

THE CONFERENCE.

Continued from page 4.

Rev. A. D. Paul, moving the adoption of the report, spoke some earnest words. A most discouraging feature of Sunday school work, he said, is that so many church members show no practical interest in it. No workers are doing better work than those earnestly engaged in Sunday school work; but the number so engaged is all too small.

Rev. F. A. Currier followed in a forcible speech. He spoke of the Sunday school as the helper of the church. By the system of study now prevailing, Christendom has, he said, become a great Bible class. Every Sunday 25,800,000 young and old meet to study the same portion of the word of God. The churches are being built up from the Sunday schools. Most of our ministers come from the Sunday school. In his own church, of seventy converts during less than two years of his pastorate, fifty-nine came from the Sunday school. The report was adopted.

Rev. Mr. Vining, representing the Baptist mission work in Manitoba, the Northwest Territories and British Columbia, made an address of great clearness and power, setting forth the religious needs of the great west. Speaking of the work of the Baptists, he told that in 1875 the first Baptist church was organized in Winnipeg. Now there are in the west 101 Baptist churches; they have 375 preaching places, and are preaching the gospel in thirteen dialects to people of twenty nationalities. There is now pressing need of more men. The duty of the Church of God is to Christianize the thousands of people who are coming from all lands to make homes in our great west country. If the church fails to do its duty, the new population will be a curse to Canada. In a few years the west will outvote the east. The kind of voters the west will have depends on the teaching and work of the Christian church. No money can be better invested than that devoted to Christian work in the west. The people here are doing their part faithfully. Last year the Baptists of the west raised \$68,000 for mission work. People there who live in houses in which an eastern man would hesitate to quarter his horse, pay \$100 to \$150 a year to support chapel work. But when they have their work, there is need of more. More men—earnest, courageous men, who are willing to endure hardships for Jesus' sake—are needed. Mr. Vining's address, which occupied an hour and a half, was such a clear, strong and impressive address as is rarely heard. A collection of something over \$40 was taken for the mission work. If the people had come to the meeting expecting a collection to be taken the amount contributed would, probably, have been much more.

The committee appointed last year to revise the Hand Book, reported progress. The report was received and the committee continued another year. A report of the Conference Executive was presented, stating that only one meeting had been held during the year, and that no business of importance demanded attention. It was voted to publish 3,500 copies of the Year Book of 1903. Adjourned.

SUNDAY.—The Sunday services were as follows: At 10.30 a. m., the annual sermon by Rev. J. B. Daggett; 3 p. m., Rev. J. E. Gosline; 7.30 p. m., Rev. F. A. Currier. The other places supplied by ministers of Conference—Head Millstream, Rev. J. J. Barnes; Kierstead Mountain, Rev. A. Perry; Springfield, Methodist, Rev. D. Patterson; Norton, Rev. S. J. Perry; Apohaqui, Rev. D. Long; Sussex, Revs. R. W. Ferguson and F. C. Hartley; Sussex Baptist, Rev. G. W. Foster; Sussex Methodist, Rev. A. D. Paul; Sussex Presbyterian, Rev. C. T. Phillips. Berwick Methodist, Lic. Puddington; Penobsquis, Rev. A. J. Prosser; St. John (North), Rev. A. M. McNinch; St. John (Waterloo St.), Rev. A. W. Currie; St. John (West), Rev. E. S. Parker. The Sunday school at 10 a. m., was led by Bro. D. McLeod Vince. The Lord's Supper was administered in the afternoon session. The day was very fine, the attendance at all the services was large, the preaching was good, and much enjoyed.

MONDAY.—Although the day began with a down-pour of rain, which continued through most of the day, it did not prevent a large number from attending the early morning prayer service, led by Rev. T. O. Dewitt.

