

JUNE, 1883.

MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE
HOME MISSION COMMITTEE
(WESTERN SECTION)

OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA,

LONDON, 14th, 19th, 20th and 21st June, 1883.

AT LONDON, and within the Vestry of St. Andrew's Church there, on Thursday, the 14th day of June, 1883, at 9 o'clock in the morning, the Home Mission Committee (Western Section) of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, met and was constituted with prayer. Rev. W. Cochrane, D.D., Convener. The Committee met again on 19th, 20th and 21st inst.

The following members were present:—Dr. Cochrane, Dr. King, Messrs. A. McGillivray, J. A. Carmichael, R. Campbell, (Renfrew), G. Burnfield, J. Cleland, E. Cockburn, D. J. Macdonnell, J. Somerville, W. T. McMullen, M. W. Maclean, J. H. Ratcliffe, J. Rennie, Hector Currie, R. Hamilton, J. Laing, Jas. Robertson and R. H. Warden, *Ministers*; and Mr. D. McKenzie, *Elder*.

MANITOBA.

CARROT RIVER.

The convener reported that after correspondence with Rev. Jas. Robertson, superintendent of missions, he had advanced \$100 additional to the Carrot River field. The action of the convener was sustained.

RAPID CITY.

Mr. Robertson reported that Rev. Jas. Douglas, recently in India, had been appointed for six months to Rapid City. The appointment was confirmed by the committee, and the grant continued as heretofore.

RAT PORTAGE.

The grant to Rat Portage was increased to \$250 per annum, from this date.

A claim of \$260 was presented by Dr. Collins, for expenses in connection with the supply of this field. The Presbytery of Manitoba having declined to recognize the claim, it was resolved not to grant it.

REGINA.

It was agreed that the grant to this field be at the rate of \$400 per annum.

BURNSIDE.

The grant was increased to \$200 per annum from the date of Mr. McKay's settlement there.

REV. J. SCOTT.

An application for a special claim of \$200 for Rev. J. Scott of West Lynne, was laid on the table till the October meeting of the committee.

REV. J. W. MITCHELL.

A communication from Mr. Mitchell asking payment of \$104 for services rendered was referred to the Presbytery of Manitoba, with instructions to report thereon at the October meeting of the committee.

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PRINCE ALBERT.

It was unanimously agreed to appoint the Rev. W. MacWilliam of Streetsville to Prince Albert, for a term of three years, at a salary of \$1400, in the hope that at least \$1000 per annum will be contributed by the field.

It was agreed to direct the attention of the Foreign Mission committee to the undesirability of asking Mr. Sinclair or any of the missionaries under the Home Mission committee, to undertake work in connection with the management of the mission property at Prince Albert.

APPOINTMENTS.

Messrs. D. S. McPherson, W. G. Mills and Jas. F. Smith, (students) were appointed to Manitoba for six months.

It was reported to the committee that Mr. Holmes, a graduate of Princeton, had gone to Manitoba to labor for six months, and that Mr. J. F. Dustin had declined the appointment of the committee made at its March meeting.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

CARRIBOO.

An application from Dr. Watt of Carriboo for the appointment of a missionary to this field was referred to the executive sub-committee.

NEW WESTMINSTER.

It was agreed at the request of Rev. R. Jamieson, to reduce the grant to St. Andrew's Church, New Westminister to \$500 per annum, from 1st July, 1883.

There was laid on the table and read a lengthened correspondence between the convener and parties in Victoria and New Westminister, in regard to the work in British Columbia, including the minutes of a recent meeting of the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, New Westminister as to its future presbyterial connection; as also a letter from the convener of the Colonial committee of the Church of Scotland, with the finding of the General Assembly of said Church in regard to British Columbia. After full consideration it

was agreed to present the following supplementary report to the General Assembly now in session :

Since the opening of the General Assembly a letter has been received from the Rev. Dr. Gray, convener of the Colonial committee of the Church of Scotland, intimating the decision of the General Assembly of that Church in regard to the work in British Columbia. Dr. Gray writes, "The Assembly left the matter to the people of British Columbia and to you to act upon as you pleased, giving power to us to continue grants in the meantime for behoof of Presbyterianism there. So your Assembly is perfectly free to act as you please. The great thing is not to split the Presbytery or Presbyterian congregations in British Columbia if this can possibly be avoided."

