

# Religious Intelligencer.

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

FREDERICTON N. B., OCTOBER 9 1901

WHOLE No. 2523

XLIX.—NO 41.

## THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

### Sixty-Ninth Annual Session.

The sixty-ninth annual session of the Brunswick Conference of Free Churches was held at Marysville, beginning on Friday last.

The first meeting was that of the Ministers' Conference, which occupied the morning and afternoon. It is occupied with matters of interest peculiarly to the ministers. It is held for the ministers to meet in person, and talk over their experience in the work of the year.

This year the joy of meeting was tempered with sadness because one of our ministers, Rev. G. F. Currie, who was last year had come from us to no more. His brethren loved and he was missed. Tender references were made to him, and the following was ordered to be entered on the minutes of the Ministers' Conference:

The reported churches have nine thousand and one (9001) members. If the estimate of late years has been correct, the unreported churches number forty-one (41), with a membership of three thousand (3,000), or even more. As there is uncertainty about them, this report will not deal with them, further than to suggest that the Conference would do well to take steps towards having an absolutely correct record of churches and their membership.

By Districts, the number of churches reported, and their members, are as follows:

1st Dis., 12 churches, with 284 members
2nd " 24 " " 1759 "
3rd " 12 " " 1316 "
4th " 14 " " 1051 "
5th " 16 " " 822 "
6th " 22 " " 1565 "
7th " 15 " " 2204 "

The one hundred and fifteen (115) reported churches average seventy-eight (78) members each.

The average church membership by Districts is, 1st Dis., 24; 2nd, 73; 3rd, 110; 4th, 75; 5th, 51; 6th, 71; 7th, 146.

Additions to membership are reported by thirty-nine (39) churches, the additions aggregating two hundred and ninety (290). Losses aggregating two hundred and fourteen (214) are reported by seventy-four (74) churches. Twenty-eight (28) churches had neither gain nor loss of members.

The baptisms reported are two hundred and twenty-three (223)—twenty-seven (27) more than last year. The baptisms are reported by thirty-five (35) churches, some in every District.

Twenty-nine (29) churches show net gains, aggregating two hundred and nineteen (219); fifty-four (54) churches show net losses, aggregating one hundred and forty-four (144); thirty-two (32) churches have the same number of members as last year.

Four Districts (the First, Second, Third and Seventh) have a net gain of one hundred and fifty-six (156) members; three Districts (the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth) have a net loss of one hundred and thirty-two (132) members. The net gain for the year in the reported churches is eighty-seven (87)—forty-seven (47) less than last year.

PREACHING. Six (6) of the churches have preaching twice every Sunday; twenty-nine (29), once every Sunday; fifty-nine (59), fortnightly; eight (8), monthly; one (1) three times a month; four (4) occasionally; and eight (8) not at all.

CONFERENCES AND PRAYER MEETINGS. In sixty-nine (69) churches the monthly conference has been maintained.

Ninety-one (91) churches have regular prayer meetings. Only fifty-eight (58) of them are mid-week meetings; twenty-nine (29) are on Sunday only, several of them being fortnightly; three (3) are held occasionally; one is a monthly meeting. Twenty-four (24) churches have no regular prayer meeting. Of the churches that have no prayer meetings, eighteen (18) have pastors.

Missionary prayer meetings are reported by eleven churches—ten less than last year.

Twenty-six (26) Young People's Societies are reported, being an increase of six (6) over last year. There are Societies in all the Districts but the Fifth.

THE LORD'S SUPPER. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper has been observed in sixty-two (62) churches. In twelve (12) churches it has been observed every month; in three (3) bi-monthly; in eight (8) quarterly; in three (3) three times in the year; in three (3) twice; in sixteen (16) once; and in seventeen (17) "occasionally." Fifty-three (53) churches have, evidently, not had this ordinance administered during the year—thirty-seven (37) of them being churches with pastors.

REVIVALS. Thirty-six (36) churches report revivals.

Gain in spiritual life is reported by forty-three (43) churches; fourteen (14) have suffered loss; and

fifty-eight (58) think they have had neither gain nor loss.

MINISTERS. At the close of the last session of Conference there were on the roll of ministers forty-six (46) ordained, and nine (9) licentiates.

During the year one minister—Rev. G. F. Currie, died. Suitable record will be made by the Conference of the life and labors of our departed brother.

Rev. D. Patterson has been transferred to the Nova Scotia Conference.

Nine (9) ministers—Revs. J. A. Robertson, C. F. Rideout, J. H. Erb, E. S. Parker, W. C. Keirstead, and S. J. Case, and Licentiates Kirkpatrick, Saunders and Milbury—have been out of the country.

Rev. E. S. Parker having finished his College course has returned to the Province, and is ready for work.