At 9.30 the Assistant Moderator, Rev. A. Perry, took the chair, and after prayer by Rev. J. Noble, the business of the Conference was taken up again. After roll call and reading of minutes the Conference proceeded to the election of Moderator, the choice being Rev. A. Perry, with the Rev. G. W. Foster as assistant. E. H. Cochrane was appointed Conference reporter for the RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

Rev. D. Long, from the Committee on Sabbath Observance, submitted the following report, which was adopted after discussion by Rev. J. Robertson and Rev. W. H. Perry:

Bro. Moderator,—

(1) It is evident that the signs of the times indicate that the subtle continental spirit is creeping in upon our beloved Canada, and we fear it is but the entering of the wedge to a more open desecration of the Lord's day.

(2) The strong desire for gain and pleasure seems to necessitate a large amount of work to be done, and therefore prohibits those who work from enjoying the benefits of the Creator intended on his holy day.

(3) This Conference would urge our people to make earnest effort to protect the peace and quiet of the Lord's day, and would sincerely require a disapproval of everything that would in any way infringe upon its integrity; that parents and teachers impress upon the young that the keeping of the day as God requires brings happiness to the home, blessing to the church and prosperity to the nation.

The Rev. Dr. McLeod, speaking of the work done in reference to the census of 1901, moved the following resolution, which was adopted:

Whereas, Messrs. F. H. Hale, G. W. Fowler, R. D. Wilmot and G. W. Ganong, members of parliament, did earnestly endeavor to secure correction of the errors in the census of 1901, by which the Free Baptists of New Brunswick are misrepresented to the extent of several thousands, not only pointing out to the Census Commissioner the census errors, but also directing the attention of parliament to the grave injustice done

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our people, presenting facts in support of their contention;

Therefore resolved, That the Conference hereby express its high appreciation of their services, and heartily thank them therefor.

Rev. T. O. DeWitt reported for the Committee on Correspondence, which was supplemented by a verbal report of the conditions of the Moncton and Dover churches, and which was referred to the District Meeting.

Rev. J. Henderson for Committee on Sunday Collections, reported \$53.10, taken for the Sick and Disabled Ministers' Fund.

The report of the Committee on Deceased Brethren was presented by Rev. C. T. Phillips, as follows:

Bro. Moderator,—

The report of the Committee on Deceased Brethren is the saddest report brought before the Conference. Their report awakens to new and vivid life the sad day when the news reached them that a brother or brethren will meet with them no more. It is the duty of the present committee to officially report that during the past year two of our brethren of the ministry have finished their earthly work and have entered into well-earned rest—Rev. G. A. Hartley, D.D., and Rev. C. F. Rideout.

Bro. Rideout died at the house of his son after a long illness, at Washburn, Maine, December 27th, 1902, aged 74 years. Bro. Rideout had not been in active ministerial work for several years; and having entered the regular work of the ministry when past mid-life, his years in the ministry were comparatively few. But they were by no means fruitless years, for God had given him a rare tact and adaptability for house to house visitation, and perhaps more Christians were cheered and strengthened and more unconverted persons started in the way than by his pulpit work. Bro. Rideout had the simple faith and trust of a little child, and when his work was ended he entered into the joy of his Lord.

Bro. Hartley entered the ministry when a young man. Physically, intellectually and spiritually he was a strong man. Before he became pastor of the church over which he presided for forty-four years, his work for several years was evangelistic, a work for which he was eminently fitted, and after he entered upon his long pastorate, so great was his love for this work that he would get away from his growing church and go out into some neighboring town, village or country place, and in few weeks scores of souls would be brought to Christ as a result of his labors.

There is no doubt but what this arduous toil undermined a naturally strong constitution, and he might have been spared for another decade if his

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New Business Written, ..	\$ 6,082,336.00
Increase over 1901,	1,058,935.00
Income,	1,240,890.00
Increase over 1901,	177,249.00
Assets as at Dec. 31, 1902,	4,406,329.00
Increase over 1901,	633,852.00
Insurance in Force,	30,152,833.00
Increase over 1901,	3,013,952.00

Interest income alone exceeded Death Claims by nearly \$26,000.00.

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CORRECTION. — In the Corresponding Secretary's report, in the table of comparisons, there is a printer's error. The line following "(a) for local work," should be (b) for general work.