

Religious Intelligencer.

THAT GOD IN ALL THINGS MAY BE GLORIFIED THROUGH CHRIST.—Peter

FREDERICTON N. B., OCTOBER 16 1901

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THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Sixty-Ninth Annual Session.

(CONTINUED.)

DAY.—At 9 a. m. the business conference was taken up again. F. G. Francis, Assistant Moderator, was in the chair. There was prayer by Rev. J. T. Parsons. Roll-call, and reading of minutes. Election of Moderator for the year was proceeded with. Voting resulted in the election of David Long Moderator, and F. G. Francis Assistant Moderator. Bro. Long, who had gone home Sunday, not having yet arrived, was taken by Rev. F. G. Francis. The Secretary of Conference presented a report of the meeting of the Conference Executive Committee to report:

That at a meeting of the Executive held at Hampstead on the 10th day, 1900, the minutes of which were published in the Year Book. Two other meetings were held during the year—at the latter held on account of the prevalence of the holding of the present Annual Conference was changed from Waterville, Maine to Marystown, New Brunswick, where the Conference is assembled. Rev. David Patterson, at his own request, was granted dismission for purpose of joining the Free Baptist General Conference of Nova Scotia. Report adopted.

Corresponding Secretary presented the following report:

The Corresponding Secretary begs to report that, in accordance with the action given him by Resolution of the last annual session of Conference, he did on the 17th of October, 1900, present a petition to the national Secretary praying for the resignation of the ordained ministers in Conference, under the provisions of an act relating to the organization of marriage, and that the registration was made, and the license issued.

Report adopted.

Prof. Anthony, representative of the General Conference of Baptists of the United States, heard concerning the invitation to Conference of New Brunswick to be a member of the body he reported. He told of the recent session of his Conference at Harper's, W. Va. Explaining the substance of the invitation, he said for cooperation. We are one in different parts of the continent. Free Baptists are, he said, so numerous that they should support each other. We have the same heritage, and are dedicated from the same great ideas and principles. Membership in the General Conference would, he thought, be an acknowledgment of our unity. We ask for uniformity; we cannot have that. Combination is the spirit of the time. Those near alike should be one. The Free Baptists of New Brunswick have, he said, been cooperating with us in Foreign missions for many years. It does not require anything to administer the field; you just contribute your share towards the mission work. If you were a member of the General Conference you would get representation on the F. M. Board. He spoke of the publications of the United Free Baptists. Every church, he said, recognizes the importance of children right beliefs. Roman Catholics are adepts at it and they profit by it. The Sunday School is the right arm of the church. Free Baptist S. schools are our publication house. We also, he said, facilities for equipping young men for the ministry. You have no school. Ours is the only F. M. school for you; it is near you. Do not count it yours? We do not expect you to make any payment. You come to us; we welcome them; we try to train them as we do our own. We try to send them back to you. If some of them have not returned to you it was because you could not sustain them. He spoke of the work done by the Field Agent of the

U. S. Conference, and by Mrs. Griffin who devotes her time, by Conference direction, to encouraging missionary interest in the churches, and thought, in the event of uniting with their Conference, we might be glad to have them come our way.

A committee, consisting of brethren F. C. Hartley, A. Perry, Jos. McLeod, F. G. Francis, G. A. Hartley and G. McLeod, was appointed to consider and report upon the invitation.

Rev. F. G. Francis, for the Nominating Committee, presented a report: Committee on Absent Brethren—Revs. C. B. Lewis, H. Hartt and H. A. Bonnell, and brethren John Smith, G. W. Perry, S. Crandlenire and Chas. Savage.

Com. on Collections—Revs. J. Henderson, J. J. Barnes and S. J. Perry.

Com. on Deceased Brethren—Revs. C. T. Phillips, B. H. Nobles, G. Swin, J. Noble and J. Perry.

Com. on Appeals—Revs. J. B. Daggett, A. Perry and J. N. Barnes, and brethren J. E. Good and J. McCutcheon.

Com. on Correspondence—Revs. M. L. Gregg, A. D. Paul and A. H. McLeod and brethren A. E. Slipp and E. White.

Com. on District Meetings—Revs. A. W. Currie, L. A. Fenwick, F. S. Hartley, A. J. Prosser, A. D. Paul and H. A. Bonnell.