In view of this courteous and generous action on the part of the Church of Scotland, and in view of the difficulty of ascertaining the mind of the congregations in British Columbia, the Home Mission committee respectfully submit the following recommendations :—

I. That pending the union of all the Presbyterian congregations in British Columbia in one Presbytery there, the General Assembly place under the care of the Presbytery of Toronto the congregation of Pandora St. Church, Victoria, and any of the other congregations in British Columbia that may make application to be received into connexion with the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

II. That the Presbytery of Toronto be empowered to receive as ministers of this Church, the ministers of any of the Presbyterian congregations in British Columbia, on their making application and tabling the necessary Presbyterian certificates.

Further,—In connection with the report of the General Assembly's Deputy to British Columbia, the Home Mission committee have received the following communication :—

"To the Home Mission committee (Western Section) of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The undersigned ministers of the Presbyterian Church in British Columbia respectfully request your committee to append the following statement to Dr. Cochrane's report of his mission to this Province, when presented to and published by the General Assembly :—Whereas, Dr. Cochrane's report seems to imply that the chief reason, or one of the chief reasons, why our Church has not made greater progress in this Province is owing to dissensions amongst the ministers who have been or are now laboring here, we hereby desire most respectfully to submit that upon this point your Deputy must have been misinformed, or have misunderstood information given to him. While we have had our different views of some matters (such as is common everywhere) these have been mere incidents undeserving the prominence given them in reviewing the laborious work of so many years under discouragements so great. They have not hindered the progress of our work in our different fields of labour ; nor have they been

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calculated to hinder the parent churches doing more for the Province than they have done. We beg to state as our opinion that want of progress with our Church has been chiefly owing to the very backward and disappointing condition of the Province, and to the lack of a speedy and sufficient supply of ministers in the places of those who left us from time to time.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Signed, ROBERT JAMIESON, New Westminster

" B. K. McELMON, Comox.

" DANIEL GAMBLE, Victoria.

May, 1883."

While agreeing to lay the foregoing communication on the table of the General Assembly, the Home Mission committee deem it proper to direct attention to the only clause in the report of the Deputy, which appears to have a bearing on the matter complained of. It is as follows:—

"The present condition of Presbyterianism in the Province is not cheering. Much good has doubtless been done, but the results do not appear at all in proportion to the monies expended in past years by the Church of Scotland and the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Nor is there much room to hope for any change until one strong, united and harmonious working Presbytery is erected that will take the oversight of desolate and outlying districts, and endeavour to supply them with the means of grace. The existence of two separate Presbyterian churches in the Province, with two distinct Presbyteries, ought not for a moment to be entertained. This would simply perpetuate on a larger scale what has hitherto militated against progress in the past, involving a needless expenditure of means, and continuing a conflict of opinion and action on the part of individual ministers, belonging to the rival churches represented."

The Home Mission committee desire to record anew their entire confidence in the impartiality and accuracy of the Deputy's Report.

MUSKOKA.

SUPERVISION OF MISSION FIELD.

It was unanimously agreed to appoint Rev. A. Findlay to Huntsville, with supervision of the Muskoka mission field at a salary of \$1100 per annum together with manse or rented house, in the hope that the field will contribute about \$600 per annum, the appointment to date from 1st September next; and Messrs. Macdonell, Somerville, and Cockburn were appointed a sub-committee to aid Mr. Findlay in securing funds for the erection of a manse.

MISCELLANEOUS.

GRANT FROM CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

The convener reported that he had received and suitably acknowledged from the Colonial committee of the Church of Scotland a grant of £106 stg. for Home Mission work and also £50 stg. for Manitoba College.

EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE.

The following were appointed the executive sub-committee for the year:—Dr. Cochrane, Dr. King, Messrs. Macdonnell, Laing, Warden and Kilgour.

AUGMENTATION OF SALARIES SUB-COMMITTEE.

Dr. King, convener, Messrs. Warden, R. Campbell (Renfrew), Macdonnell, A. B. Mackay and Mitchell, were appointed a sub-committee to take charge of that part of the committee's work relating to supplemented congregations, with full power to take such action as to them may seem best in carrying out the General Assembly's finding in regard to the Augmentation of minister's salaries.

ROBT. H. WARDEN,
Secretary.

WM. COCHRANE,
Convener.

For extract minutes of the General Assembly on the Home Mission report and on the question of the augmentation of ministers' salaries, see the following pages.

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APPENDIX.

DELIVERANCES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
JUNE, 1883.

I. ON HOME MISSION REPORT.

(WESTERN SECTION.)

The General Assembly called for the report of the committees on the Home Missions of the Church. The report of the committee on Home Missions for the *Western Section* was presented by the convener, Dr. Cochrane.

It was moved, seconded and agreed to, as follows:—

That the General Assembly receive the report and thank the committee and especially the convener, for their valuable services. The General Assembly expresses its deep gratitude to the Head of the Church for the many cheering features connected with the Home Mission work during the past year, especially for the extension of the Church in the North-west; the success with which the Church and Manse Building Fund has been prosecuted by its trusted superintendent of missions; the increase of liberality among the people generally, and the great energy manifested by the Missionary Associations of the Colleges.

The General Assembly rejoices to learn that the parent churches recognize the claim on them that the new districts and Provinces of the Dominion have on account of the vastness of the work thrown on this Church, and the present large immigration to Canada from Great Britain and Ireland; and hereby conveys its thanks to the Church of Scotland for its grant of one hundred pounds (£100) for mission work in the North-west, and of fifty pounds (£50) for Manitoba College; and to the Church of Ireland for renewed and generous assistance both to the eastern and western sections of its Home Mission committee.

In view of the special expenses connected with ministerial labour in the North-west, the Assembly empowers the committee to raise the salaries of missionaries labouring there, should the state of the funds warrant, and also to take immediate steps to provide ministerial supply for the fields that will be left vacant in a few months.

The Assembly records its profound satisfaction with the attitude taken by the Church of Scotland, towards the congregations in British Columbia connected with it, and, instructing the committee to do nothing to imperil the unity of Presbyterianism in that Province, confidently leaves the matter in its hands.

The General Assembly took up a supplementary report from the Home Mission Committee, western section, relating to the Church in British Columbia, and the visit of Dr. Cochrane there during last year, giving details of the condition of churches in that Province, and closing with the expression of the committee's entire confidence in the impartiality and accuracy of Dr. Cochrane's report in the discharge of the duty laid upon him by last Assembly, to inquire into various matters affecting the interest of the Church in that remote Province. The report was received and its recommendations being considered, were adopted.

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II. ON AUGMENTATION OF STIPENDS.

The following is the deliverance of the General Assembly :

"The General Assembly is deeply impressed with the duty of putting forth the most strenuous efforts for the better support of the Ministry, so that, if possible, a minimum stipend of not less than seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750) with a manse, shall be secured.

"The Assembly deems it inexpedient to pronounce in favour of the principle of a Supplementary rather than a Sustainment Scheme, yet considering that our past working has been in the line of Supplement, the General Assembly instructs the Home Mission committee for the Western Section of the Church, and the committee on Supplements in the Eastern Section, to use their best endeavours to put into operation the Scheme of Augmentation presented to the Assembly last year,—*except* that the extent of Supplements of ministers in the North-West shall be regulated by the action of the General Assembly on the Home Mission Report ; and, with the further exception that the second regulation, clause (d), be expunged, and that the fifth regulation read as follows,—“That the general principle of the distribution of this Surplus fund shall be an equal dividend to the ministers of the supplemented congregations on the list, to the extent of seven hundred and fifty dollars, (\$750) and a manse, but that beyond this amount the committees be empowered to recognise exceptional liberality on the part of any of the Supplemented congregations.”

