

THE CONFERENCE.

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is, because we are not interested enough in missions, and are not giving toward that end. There is a great opening for service in missions in the great west, and although it meant hard work it should be undertaken. The Conference fund was greatly overlooked he thought. There needs to be an earnestness in work, a definiteness of purpose in going out, seeking for the lost.

The motion to adopt the report was seconded by Rev. F. Allison Currier. He spoke of the lack of ministers and the few conversions. One reason for the lack of ministers, he thinks, is small salaries. It is the young man's age, and an age of education. Young men going away for education sometimes stay where they receive such. Baptist union would help to provide for the education of our men in our own country, and thus retain them for work here. In reference to few conversions some facts were given to show that all was not done that might be done.

On motion of Rev. B. H. Nobles the report was laid on the table for further consideration.

Rev. J. B. Merrill, delegate from the Nova Scotia Conference, being introduced, said that not having been present at the last session of his Conference he could not bring the spirit of that meeting, but he could assure them of their love. The Nova Scotia Conference was a small body. The ministerial force was being reduced by removals. While he was not here to solicit ministers, any who felt led to his province would receive a hearty welcome. Baptist union would mean more for God's cause than by each body working alone. The relations were very friendly between the two bodies in N. S. They were contemplating union in Home Missions, and if union takes place in New Brunswick it would be speedily followed in the sister province, and the movement for union in the United States would be helped. The division between the two bodies has gradually been overcome, until now it hardly exists, if at all. He was glad to meet so many at the General Conference. It indicated great interest in the cause.

On motion of Dr. McLeod, it was resolved that this Conference has heard with pleasure the remarks of Bro. Merrill, cordially reciprocates the fraternal greetings he has brought to us, and invites him to a seat and the privileges of the Conference.

Rev. A. W. Currie, the delegate to Nova Scotia, presented his report as follows:

Bro. Moderator:—

Having been honored by being appointed your delegate to the Nova Scotia Conference held at Kemptville, N. S., Aug. 25-29, I beg leave to report that I have attended as best I could to that duty. The privilege was a great pleasure to me. The opportunity of meeting old acquaintances, renewing former friendship, listening to sermons, addresses and debates by those with whom I was formerly associated in the work, together with the very cordial welcome I received as your representative, made my visit altogether a memorable and delightful one. The brethren in Nova Scotia are evidently in good heart, though facing many perplexing questions, suffering much by reason of the continued exodus from the Maritime Provinces, and suffering more, still be-

cause of the lack of ministerial help, still undaunted, with a firm faith in the God who planted them, they look hopefully into the future and cheerfully are they assuming the ever increasing burdens and responsibilities of the work. All the meetings were an inspiration and strength. The business was done in sweet harmony and brotherly love. Some of the scenes were deeply impressive, that of Sabbath afternoon, especially, was made memorable, by the coming forward of the Rev. J. E. Wilson and wife and offering themselves as missionaries to the foreign field. The tears of joy that moistened every eye in the crowded assembly, told, as no words could, how grateful all were that God had answered their prayers and laid his hand upon these two bright young lives. Permit me to say further that our fraternal greetings were fully reciprocated, and Rev. J. B. Merrill was appointed delegate to this annual gathering.

On motion, E. H. Cochrane was appointed Conference reporter for the INTELLIGENCER.

The Moderator appointed the following nominating committee: Rev. L. A. Fenwick, W. J. Owens, Dr. McLeod, Col. Alexander, Revs. S. J. Perry, B. H. Nobles, D. Long.

Bro. D. McLeod Vince spoke a few words as to the state of the denomination, its activity and the good results.