Home Missions Executive.—Rev. F. G. Francis, Cor. Sec.; W. Peters, Treas.; Revs. D. Long, A. D. Paul, Dr. Hartley and H. A. Bonnell and G. W. Perry.

Foreign Missions Executive.—Rev. B. H. Nobles, Cor. Sec.; E. W. Slipp, Treas.; Revs. Dr. McLeod, C. T. Phillips, A. W. Currie, F. S. Hartley and G. Swin.

Sunday Schools Executive.—Rev. M. L. Gregg, Cor. Sec.; Rev. E. S. Parker, J. E. McCready, C. W. Weyman and N. Everleigh.

Sick and Aged Ministers Executive.—Gideon McLeod, Treas.; Revs. Dr. Hartley, O. N. Mott, A. J. Prosser, H. Hartt and W. H. Perry.

Board of Managers.—Rev. Dr. Hartley, B. S. Palmer, Geo. McLeod, A. C. Smith, J. E. Good and E. J. Clarke.

Com. on Literature—Rev. G. W. Foster, G. Swin, J. B. Daggett, and C. B. Lewis.

Com. on Education.—Revs. F. C. Hartley, L. A. Fenwick, J. J. Barnes, S. J. Perry and A. A. Rideout.

Com. on Sabbath.—Revs. A. H. McLeod, T. O. DeWitt, I. D. Harvey and Wm. DeWare.

Com. on Temperance.—Revs. C. T. Phillips, T. S. VanWart, L. A. Cosman, T. W. Carpenter and J. Perry.

Delegate to Nova Scotia Conference.—Rev. W. H. Perry; substitute, Rev. H. A. Bonnell.

Report adopted.

Rev. A. J. Prosser, for the committee on the Sabbath, presented the following report:

Your committee on the Sabbath beg leave to report,—

(1) That there is a growing tendency to disregard God's law as to the observance of his Holy day, by making it a day of festivity and pleasure.

(2) Organized efforts are being made in St. John by the Lord's Day Alliance to secure better enforcement of the Sabbath laws.

(3) This Conference heartily endorses the action of the Alliance in its efforts to prosecute the violators of Sabbath law, and hereby express our sympathy with their work and efforts; and, also, recommend that so important a matter should receive more general attention from us and merits the cooperation of our people throughout the province.

(4) The Conference views with regret and apprehension the persistent encroachment upon the Sabbath by the running of Sunday trains and boats, as well as the holding of picnics, excursions, etc., as not only being evils in themselves, but ominous of a tendency to destroy the sanctity of the Holy day. We hereby express our strong disapproval of such actions.

Business was resumed at 1.30 p. m., Rev. F. G. Francis in the chair. Prayer by Rev. A. W. Currie. After outline, the report on the Sabbath was further considered and adopted.

Rev. F. C. Hartley, for the committee on education, presented the following report:

(1) Your committee note with pride and devout thanksgiving the number of bright, intelligent, consecrated young men who are year by year entering the ministry in connection with our Conference.

It is also a pleasure to notice that, with few exceptions, these young men are anxious to prepare themselves for the best service in the work to which they have given their lives.

(2) Your committee also note with

satisfaction the practical interest taken in our student preachers by the Young People's league, and we gladly commend the young people in this good work, and hope for its continuation and extension.

(3) Your committee desire to commend to our young men the University of New Brunswick at Fredericton as a suitable institution in which they may pursue their studies in art.

(4) We also recommend Cobb Divinity school at Lewiston, Maine, as a suitable institution in which they may pursue their studies in Divinity.

(4) At present there are ten men connected with the churches of this Province, having in view the ministry, in attendance at different institutions of learning in this province and in the United States. Bros. S. J. Case, at Yale and W. C. Keirstead at Chicago are continuing their studies; bros. Rideout, Knowlin, W. O. Keirstead, Wilson and Cochrane are at the U. N. B.; bro. Geo. Bolster is at the High School at F'ion; bros. Dunfield, Kirkpatrick and Milbury are at the institutions at Lewiston.

Sections of the report three and four were discussed at some length. The report was adopted.

The Moderator-elect, Rev. David Long, having arrived, was introduced by the Ex-Moderator, W. H. Perry. He briefly thanked the Conference for the honour done him, and asked the cooperation of his brethren.

The report of the committee to whom was referred the invitation of General Conference of the United States, was presented by Rev. F. C. Hartley, as follows:

1. The Conference appreciates the existing cordial fraternal relations with the Free Baptist brethren in the United States, and hopes such relations may continue.

