.

PRESBYTERY OF BRUCE—

Manitoulin Island,—claim of \$820, balance of salary due Rev. H. McKay to 1st September, 1879. The Committee agreed to pay \$500, and appointed Mr. Tolmie to visit the Island to obtain from the people the remaining sum.

It appearing that several of the Supplemented Congregations and Mission Stations have neglected to contribute to the Schemes of the Church, the Committee resolved that none of the claims made for the past six months for Supplemented Congregations that are not contributing to the Schemes be paid until the Treasurer receives from such Congregations a contribution to the Home Mission Fund. The Committee further resolved, that the attention of Presbyteries be directed to the injunction of the Assembly requiring Mission Stations to contribute to the Home Mission Fund.

 LAKE SUPERIOR FIELDS.

I.—THUNDER BAY.

Rev. D. McKerracher continues to labour here with success, his services being highly appreciated by the people. In addition to his regular work at Prince Arthur's Landing and Fort William, he holds frequent meetings at outlying points.

II.—SAULT STE. MARIE.

A communication was received from Rev. J. R. McLeod, notifying the Committee that he intended to withdraw from this field next spring. The matter was left in the hands of the Sub-Committee, to take such action as they may deem advisable.

III.—SILVER ISLET.

In accordance with the desire of the people it was agreed to discontinue supply to this field for the ensuing winter.

MANITOBA.

REV. D. ROSS AND PRINCE ALBERT MISSION.

A letter was read from Rev. D. Ross, dated Selkirk, Manitoba, 27th September, stating that he and his family had reached that point on their way to Prince Albert, but, that owing to ill-health and other causes he had been unable to proceed further, and forwarding medical certificates from Doctors Young, Agnew and Henderson.

The Committee resolved to express their deep sympathy with Mr. Ross in the painful circumstances in which, in the Providence of God, he is placed, and in relieving him from his appointment as Missionary to Prince Albert, do so in the hope that ere long his health may be fully restored, and that another sphere of usefulness may be opened up for him in the Master's vineyard.

The following were appointed a Committee to arrange the financial matters connected with Mr. Ross' Mission: Hon. A. Morris, Convener; Rev. G. Bruce and Mr. T. W. Taylor.

REPORT OF PRESBYTERY AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

Mr. D. C. Johnston, lately of Prince Albert, and Mr. A. Bell, of Portage la Prairie, being present, addressed the Committee as to the present condition and future prospects of the work in Manitoba.

There was laid on the table and read a report from the Home Mission Committee, of the Presbytery of Manitoba, containing a number of recommendations adopted by that Presbytery. These were considered *seriatim* by the Committee with the following result:—

1. It was agreed to empower the Presbytery of Manitoba to re-engage Messrs. J. S. Stewart, J. Scott, H. J. Borthwick, S. Donaldson, S. Polson, and J. Duncan for six months from 1st October, 1879.

2. Owing to the state of the Fund the Committee regret their inability at present to entertain the application to appoint Mr. Johnston to Nelsonville.

3. For the same reason the Committee are unable to appoint Missionaries for Beautiful Plains and Upper Little Saskatchewan districts.

4. It was agreed to sanction the temporary appointment of Mr. Duncan to Prince Albert, and to pay him while labouring in this field at the rate of \$600 per annum from the funds of the Committee, the balance of his salary to be made up by the people in the field.

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5. The Committee agreed to grant Little Britain and Selkirk \$300 per annum for a settled minister, provided the balance of his salary is contributed by the people.

6. The Committee express their gratification that the Presbytery have been able to secure the services of Rev. G. Roddick at Grand Valley, Assiniboine; Rev. D McRae at West Pembina Mountains, and Mr. Copeland, Catechist, at Shoal Lake, N.W.T, without expense to the Home Mission Fund.

7. That in regard to the claim made for a balance due Mr. Straith, the Committee delay action on the ground that the amount of the claim is not specified nor any particulars given in regard thereto.

8. It was agreed to refund Messrs Robertson, Hart, and Bryce the sum of \$123, advanced by them to Mr. J. S. Stewart, for mission services rendered about three years ago.

9. The Committee decline to sanction the payment by the Presbytery of \$250, out of the money collected by Rev. D. Ross, to Mr. Duncan for repairs on the school-house at Prince Albert, the money not being collected for this purpose.