Licentiate Saunders has completed his course at the Bible School and is now a pastor in Maine.

Rev. W. C. Keirstead is continuing his studies at the Chicago University, and Rev. S. J. Case is studying at Yale. Licentiates Kirkpatrick and Milbury are still at Cobb Divinity School. The absence from the Province of Revs. J. A. Robertson, J. H. Erb and C. F. Rideout is due to ill health.

The number of ordained ministers now on the Conference roll is forty-four (44); there are, also, five (5) Conference licentiates, and eight (8) District Meeting licentiates.

Several of the ministers, by reason of age or ill-health, are not able to do pastoral work, and one is editor of the denominational paper.

Thirty (30) ordained ministers and six (6) licentiates were pastors during the year.

Several ministers who were not pastors preached with more or less frequency. Rev. J. Noble, the oldest minister in the Conference, has this year, as in previous years, visited churches, speaking words of counsel and comfort.

PASTORS. Of the reported churches ninety-nine (99) had pastors. Their pastors and the number of the reported churches cared for by each were, by Districts, as follows:

1st Dis.—Rev. M. L. Gregg, 6 churches; Licentiate Manzer, 2 churches (partial).

2nd Dis.—Revs. T. O. DeWitt, A. W. Currie, and J. B. Daggett, 5 churches each; Rev. L. A. Fenwick, 4 churches; Revs. W. DeWare and J. W. Clarke, 2 churches each.

3rd Dis.—Revs. J. J. Barnes and G. W. Foster, 3 churches each; Rev. S. J. Perry, 2 churches; Revs. T. S. VanWart, F. C. Hartley, and A. D. Paul and Licen. Rideout, 1 church each.

4th Dis.—Rev. J. N. Barnes, 5 churches; Rev. O. N. Mott, 3 churches; Licen. Wilson, 1 church.

5th Dis.—Rev. H. A. Bonnell, 5 churches; Revs. W. H. Perry and C. B. Lewis, 3 churches each; Licen. Puddington, 4 churches.

6th Dis.—Rev. A. Perry and Licen. H. Ferguson and R. Ferguson, 5 churches each; Revs. G. Swin and F. G. Francis, 2 churches each; Rev. B. H. Nobles, one church.

7th Dis.—Revs. A. H. McLeod and A. J. Prosser and Licen. Cochran, 2 churches each; Revs. Dr. Hartley, C. T. Phillips, D. Long and I. D. Harvey, one church each.

Some of the brethren named were pastors, also, of churches not reported, of which no record can be made in this report.

REPORTS OF MINISTERS. Twenty-eight ministers have regarded the rule of Conference which requires each minister to send each year a report of his work to the Corresponding Secretary. The others will, perhaps, tell Conference about their work during the year—if they are here. Summaries of the reports received as follows:

Rev. G. A. Hartley, D. D. reports thus: "I have spent another year with my old charge. I am now in my forty-fourth consecutive pastoral year with the Carleton church. This church has placed me under great obligations, and has become very dear to me. The year has been fairly good and fruitful. Our congregations have been equal in numbers and attention to those of any previous year of my pastorate. Our attendance has averaged for the year,—Mid-week prayer

meetings, 45; attendance at monthly conferences, 75; reporting themselves at conference, 52; communicants averaged 67. The Lord's Supper has been administered each month, and conference meetings held monthly. The church enjoyed some revival during the year. Ten were baptized and twelve were added. Our Sunday School has averaged for the year 170. It is doing good work. Our Christian Endeavor Society in also helpful to the church and its work."

Rev. J. N. Barnes has had the care of the Lincoln-Rusiagornish pastorate. The pastorate embraces five churches, viz., Lincoln, Waasis, Rusiagornish, French Lake and Oromocto. He reports,—“The congregations of nearly all the churches are good. Special meetings were held at Rusiagornish. The church was much helped, four converts were baptized. Improvements are about to be made on the church building. Two Sabbath schools are maintained in connection with this church—one in the meeting house, and the other at Bunkerville school house. The French Lake church is quite encouraged. A new house of worship was completed and dedicated during the year. It is a fine building, greatly creditable to the people. Lincoln, Waasis and Oromocto churches are working along much after the old way, slowly.” While bro. Barnes regrets that he has not seen all done that he longed for, he rejoices that so much of God's blessing has attended the work. This is the third time he has been pastor of most of the field. He makes record of the fact that the people “have always treated him kindly and with great respect, and have paid him all they agreed to.” His health compels him now to relinquish the pastorate. He prays that larger success may attend his successor.

Rev. T. S. VanWart spent the year in charge of the Stanley, York Co., pastorate. He reports that it is a large field and somewhat difficult, and that it needs judicious care.