2. That beyond fraternal relations as now existing the Conference does not believe it wise to go.

Report adopted.

Rev. F. A. Currier, of the Massachusetts Association, was invited to a seat.

At 3 p. m. the Conference adjourned to meet in the Hall a half-hour later, allowing the church to be occupied by the Woman's Mission Society public meeting.

The Conference went into committee on licentiates. At 6 p. m. the committee reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

Adjourned.

Conference re-assembled at 7.30 p. m. The Moderator presided. Prayer by Dr. McLeod. After routine the Treasurer of Conference, bro. James Patterson, presented his report. Referred to the Auditor.

The report of the Treasurer for Foreign Missions, bro. E. W. Slipp, was presented. Referred to the Auditor.

FOREIGN MISSIONS REPORT.

Rev. C. T. Phillips, Cor. Sec. for Foreign Missions, presented the following:

The year's Foreign Mission work has consisted of a few missionary sermons preached, prayers offered for missions and missionaries, and prayer to the Lord of the harvest that He would give us two millionaries. Perhaps one reason why our prayers for missionaries have not been answered, is that we have limited God to two.

The reason why the Treasurer's report shows that little money has been collected may be due to the fact that we have had no missionary from our own land to support, and that to many this may have seemed reason for not contributing money for missionary purposes. That such a thought is a wrong one can be easily shown. There are channels into which all the money that could have been collected might have been turned to advantage, and our money would have been our missionary.

Many of our brethren may have cherished the thought that since the Woman's M. Society has a missionary and native workers, and supports them easily and well, that their obligations to support missions were ended when "the woman thou gavest me" had done her work. There are men, doubtless who believe that the christian zeal and goodness of their wives will save them, and that they will hear the "Well done, good and faithful servant," because their wives have been good and faithful servants. There are men, too, who believe, or try to believe, that all the money their wives and daughters give to missions, or other purposes, comes out of their pockets. Such men forget that one June morning they stood before a minister of God and solemnly said, as if they meant it, "With all my goods I thee endow." And they forget, as well, that it is quite as much her economy and hard work that have given him his goods, as his own work and care.

We commend and congratulate our sisters on the success of their work. We commend our young people for what they have done and plan to do for missions, and we congratulate them

that they have a missionary-elect whom they purpose to support when she is fitted for the foreign field. But let us not forget that neither the sisters nor the young people can do our work.

The Executive for Foreign Missions suggests—

1. That our pulpits more frequently direct the attention of the people to the importance of missionary work, and that the homes, churches, Sunday schools of our denomination be well supplied with missionary literature.

2. That missionary prayer-meetings be held monthly.

3. That public mission meetings be held in all the churches, and that neighbouring pastors assist each other in such meetings.

And may we all pray as we have never prayed before so that before the next report shall be read God shall give us missionaries and that our little faith shall not limit the number.

Rev. Jos. McLeod made a brief address, pointing out that mission work is the business of the Christian Church.

Prof. Anthony followed in an interesting speech. The needy one, whether at home or abroad, is the one to whom we owe such help as we can give. Some want to concentrate work on the home field till all is done that needs to be, and then turn attention to the foreign field. We cannot do that way; we must carry on all branches of the work at once. Giving reasons for undertaking foreign missions, he said, —Christ's commandment makes it our duty. The commission is as wide as the race. The commandment is as definite as that concerning repentance, faith, baptism &c. Obedience to Christ's commandment is the condition on which Spirit will come to us. All the teaching of history confirms the wisdom and necessity of evangelizing the world by missionaries. The human need is for missionary teachers. Books, tracts &c are good, but are not enough. There must be the living teacher. The work is for us to do. We have what all men must have to be saved. He then spoke of what the Free Baptists of the United States are undertaking in Africa, telling of their missionary there, Rev. Lewis P. Clinton, the son of an African chieftain. He spent twelve or more years in the Free Baptist Schools in the United States, and is now at work among his own people in Africa, and his work has been adopted as a Free Baptist mission. He is, said Prof. Anthony, a modern miracle. His tribe is in the interior of Liberia. He has established a station, and is gathering the people about him and teaching them. He wants a white missionary to join him. The Lord lead us all to the fullness of the work He has for us to do.

Rev. Gideon Swin said we should humble ourselves before the Lord and ask His forgiveness for our neglect of this work. We need not expect large blessing until we are obedient to our Lord.

