

## News of the Churches.

**HOME MISSION REPORT.**—Bro. Paul, for the month of June, reports that he spent the early part of the month at Southampton. It was a difficult time for special work, because of seeding time, but the meetings were well attended and much good was done. A number of backsliders were found and reclaimed, and eight others added to the church. He visited Campbell Settlement three times, and organized a C. E. Society.

On Monday, 13th ult., he came to Gibson and assisted Bro. Wilson for the remainder of the week, remaining over Sunday. The next week he went to Penobscquis. Evangelist Beatty had been there, and there had been considerable quickening manifested. It was hoped that Bro. Paul might be able to follow up Bro. Beatty's work and help the church by a short visit. The result will be reported next month. Is there not some one who feels he could go to the Penobscquis pastorate? The following is a summary of month's work: Held 27 services; made 23 calls; received Campbell Settlement, \$1.32; Geo. Draper, \$1; Daniel Schriver, \$2; Peter Dunham, \$1; S. P. Schriver, \$1; Abram Schriver, \$1; Middle Southampton, \$16.43; total, \$23.75.

Bro. H. R. Boyer was sent to the Dover pastorate about June 1st. He reports that he found the churches of the pastorate in a discouraged condition, the result of having no pastoral care this year. He has held regular services with each of the churches, namely, Taylor Village, Dover and Victoria Road. The last named is in a very weak condition, but Bro. Boyer will give them as much care as possible during the summer. He hopes to be able to have some repairs made to the church building and to see them helped. The other churches will have regular care, and he hopes to see good done. The Lord grant him large success.

J. B. DAGGETT,  
Cor. Sec. H. M. Ex.

**SIXTH DISTRICT MEETING.**—The annual meeting of the Sixth District was held at Norton Station, K. Co., July 8-10. The weather was fine and all the meetings were well attended. The ministers in attendance during the whole or part of the session were Revs. C. T. Phillips, B. H. Nobles, W. H. Perry, A. W. Currie, A. D. Paul, S. J. Perry, G. Swim, A. Perry, R. W. Ferguson and Jos. McLeod, and Licentiate Bolster. Bro. Bolster is pastor of the church at Norton, and is esteemed by the people.

The first meeting began at 2 p. m. Friday, Rev. W. H. Perry in the chair. Reports of the Sunday schools were read and referred to a committee. The officers of the S. S. Association of the District were elected: Bro. Gesnor Taylor, President; Miss Blanche Gosline, Secretary; and brethren A. Perry, W. H. Heine and Gideon McLeod members of the executive committee. . . . At 4 p. m. the reports of the churches were read. Brethren Paul, M. J. Steeves and L. Dernier were appointed a committee to summarize their contents. Revs. C.

T. Phillips and S. J. Perry were invited to seats. The 7.30 p. m. meeting was for the consideration of S. S. work, Bro. Taylor presiding. The devotional service was led by Revs. A. D. Paul and W. H. Perry. The committee's report on S. S. reports was presented by Bro. G. McLeod, and was discussed by Bros. Nobles, W. H. Perry, Steeves, Heine and G. McLeod. All the schools had not sent reports, among them seven union schools, the most of whose members are Free Baptists. The speakers spoke of the S. school as a place for the old as well as the young; of the lack of interest by many parents as a discouragement to teachers and a hindrance to the work; of the importance of teachers' meetings, normal work, and the home study department. It was suggested that the form for reports be changed. Bro. M. J. Steeves, who took Bro. Swims place on the programme, dwelt upon the necessity of all Christians manifesting practical interest in S. S. work. Better home training, he thought, would in many cases, contribute much to the success of S. S. work. In many Christian homes there is talk about nearly everything but religion, and nearly every person but Christ.

Rev. A. W. Currie spoke of teachers, the kind needed and their responsibilities. We have not, he said, nor can we expect to have, the ideal teacher—he does not exist. He urged tact, good sense, in the treatment of boys and girls. It is not worth while to undertake to repress the forces of young life, but rather to direct its interest and energy. Teachers, he said, must be consistent in their manner of life if they would influence their scholars for good. Boys and girls are sharp to observe, and careless conduct of teachers neutralizes all their fine precepts.

Licentiate Bolster said no Christian need be at a loss for something to do while there is a S. school. He dwelt on the importance of the home department of present S. S. work. More Bible study in the home would correct the reading of doubtful books.

The president, Bro. G. Taylor, in a few remarks, emphasized the importance of making the Bible the first book in the home, and added that in Free Baptist homes the INTELLIGENCER should have the next place, and spoke of its value as a helper. Brethren Nobles, Perry, and Phillips spoke on the same lines.

Saturday at 8 a. m. there was a fifteen minutes prayer meeting, led by the pastor. At 8.15 business was taken up, Rev. W. H. Perry presiding. Prayer by Rev. A. W. Currie. Minutes approved. The election of officers resulted in the choice of Rev. B. H. Nobles as chairman, and Rev. A. W. Currie as assistant chairman, and Revs. A. Perry and A. W. Currie and Bro. Gideon McLeod members of the executive. Rev. R. W. Ferguson was invited to a seat. The location of the next annual session was referred to a committee—brethren A. Perry, Steeves and Brown. Brethren Branscomb, W. H. Perry and Freeze were appointed a committee to nominate delegates to Conference. The committee on location re-

ported recommending that the next annual meeting be held at Penobscquis, which report was adopted.