Rev. A. J. Prosser, from committee on Temperance, submitted the following report:

Bro. Moderator:—

Your committee on temperance begs leave to submit the following report:

1. As Free Baptists, we remain as we have ever been the uncompromising foes of the liquor traffic. For more than three score and ten years this denomination has declared itself through its covenant, from its pulpits, and through the varied channels of its influence, an avowed enemy of intemperance—the liquor traffic. To the casual observer much of the sacrifice made, and energy spent may seem in vain. A careful comparison of the present and past reveals the fallacy of such a view. Much has been accomplished, marked progress has been made along social, scientific and educational lines, all of which has a direct and vital bearing on temperance work and legislative enactment, since from society, science, and education such undeniable evidence against the use of alcoholic drink has been brought so prominently before the public mind. The pulpits of our land are now well nigh a unit in their denunciations of this great evil. The press of today, unwittingly or otherwise, is daily helping the temperance cause by the exposure of such a vast amount of crime traceable to strong drink. The present attitude of the large corporations toward the drinking man is opening the eyes of the laborer. Public sentiment is becoming aroused. What has seemed like defeat to the advocates of national prohibition has had its redeeming features in that it has stimulated them to such renewed activities as will ultimately bring about the overthrow of the liquor traffic.

2. We note with regret that our advance along political lines has not been so rapid as we had expected, yet we believe there is a stronger disposition among the politicians to give the requisit of temperance people more serious consideration, and we believe it is our duty as Christian men to give unqualified support to such representatives of the political parties as shown by their public records that they are prepared to deal with this question in accordance with the well defined wish of the temperance electorate.

3. We believe that our ministers and laity take too little interest in municipal, provincial and federal politics, and would

urge that they take a more active part in selecting delegates to party conventions, and thereby secure the election of better men to make and enforce all our laws, especially those bearing on the moral questions of the day, such as the prohibition of the liquor and cigarette traffics. We believe a protest by the Christian churches of Canada against unsuitable candidates for political honors would speedily bring about such a change as would insure ultimate triumph to the moral reform in which they are, or should be, interested.

4. We earnestly commend co-operation in all the efforts of parish and county officers to enforce the laws relating to the illegal sale of liquor, cigarettes and tobacco, the desecration of the Lord's day, etc., etc.

5. We deeply deplore the tendency to betting and gambling in athletic contests, etc., and corruption in elections, and the looseness with which many regard the sacred right of the franchise. While we recognize the difficulty of controlling individual action, we recommend our members to use not only their united influence to discountenance these immoral practices, but also to see that the existing laws relating thereto are rigidly enforced.

6. We recommend that temperance sermons be preached in all our churches. The adoption of the report was moved by Bro. Prosser.

In seconding the adoption of the report Rev. A. A. Rideout said that the curse of the land was intemperance. The way to rid the land of this was by the votes of the people. The aim of the church should be total prohibition. This could be accomplished.

Rev. C. T. Phillips spoke of the need of voting for only good men in politics. It is the duty of ministers to see to it that their influence is to produce electoral purity. We should not in any way become partners in such traffic. Mothers and fathers should teach the boys the sanctity of the ballot.

Rev. A. J. Prosser said that every minister should be actively interested in politics to the extent of endeavoring to have temperance and Christian candidates nominated for representative positions.

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Rev. Dr. McLeod spoke of the duty of the Church of Christ in this great reform. The Free Baptist record, he said, is good in the matter of temperance. The church covenant requires every church member to be a total abstainer. A Free Baptist Church member who drinks is a covenant breaker. Men only pray in form when they neutralize their prayers by their actions. When we vote as we pray something will be accomplished. The temperance voters should take a leaf from the rumsellers' book. No matter what our party preferences are we should stand together on this great moral issue. The bad citizenship of good men is what is destroying our country. A man should not belong to a party in the sense of being its slave. Christian citizenship, rightly expressed, will bring about the rule of Christ.

Rev. John Erb said the voter is responsible for existing conditions, and Christians cannot shirk their responsibility without guilt.

Rev. G. W. Foster said that the man who is responsible for the traffic should be in the chain gang rather than his victim. The Christian churches can change the bad conditions, and should do so by standing together in elections.

Rev. J. B. Daggett spoke of the conditions in his pastorate of the work done and the difficulties constantly met.

Adjourned. Prayer by Rev. J. A. Robertson.

1840. 1903.

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