

# The Conference.

SEVENTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION.

(Continued.)

SATURDAY.—Rev. C. T. Phillips moved the adoption of the Corresponding Secretary's report. He said there is much in the report to make us thankful. The year has been a fairly good one. There have been additions to many churches, and there is a net gain in reported membership. Even when there are not large additions, it does not mean that good work has not been done, nor that the labour has been in vain. There is sowing as well as reaping; the latter cannot be without the former. Speaking of transfers of members, he said that many of our people remove without the pastors in the places from which they go being informed. In the cities many have been lost in this way. The pastors of members removing should be careful to notify the pastors in the places to which such members go. He urged the importance of teaching the young people attachment to their churches. And, he said, do all you can to keep the young people at home. We have the best country in the world; in which is the largest and truest freedom, and possibilities not surpassed anywhere. We Free Baptists have the largest church in the world, too. Do not look surprised. I mean that our doctrines are everywhere, and they are going on to conquer. There is in this day a tendency to union—a merging of those who are substantially alike. This is an expression of a growing unity of the spirit. Many bodies should be, and surely will soon be, organically one. The prejudices of long ago are more in the way of union than any real differences. Speaking of the need of more ministers, he said that too many of our young men who go away to study, remain away. Other denominations are richer, but we are poorer. We need them much.

Rev. A. J. Prosser, seconding the resolution, said in considering a report like this we should aim to remedy the defects. The first step toward this is to become acquainted with the facts. Speaking of the comparisons of the report he feared they do not, on the whole, indicate quite as encouraging a state of things as is desirable. No doubt the ministers have worked faithfully, and their labour will not be in vain in the Lord. But we need to search out every cause of weakness and apply the remedy promptly and faithfully. The need of more pastors was set forth. There are not enough men available to properly care for the churches. Speaking of the support of pastors, he said some churches have tried to save money by underpaying, or going without, pastors. Such churches always become poorer. He told of one church that owed a retiring pastor a small sum, and concluded to do without a pastor the next year, and so pay the debt and build a parsonage. Three years have passed, and that church has not built a parsonage nor paid the debt to the last pastor. Mentioning the fact that several of our ministers are in an-

other country, and that the number seems to be increasing, he expressed the fear that they were misled. He could not quite understand why young men wanted to go to "the States." It is a comfort that the best of them do not stay there. Referring to mission work, he regretted that we are not doing more, and hoped we would soon do more—nearly what we are able to do—which is what God requires.

The report was adopted.

Rev. J. E. Gosline, corresponding delegate from the Nova Scotia Conference, was introduced. He expressed the pleasure he had in being present, and told of the work of his Conference. The last Conference year, he said, was a very good one, and the last session of Conference was one of much interest and enjoyment. They did some good home mission work last year; the Young People's Societies are doing well; and the Sunday schools are prosperous. He asked for a continuance of the correspondence by delegation.

On motion, Bro. Gosline was invited to a seat in Conference.

Dr. McLeod presented a report of his attendance, as delegate, at the last session of the N. S. Conference.

Rev. J. J. Hull, of the Maine Free Baptist Association, was introduced. He spoke of the pleasure it gave him to be present, and to bear the greetings of the Maine Free Baptists. There are, he said, many New Brunswick people in the Maine churches, and we have some of your ministers, too—to help look after them. He mentioned the work he is engaged in—the raising of \$50,000 for the Maine State Institute, at Pittsfield. He has raised \$36,000, and hopes soon to have the balance. He said the Maine churches are in need of more pastors; work could be given to twenty more men.

Bro. Hull was invited to a seat in Conference.

Rev. Mr. Hamlin, India missionary, said he had lived so long under the Union Jack that he had almost forgotten that he is a citizen of another country. Is glad that money from New Brunswick had been given to help on the work in India; it had done great good. He spoke of the brave Bro. Boyer in India, and wished that two or three men from this Province might go to India to do like good work.

Bro. Hamlin was invited to a seat in Conference.

Revs. D. Patterson and R. Heine, members of the Nova Scotia Conference, were voted seats in Conference.

Rev. W. Camp (Baptist), and Rev. Mr. Clemens (Methodist), were invited to seats, and spoke fraternal words.

The nominating committee was announced, consisting of brethren Prosser, Paul, Fenwick, Daggett, Perkins, J. Long and Worden. Adjourned.

At 7.30 p.m., Conference re-assembled. Prayer by Rev. F. A. Currier. The Sec-

retary for Sunday Schools, Rev. E. S. Parker, presented his report, as follows:

Bro. Moderator,—

The Committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to submit the annual report of the work of our Sabbath schools, which by comparison with the reports of the years immediately preceding, and in consequence of some schools not having reported, must only approximately represent the actual conditions and needs of this branch of our work.

There have come to hand reports from ninety-three schools, six more than reported last year, and four more than the year before. How many schools there are in New Brunswick we have not been able to ascertain. The number of schools reported in seven districts is as follows: From the First District, four report; from this District eight reports came to hand last year. From the Second District seventeen reports came to hand, the same number as last year. From Third District thirteen reports, the same number as last year. From the Fourth District twelve reports, three more than reported last year. From the Fifth District fourteen reports, four more than reported last year. From the Sixth District eighteen reports, one more than reported than last year. From the Seventh District fifteen reports, two more than reported last year. Sixty-eight schools are opened all the year round, eighteen are not. There are no reasons given why the eighteen schools are closed part of the year.

The total number of scholars enrolled is 5,448—137 in the First District, 846 in the Second, 998 in the Third, 663 in the Fourth, 557 in the Fifth, 898 in the Sixth, and 1,349 in the Seventh. There are 110 more scholars enrolled this year than last. The average attendance of scholars out of a total enrollment of 5,448 is 3,695. The total number of teachers is 455, or one more than last year. The average attendance of teachers is 370, or six less than last year. The grand total of teachers and scholars is 5,903, or 110 less than last year. The following questions are either directly asked, or suggested by a study of reports:

1. How shall we retain the interest of our older scholars?
2. Should our people be urged to keep the Sunday-school opened the year round? If so, why.
3. About one-third of our church members attend Sabbath school. Should we expect more?
4. The blank forms contain no such questions as,—Are there any in your District attend Sabbath school? Also, Is the number of your teachers sufficient for your work?

There have been raised this year \$1,832.14. District No. 1 raised \$34.75; District No. 2, \$261.46; Third, \$358.74; Fourth, \$217.53; Fifth, \$84.74; Sixth, \$191.67; Seventh, \$683.21. There have been \$25 more raised this year than last. The total value of Sunday-school property is \$2,063.00, or \$1,240.75 less than last year.

In our libraries there are 5,330 volumes, 425 being added this year. There are 246 less books reported than last year; forty-six schools report using papers.

There have been added during the year to the church from the ranks of the Sunday-school 194, or twenty more than last year. It is evident from this report that more care should be taken to have reports from all Sunday-schools. It is encouraging to note that more scholars have been brought into the church than last year, and it must not be forgotten that the Sunday-school is the portal of the church.

Respectfully submitted,  
E. S. PARKER,  
R. W. FERGUSON,  
C. W. WEYMAN,  
J. I. DAVIS,  
C. J. GREEN.

Continued on page 5.

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