At 10 a. m. the Conference began, the pastor leading. It was a good meeting, there were many testimonies, and it was a time of spiritual refreshing.

At 1.30 p. m. there was a half hour service of consecration, led by Bro. Nobles, a good number participating. Business was resumed at 2 p. m. The committee on delegates to Conference nominated the following: Brethren O. Bishop, J. H. Branscomb, H. Lewis, S. Johnson and G. L. Gregg, with brethren L. Dernier, T. G. Perry, A. H. Steeves, J. E. Price and W. D. Fenwick as their substitutes. The summary of the reports of the churches was read by Bro. Paul. It showed that twenty-three churches had reported; in membership they had no net increase; money raised, \$4,148.21; six churches had revival; the work generally moving on about as in the preceding year. In considering the report there was an interesting discussion of the condition of the churches. Rev. C. T. Phillips thought one reason that contributions to religious purposes are not larger is that there is not enough faithful preaching. If there were more plain preaching about honoring the Lord with our substance there would be no people with the notion that "bringing in the tithes" is speaking in meeting, and none would make offerings to the Lord's treasury as we toss coppers to beggars, to get rid of their importunities. We must not cheapen the ministry, nor God's work. Give the Lord the best.

Rev. B. H. Nobles said the pastor must do more than preach; he is to be the leader of his people, and should organize them for the best work. We cannot get people to give too much. Christ trusts His interests to us, and we must rise to His requirements—the needs of His cause.

Bro. C. W. Weyman said one cause of weakness is that churches do not do business in a business-like way. Every church should have regular business meetings, and endeavor to have its affairs looked after systematically. Do pastors neglect the business side of the work? he asked. There is reason to fear that some do. He objected to criticism of a church's methods in public preaching services. Whatever criticism has to be made should be in the regular business meeting, when only those concerned are present, and when all sides of the matter can be looked into and freely stated.

Rev. A. Perry said he had heard enough to move him when he went back to his work to make a most earnest effort to have his churches do better work than they had ever done.

Rev. W. H. Perry thought Bro. Weyman had pointed out a chief weakness in the financial part of the work of the churches. He had thought it was the deacon's business, but he had come to see that pastors have large responsibility. They should seek to interest all their people in the support of the work. If business men conducted their own affairs as they do those of their churches they would be soon bankrupt.

Bro. D. Fenwick, speaking of the lack of organization, said the failure of some of the churches in a pastorate to cooperate with the others often made the

work difficult and unsatisfactory. All should work together.

Bro. J. E. Slipp said, "Where our treasure is there will our heart be." Poor support of the Lord's cause indicates small interest in it. But however much interest there, to secure the best results there must be system that reaches and engages each person. The organization that begin two or three weeks before District Meeting to raise funds, etc., is no good; it should begin one week after D. M., and be kept up all the year. He spoke, also, of the importance of the ministers' relief fund and urged that this receive the warm and practical support of all the people.

Bro. M. Fenwick spoke of the difficulty of organization in small churches. But if our hearts are warm with Christian love he thought all would go on fairly well.

The infrequency of the observance of the Lord's Supper in some churches, and the failure of some to maintain a mid-week prayer meeting was spoken of by some of the brethren. The report of summarizing committee was adopted.

Bro. C. W. Weyman reported concerning the fund raised last year for work with Victoria Road church. He wished instruction about the \$29.10 in his hands. The condition of the church was described by brethren acquainted with the community. The disposition of the money was left to the District Executive.

Rev. B. H. Nobles addressed the meeting on the need of a quickened and deepened spirituality in all the churches. With this will come the correction and care of many things we now deplore. He thought it would be well, besides the annual District Meeting, to have, say, three other meetings during the year, especially for the help of spiritual life and for evangelism. He moved that such meetings be arranged for.

Several brethren spoke in warm approval of the proposal. The motion was carried and the District Executive instructed to arrange the programme of such meetings and the places of holding them.

Brethren Nobles, W. H. Perry, Weyman, Slipp and Steeves were appointed a committee on resolutions. Rev. A. W. Currie was appointed to preach the next annual sermon.

Bro. C. W. Weyman moved that the District employ a missionary to labor within its own bounds. He did not, he said, mean by this motion to reflect on the H. M. Executive of the Conference, or to interfere with its work. But the District is able to support a missionary, and there is need of one. As to our ability to support a missionary, he said none of us know just how much we can do, and none of us are rising quite to our privilege and duty. When we farmers want a piece of farm machinery we buy it, even if we have to go in debt for it. It pays. If we lose a horse or cow we go on. Yet we would hesitate about giving the price of a horse or cow to the Lord's work.

Other brethren spoke in support of the plan, the general view being that a missionary who would also be an organizer would do great good in the District. Pledges towards the scheme, amounting to \$325.00 were made, and the District

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