10. The application for a second Missionary, unmarried, for the Canada Pacific Railway Line, whose entire salary (\$1000) is to be paid by the people was referred to the Sub-Committee.

11. The Committee declined to entertain the claim of the Presbytery for \$100, arrears due Mr. J. Scott of Emerson, etc.

12. The Presbytery in their last draft having included sums for Mission Services rendered by Messrs. McGregor and Grant, it was agreed to decline payment of these claims on the ground that the Committee has never sanctioned the appointment of these laborers and assumed no responsibility in connection therewith. It was further agreed to instruct the Treasurer to deduct the amounts asked for these gentlemen from the claims of the Manitoba Presbytery.

The following were appointed a Committee to consider the whole subject of the working of the Mission Fields in Manitoba, and the salaries of missionaries who may be hereafter appointed to that Presbytery, to report at the March meeting of the Committee: Messrs. King (convener), Bruce, Taylor, and McRae.

MISCELLANEOUS.

GRANT FROM IRISH CHURCH.

The Convener reported that he had received, and suitably acknowledged, a grant of £100 sterling from the Presbyterian Church of Ireland.

NEW CATECHISTS.

The name of Mr. Benjamin Jones was, on the recommendation of the Presbytery of Bruce, put on the list of Catechists, as also that of Mr. Wm. Clark, recommended by the Presbytery of Barrie.

MONEY TO BE REFUNDED.

The Treasurer was instructed to return to St. Andrew's Church, Kingston, a contribution of \$100, which was designed to aid in making up the 25 per cent. taken from the Kingston Presbytery's claims last April, but which was, by mistake, forwarded to Dr. Reid for the Home Mission Central Fund.

THE LATE DR. TOPP.

On motion of Mr. J. M. King, seconded by Mr. D. J. Macdonnell, the following resolution was adopted:—The Committee agrees to suspend its sitting from twelve to four o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, to enable its members to attend the funeral of the Rev. Dr. Topp, and in doing so it desires to record its deep sense of the great loss sustained by the Presbyterian Church in Canada by the removal of one so wise in Council, so indefatigable in labour, so consistent in life; and to tender its sympathy to the bereaved family.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Mr. G. Bruce gave notice that at next meeting of the Committee he would submit a motion anent bringing the magnitude and need of our North-West Mission work before the Home Churches.

SUB-COMMITTEE.

The following is the Sub-Committee to attend to all matters requiring action prior to the next meeting of the Committee: Dr. Cochrane, Messrs. King, Macdonnell, Warden, and Taylor.

STATE OF THE FUND.

The Convener reported the state of the Fund at this date as follows:—

Expenditure from 1st May to 1st October, 1879, including balance against the Fund at 1st May	\$16,000 00
Claims of Quebec and Ontario Presbyteries for past six months, passed at this Meeting	12,240 00
Total expenditure and liabilities, to 1st October, 1879...	28,240 00
Receipts from 1st May to 7th October, 1879.....	5,310 00
Balance against the Fund 7th October, 1879	<u>\$22,930 00</u>

The situation was discussed at great length, when, instead of proceeding to make grants for the ensuing year, the following resolution was adopted:—

Moved by Mr. T. W. Taylor, seconded by Mr. T. McCrae,

Whereas the indebtedness of the Fund at this date is the sum of \$23,000 and there are claims upon the Fund which the Committee are, by the instructions of the General Assembly, required to pay as preferential claims, which with the present indebtedness will exhaust the entire income expected by the Committee for the year, the Committee resolve not to proceed in making any appropriations for the next six months, the claims for which assent by Presbyteries amount to about \$12,000, but to adjourn until the last week in March next, and then to meet and distribute among the various Presbyteries of the Church in respect of mission work and supplements during the six months then past such moneys as the liberality of the Church may by that date have placed at the disposal of the Committee; provided always that the Committee may meet at an earlier date if the Convener see cause.

From this resolution Mr. Moodie dissented.

The Sub-Committee were instructed to issue a circular to the Ministers and Presbyteries of the Church embodying this resolution, and explaining the matter at length.

CLOSE.

The Committee adjourned at half-past ten o'clock on the evening of Wednesday, 8th October, and the meeting was closed with the Benediction.

ROBT. H. WARDEN,

Secretary.

WM. COCHRANE, D.D.,

Convener.

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