Rev. T. O. DeWitt has ministered to the Coldstream pastorate, which embraces six churches—Rockland, Mount Pleasant, Gordonsville, Windsor, Knowlesville and Foreston. He reports that he has enjoyed labouring amongst the people; and regrets that he has not been able to visit all, nor to hold special meetings in all the churches. He held some special meetings at Rockland, at Mount Pleasant, at Gordonsville, and at Windsor. Good was done in all these places. He held during the year 310 services, made 150 visits, and baptized three persons. He suggests that the pastorate is larger than one man can easily minister to.

Rev. C. T. Phillips, Waterloo St., St. John, reports that special services were held during the year. Two were baptized, and they and six others were added to the church.

Rev. J. W. Clarke, reports “the general work of the church well sustained. Some of the contributions have exceeded any previous year—the Woman's Mission Society and Christian Endeavor, for instance. The spiritual condition of the church is good.” He preaches fortnightly at South Wakefield. “They are few, but good, and have a good Sunday School. Four were added to the Woodstock church by baptism, and two to the South Wakefield church, by baptism, during the year.”

Rev. J. J. Barnes has spent the year in charge of the Southampton pastorate. It includes Middle Southampton, Campbell Settlement, Temple, West Waterville and Temperance Vale. It has been a year of hard work, of foundation-laying and seed-sowing. Bro. Barnes feels that the labour of the year, has not been in vain. The Sabbath congregations have been large and interesting. Special meetings were held at Temple, at Temperance Vale, and at West Waterville. At Temperance Vale, bro. Barnes says, “we own nothing but a church building. Once there was a good church organization there, but by years of neglect it was permitted to die. There are a few loyal Free Baptists there. The special meetings resulted in encouraging them. We hope and pray that soon there may be a flourishing church there. We own the building, and have a congregation in sympathy with us. Some judicious and steady labour, with a little

money will bring success. At West Waterville, also, the church had by neglect and other courses, been destroyed. The special meetings resulted in the organization of a church which is doing well. But they cannot continue to grow without financial aid.” During the year the pastorate under the energetic leadership of bro. Barnes, has built a parsonage. It is a convenient and comfortable house, worthy of the people who laboured so hard to build it. “At Southampton there is a large and interesting Sabbath congregations. Temple is doing very well. They sustain regular preaching, Sabbath school and prayer meetings. Campbell Settlement is strong and is doing well.”

Rev. J. H. Erb writes from San Antonio, Texas, that though he has been planning to attend Conference, he has had to abandon the idea. He regrets very much that he will not be able to meet with his brethren. He says his health is better now than it has been for several months. He does as much preaching as he can—has a fortnightly appointment ten miles out of the city, and has been going there regularly for more than six years. He, also, preaches frequently for pastors in the city, and enjoys the work. He sends his love to the brethren from whom he has to be so far removed, and prays that the Conference may be greatly blessed with divine presence.

Rev. G. W. Foster has been pastor of the Douglas and Kingsley churches. The Douglas church has two church buildings—one at Mouth Keswick and one at Douglas, making two regular preaching stations. He has, also, given the Bear Island and Queensbury churches some labor, preaching at each once a month. Two were baptized at Bear Island. All the preaching services have been well attended by interested hearers, and he trusts the word spoken has not been in vain. Bro. Foster says that while his full desire for the churches has not been met in additions and general up-building, he trusts some one may gather the fruit of seed sown. Prayer and conference meetings have not been as well attended as they ought, but those who have met to pray and praise and to fulfil their covenant obligations have been blessed. The people of the pastorate have, he reports, been very kind, have often shown it in tangible ways. He is closing his work there, having accepted a call to the Rockland, C. Co., pastorate. The pastorate desired him to remain, but he felt that it was the Lord's will that he should go. He desires the largest success for the minister who shall follow him at Keswick.

Rev. B. H. Nobles, Sussex, reports that “the past year in our church work has been very much the same as the previous one. Not so much has been accomplished as we had hoped, yet the end of the year finds us with a stronger determination to live to serve and to win men to Christ. The growth in spiritual life is quite apparent among some of our people, while in others we fear that the conditions are not so favourable. The finances of the church have been in a healthy and encouraging condition for some years past; and this year still greater prosperity has attended our efforts in this part of work.”

Rev. W. H. Perry has completed his third year as pastor of the Hampstead churches. He is now relinquishing the pastorate. He reports that it “is a large field, requiring long drives and hard work. To make the work more effectual the pastorate should have a parsonage. It would, he believes, “be one step towards a deeper consecration to God and His cause, and would result in blessing to pastor and people.”