Rev. D. Long spoke of the readiness, even eagerness, of our young men in responding to the call for volunteers for South African service. We honour them for it. Should not christians be even more eager to respond to the Lord's call for workers in His field. Perhaps we have not yet asked the Lord in earnest for labourers.

Rev. T. O. DeWitt did not agree with the suggestion of somebody that the responsibility for small work is on the ministers. They are, most of them, doing the best they can. And yet they need help in this matter.

Rev. C. T. Phillips spoke of the suggestions of the report. They may have been made before, but do not seem to have been regarded by the churches. In our praying for missionaries we seem to be limiting God, asking for just two. We are afraid, perhaps, that unless we are careful to limit the number asked for, God may send us more than we can support.

The report was adopted.

The Secretary read a letter from the Corresponding Secretary of the Dominion Alliance. It was referred to the committee on temperance.

The report of the committee on absent brethren was presented by Rev. A. H. Bonnell. The report mentioned that the absentees were Revs. J. S. Jones, T. W. Carpenter, W. DeWare, J. W. Clarke, C. F. Rideout, J. A. Robertson, J. H. Erb, S. J. Case and W. C. Keirstead. The last two are pursuing their studies; the others were prevented from attending by age or ill health, and were excused.

Rev. F. S. Hartley presented the report of the committee to prepare a

memorial page for the Year Book, giving information additional to that which appeared in the last Year Book.

Rev. J. B. Daggett reported for the Committee on Appeals that nothing had come before them.

Adjourned.

TUESDAY.—The Conference met at 9 a. m. The Moderator in the chair. Singing and Scripture lesson. Prayer by Rev. T. S. VanWart. Roll call. Minutes. Rev. F. S. Hartley was appointed auditor pro tem.

Bro. C. W. Weyman, on behalf of the church at Lower Millstream, K. Co., invited the Conference to hold the next session there, or if the Conference preferred a later time, then whenever the Conference thinks it wise. The change of the Conference session of this year from Waterville to Marystown was considered. The result of the talk was that the Conference voted that the place of holding the next session be left with the Executive, and that the Corresponding Secretary be instructed to write the Waterville church explaining fully the action of the Executive in making the change this year.

The Secretary, according to notice given last year, moved to re-enact by-law 1 of the Conference. It reads thus: "The annual session of this Conference shall commence on the Saturday of or preceding the full moon nearest the first day of October in each year."

Carried.

The report on District Meetings was presented by Rev. A. W. Currie. It states the time and place of holding each District Meeting and the ministers to attend in certain cases.

Rev. J. T. Parsons, for the committee on Course of Study reported progress and asked that the committee be permitted to report again next year. Leave granted.

The Treasurer of the Student's Fund, Rev. B. H. Nobles, reported a balance of \$47.07 in the treasury.

Rev. C. T. Phillips presented the following report of the committee on deceased brethren:

Your committee have to report the death of one minister, Rev. George Fraser Currie. Bro. Currie was born at Kingsley, York Co. on the 10th day of July, 1861. He was ordained a minister of this Conference at Carleton, St. John, Oct. 9th 1886. He died in Boston, April 13th 1901. He was pastor at Tracy Mills, Fredericton Junction, Moncton, Norton and some other places in this Province. In October 1900 he became pastor at Cheogoggin, N. S. His last year was his best. He held special meetings with his churches, and a large number were converted and baptized. Bro. Currie leaves a widow and three children to the care of his brethren, as far as that can be extended. The measure of our love for our departed brother will be shown by the sympathy and help we are ready to give those whom he so tenderly loved.

Bro. Currie possessed more than ordinary ability and strength of character. He took an active part in the work of Conference and helped to shape its thought and action. He was frank and honest in maintaining what he believed to be right, and had courage to take the chance of being misunderstood, and to even suffer loss of friends for Jesus' sake.

We miss our brother. His strong, true friendship, his sweet spirit, his quaint consecrated humour will not be forgotten. To our bereaved sister and the dear children we extend heartfelt sympathy and the assurance that we are mourners with her.

HOME MISSIONS.

The Corresponding Secretary for Home Missions, Rev. L. A. Fenwick, presented the following report:

We have come to the close of another denominational year and the Executive of Home Missions desires to place before you a summary of the business done during the year.

The Executive have held seven meetings during the year one at Hartland, one at Fredericton, one at Marystown.