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"The Assembly thus hopes to be able next year to bring a valuable increase of experience to bear upon this great interest of the Church, with the view of improving said scheme of Augmentation, or of preparing the way for the harmonious introduction of another scheme towards which our experience shall be found to point.

"Further, the Eastern and Western committees are instructed to take measures to bring the whole subject of the better support of the ministry before the several Presbyteries and congregations of the Church, in order to awaken such an interest in the matter as shall result in a large increase of the funds available for carrying out the object of the scheme; and that in the administration of the Scheme, respect shall be had to any obligations as to ministerial support incurred by Presbyteries for the current year."

The Scheme as adopted by the General Assembly is as follows:

1. The list of supplemented congregations shall embrace only such charges as have pastors duly called by the people, and inducted by the Presbytery, and as in the judgment of the Presbytery, are entitled to assistance in the support of the ministry.
2. Congregations to be placed on the list shall contribute towards the salary of their minister at least \$400 and a manse or rented house, or make an allowance of \$50 towards house rent; they shall also contribute at the rate of not less than \$4.50 per member in full communion for ministerial support, and contribute in addition to the schemes of the Church.
 - (a) In the case of congregations in which the families reported as connected with the congregation are more numerous than the members in full communion, the contribution shall be at the rate of not less than \$4.50 per *family*.
 - (b) In calculating the rate of contribution per communicant, the congregation providing a manse or rented house shall be credited with \$50 in addition to the amount of salary paid.
 - (c) Congregations having at present settled pastors, and so situated as to forbid the application of the rule requiring a minimum contribution of \$400 and manse, and a minimum rate of \$4.50 per communicant, shall be admitted to a place on the list, on a lower scale of payment to be afterwards determined; the committee acting in conjunction with Presbyteries to prepare a list of such congregations and to submit it to the General Assembly for approval.
3. That all congregations on the list be supplemented so as to make the salary in the first place \$600 and a manse or rented house,

or allowance for the same, and that the supplement be paid in semi-annual payments in the beginning of April and October of each year.

4. That the income which remains at the disposal of the committee when the treasurer's books are made up for the year, shall, after leaving a certain sum as a working balance, be constituted the surplus fund; it being the aim of the committee to secure such an income for the fund as shall make a *full* share in this surplus not less than \$150.

5. That the general principle of the distribution of this surplus fund shall be an equal dividend to the ministers of the supplemented congregations on the list, to the extent of \$750 per annum and a manse; but that beyond this amount, the committee be empowered to recognise exceptional liberality on the part of any of the supplemented congregations.

6. No congregation shall receive from the fund more than \$300, and for the present no salary shall by participation in the surplus fund be made larger than \$750 and manse, except in towns and cities, where it may be impossible to effect an advantageous settlement on the ordinary terms. Any balance arising from this provision to be carried forward to the fund for the following year.

7. That the amount of aid to be given to congregations on the list when *vacant*, be afterwards determined. Such aid to be limited to congregations contributing less than \$600 for salary when having settled pastors.

8. That the fund be composed of contributions made by congregations and individual members expressly for supplementing purposes, and in the meantime of also a definite proportion of the Home Mission contributions of congregations which prefer continuing to give for both purposes (mission work in new or destitute districts and supplement of pastors' salaries) in one sum; the proportion to be determined in view of the estimates submitted to and approved by the General Assembly for the two departments of work.

NOTE.—In the event of the Church signifying its approval of this scheme, the committee recommends the General Assembly to take steps to collect from some of the more able and liberal members of the Church, such an amount as will enable the scheme for increased ministerial support to be begun with a good working balance.