Rev. Gideon Swin has spent the year with the Moncton-Dover pastorate. He reports that the Lord has blessed them and they are encouraged in the work. In Moncton there are good congregations, and he thinks the outlook for the church is promising. The church is increasing its support of the work, and there is, apparently, a deepening of spiritual life. The Dover church, he says, is in fairly good condition. The regular services are well sustained, and the young people are earnest christian workers. He goes to Taylor Village once a month, and the faithful few there are ready to do all they can for the cause of God. He preaches at Lutz

Mountain “every alternate Sunday afternoon. The church organization that existed there some years ago has ceased to exist. There are about six Free Baptist families in the vicinity of the church-building. We have there, however, the largest congregation in the pastorate—made up of people of various denominations.” . . . Bro. Swin expresses his thankfulness to God for “the experiences of the past year. While there have been discouragements, it has in some respects been the best year” in his life. He is to remain pastor there another year.

Rev. F. C. Hartley reports that he has “continued pastor of the Fredericton church, which has enjoyed a good year of prosperity. During the year forty-six have been baptized, and nine others added by letter.”

Rev. H. A. Bonnell has spent his second year with the pastorate composed of Narrows, Perry's Point, Big Cove, Shannon and Carpenter churches. He held two weeks special meetings which resulted in strengthening one of the churches. Special work at Clark Settlement resulted in several conversions; four were baptized. He reports that the cause is not prospering as he would like; but they are “hoping and praying for the Holy Spirit's kindling.” He has been asked by all the churches to remain another year.

Rev. Abram Perry, who has been twelve years in charge of the Salisbury pastorate, and who is now retiring on account of impaired health reports that the spiritual condition of the pastorate as a whole has been much the same as in preceding years, and that in some of the churches the interest is better than last year. There have been some additions by baptism during the year. Financially the pastorate will do more this year than last. The Lewis Mountain church building (union) is being repaired, and will be re-opened after Conference.

Rev. J. B. Daggett completes his fourth year in charge of the pastorate which embraces Harland, Upper Brighton, Lower Brighton, Pembroke and Newburgh churches, and the Havelock branch of Lower Brighton church. He has preached regularly to these churches, and attended diligently to the other duties of a pastor. “The work has been very well maintained. Financially we have met all the demands promptly; have finished the new church at Newburgh, and it is now free from debt; repairs and improvements have been made to other church properties; contributions to general denominational work have been increased.” As to the spiritual life of the pastorate, bro. Daggett says,—“When the people are making increased offerings to the Lord's work there is a revival of true godliness in their hearts; they are surely learning to walk in the footsteps of Him who gave Himself for them. Judged thus the churches have certainly increased in spiritual life. There have not been the conversions our hearts desired. Four have been converted and added to the church. We take courage and go forward, believing we shall yet see the desire of our hearts in the salvation of more souls. A fifth year of labour here is begun confident that God will make us a blessing to each other.”

Rev. A. W. Currie has been in charge of the Waterville pastorate, since the first of the year. The death of his brother (Rev. G. F. Currie), and sickness in his own family have made it the hardest year of his life, but, he says, “the Lord has not entirely hidden His face, and for His presence and help I desire to be grateful. The churches of the pastorate,” he reports, “have had a good year. Waterville had a blessed refreshing in March, which greatly encouraged and strengthened the church. The other churches are maintaining a good interest and looking forward to the ‘harvest time,’ when many will be gathered into the fold.”

Rev. A. J. Prosser, who is pastor of the Campobello churches, says, “the year, though not without its dark places, has on the whole been a very good one. Some hindrances have been removed, which has opened the way for much better work during the next year.” They have built a good parsonage. “The financial part of the churches' work is

(Continued on fourth page.)

General Conference.

At 2 p. m. the first business meeting of the General Conference was called by the Moderator, Rev. W. Currie. Rev. B. H. Nobles led in prayer for the presence and blessing of the Holy Spirit, and prayer was offered during the whole session. After prayer, the roll was called. There were fewer members present than last year. Perhaps the number will be increased on Monday.

The first order of business was the reading of the report of the Corresponding Secretary on the state of religion in the churches. The following is the report of the Corresponding Secretary.

Moderator and Brethren:

This report is to place before you in an orderly way the facts concerning the life and work of the churches furnished by them to their respective District Meetings, with added information as your Corresponding Secretary has been able to gather from the reports of pastors, and otherwise:

The one hundred and fifteen (115) churches made reports to their respective District Meetings this year—being eight (8) more than last year.

At 9.30 a. m. Saturday morning conference, or testimony meeting, was begun. It continued till 11.30 a. m. This is always a meeting of interest and enjoyment. The meeting Sunday last was especially good. Led by the pastor, Licen. Rideout, the Scripture lesson was read by T. S. VanWart, and prayer was led by Rev. J. T. Parsons. The attendance was large—the church benefited. During the two hours and there were many scores of Christian testimonies, all of them expressive of the joy of salvation.” And when there was no more time for speaking, scores rose to express their faith and love.

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