The Executive has endeavoured to do the best possible with the funds at its disposal.

In the 1st District your Board was unable to secure the services of a man to settle on the Tobique field for the year. Lic. H. M. Manzer supplied this field until Jan. 1st.

We also secured the labor of Rev. J. F. Parsons for two months during the summer. The cause is very low on this field.

Your Board are pleased to say that they were able to secure the labour of Rev. M. L. Gregg on the Bath pastorate. The work accomplished on this field during the year has been highly satisfactory to the Board.

In the 2nd Dist., the Board has made no grants.

In the 3rd Dist., a grant was made to the Staple Sett., Hainesville field over which Rev. S. J. Perry had pastoral care.

The Stanley—Bloomfield pastorate also received a grant. Rev. T. S. VanWart ministered to these churches during the year. In the 4th Dist., the work of the Board was put on the Upper Gagetown field. Lic. W. O. Keirstead laboured with this people for the greater part of the summer. In his report of his work he says that 2 were baptized at Greenfield and that there are others awaiting baptism.

In the 5th Dist., a grant has been made the Belleisle Bay pastorate which has had the pastoral care of Rev. C. B. Lewis.

In the 6th Dist., assistance has been given to the Moncton field which has had as pastor Rev. G. Swin, who reports a good years work on his pastorate.

In the 7th Dist., your Board deemed it advisable in response to the felt need of the cause on Deer Island to send Lic. F. Knollin there during the Easter vacation. His labour was appreciated by the people.

A grant was also made to the Grand Harbour, Seal Cove field which has had the care of Rev. A. H. McLeod.

A grant was also made to the North Head, Castalia churches which had five months labour from Lic. E. H. C. chrane.

Looking back over the year we feel that results have been fairly satisfactory yet we cannot judge definitely the outcome. It is ours to leave the results with the Lord of the harvests praying that he shall turn them to His glory.

Respectfully submitted.

Brethren McLeod, Prosser, Fenwick, Daggett and Harvey spoke to the report, urging an enlargement of home mission work.

The report of the Treasurer for Home Missions, Rev. J. W. Clarke, was presented by Rev. L. A. Fenwick. Referred to the Auditor.

At 1.30 p. m. business was resumed. Prayer by Rev. A. Perry.

Rev. John Henderson presented the report on collections.

Bro. Gideon McLeod, Treasurer of Aged and Sick Ministers' Fund, presented his report. Referred to the Auditor.

Rev. G. Swin, for the committee on literature, presented the following:

Recognizing that character is largely moulded by that which is read, we urge that great care be exercised in the choice of the literature which is put into our churches and homes.

The hymn book which has recently been adopted by the Conference should as speedily as possible be introduced into all our churches, that there may be uniformity.

We advise that care be exercised that no quarterlies or papers be admitted to our Sunday schools which teach doctrines contrary to those held by us as a denomination.

Again we express our hearty approval of the RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER as our denominational paper, and earnestly request all our brethren to do all in their power to extend its circulation and to guard and further its interests generally.

On motion it was resolved that the General Conference Executive be authorized to make arrangements by which the INTELLIGENCER may be still more widely circulated amongst our people.

The Board of Managers' report was presented by Rev. Dr. Hartley. The report said:

The business of the Conference entrusted to the Board has been attended to in the usual way. There has been no necessity for calling a meeting of the full Board during the year. The business done was done by a committee consisting of the Treasurer and Secretary. The general outlook of the denomination in the matter of such property as churches and parsonages is gratifying. Each year new meeting houses and parsonages are erected. We cherish the hope that in the near future every church in the denomination will have a good house of worship, and that each pastorate will have a comfortable home for the pastor.

The Treasurer of the Board of Managers, bro. B. S. Palmer, submitted his report. Referred to the Auditor.

Rev. L. A. Cosman presented the report of the committee on temperance:

The temperance reform moves on. It must, in the very nature of things. No question is settled until it is settled right. The temperance question in this country is, therefore, not settled. The destiny of this cause is the entire and eternal prohibition of the rum traffic. Shall we help to bring it to pass? Then, let us give renewed activity and energy to the principles which the denomination has again and again declared in church covenant and by oft repeated resolutions of Conference, which, if carried out would mean that every Free Baptist is (a) a total abstainer from intoxicants, and (b) that he gives his positive influence to

(Continued on fifth page)