BAPTIST CONVENTION OF MANITOBA AND THE NORTHWEST.

(Continued from last issue.)

FINANCES.

At the opening of the year your Board had grave fears the financial responsibilities were greater than they could bear. We were then faced with a large deficit which kept increasing until we were about $3,000 in debt. But we rejoice mightily today to report that our financial condition is healthful, the deficit at the end of the year was $400, only about half what it was at the close of last year, while the expenditure was about equal. You will see by the treasurer's report our own churches doubled their contributions of last year for missions. A great amount of work has been done for the money expended, but much had to be left undone because we had no more.

AGENCIES EMPLOYED.

We will not speak of the missionaries here, but other agencies employed in advancing the work.

Supt. Mellick has been constantly on the move during the year. Having been charged with the oversight of the Indian work, nearly two months of the year were given to it. He made a trip amongst the Northern reservations, and explored the great country where we are carrying on work. After making a pretty thorough canvass of our own churches he went to Ontario and gave three months to the work there. Since his return he has visited nearly all points of our field. The Ontario Committee have been very diligent in their efforts for the work, they have rendered solid and telling service.

During Bro. Mellick's visit east he met the committees four times. Public conferences and mass meetings were held. A suitable programme for the Sunday Schools was prepared and arrangements made for a day to be devoted to our mission in the schools. Our representatives in the Maritime Provinces also arranged for a Manitoba Sunday School Day. This day will be observed annually in the Schools; we believe this is an important movement that will have an increasing influence upon our mission

Our Eastern Associational secretaries have rendered valuable service. 3,000 copies of our minutes were published and leaflets distributed liberally.

The *Canadian Baptist* and MESSENGER AND VISITOR have given us a large share of their space during the year. These papers are highly appreciated and are indispensable to the work in the east.

OUR RELATIONS WITH THE EAST.

Our relations with the east are such as enable us to fervently sing "Blest be the tie that binds, Our hearts in Christian love. The Fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above." These ties are strengthening year by year. This is desirable not only because we look to them for a large support, but because our destines are inseparable. Our noblest aims and our largest attainments cannot be reached except by our broadest sympathy and heartiest co-operation with each other.

Our esteemed President, Prof. McKee, attended the Eastern Convention held in Montreal in May, and laid the work before the brethren there, he reported that he was very heartily received. Our Committee was re-appointed with a few changes and the addition of two representatives of the Women's Home Missionary Society. It is with exceeding great delight we welcome their chosen representative to us this year—Prof. J. H. Farmer of the McMaster University.

We have the love of our brethren in the Maritime Provinces also, but the distance between us is too great, we have not been able to meet each other face to face as often as we would wish.

PASTOR GRANT'S VISIT TO THE OLD COUNTRY

It has been in our minds for some years past that we should approach our brethren in the old country, and endeavor to interest them in our mission.

There is a large number of English and Scotch people now in this country, and large numbers of our English speaking immigrants are from those parts. Considerable immigration is carried on by benevolent organizations in bringing companies of boys and girls from the old land out here, some of these are placed in private homes while others are taken in companies to large farms where they are trained in agricultural and domestic pursuits. The over-crowding in the old country and the advantages here for the multitudes seeking homes must naturally increase the immigration to us.

In view of the responsibility thus laid upon us to provide these masses with Gospel privileges, and the corresponding claim we have upon the country from which they come, we decided in pursuance of a resolution passed at last convention to lay the matter before them.

At the request of the Board the First Church very kindly released Pastor Grant for three months. He reached England in time to attend the Pastor's Conference, where he had some opportunity of gauging the proportions of his task.

The English Baptist Union met shortly after the Conference. Bro Grant received a hearty greeting and a prominent place amongst the brethren, and was given an opportunity to address the great gathering on our mission work. Having gained the opportunity he was then faced with the difficulty of favorably affecting the body, and at the same time warding off the suspicion of being an intruder. But the people gave him a very attentive hearing. Brother Grant made the acquaintance of Vice President Gange, who expects to visit this country this year, and other leading men of the union.

PASTORS AND CHURCHES.

We are often asked, both in the east and in the west, why our pastors move so frequently, and why so many of our churches are pastorless for long periods. Only those upon whom the main burden of responsibility rests are aware of the never ceasing perplexity and anxiety experienced in adjusting the fields and securing suitable missionary service. During the past year we believe these difficulties have been above the average of former years. The unrest is not from lack of reliance in the country or the work. It is chiefly due to three causes: (1) Scarcity of funds; (2) The difficulty of securing suitable men; (3) The requirements of the fields. The openings for student labor are decreasing, our more mature students go east to the schools, and the expense of transportation puts them beyond our reach. And the churches are not satisfied with beginners year after year. If we had funds to open new fields we could engage more students, and pastors could continue the work thus begun.

THE GERMAN WORK.

Pastor W. H. Mueller has given a large amount of time to this work outside of his own church in Winnipeg. He has gone over the whole field twice during the year. We are largely dependent upon him to interpret to us the needs and conditions of the vast German population of our country. He gives the following report:

The First German Baptist church in the British Northwest was reorganized in 1886, at Edenwald, Assa. There Bro. Fohlmann labored faithfully for several years under many hardships. Bro. E. Fenske succeeded him, although many difficulties were in waiting when he began, his labor has been crowned with success, conversions have taken place recently. The English and German members together are a noble band of workers at the side of their pastor. Ebenezer church came into existence in 1888. Revs. Brooks and Dorn have labored there under trying circumstances. Some 20 members leaning towards "Millennium Dawn" were dismissed. The 50 members meet regularly, and sincerely wish and pray that a man of God may take charge of the field. In 1889 the First German church of Manitoba came to life in Winnipeg, with Bro. F. A. Peterell as pastor. The members were few and mostly non-residents, although many difficulties had to be met the cause progressed under the supervision of its tireless worker; a church house was built and paid for. Although this band is a constant feeder for the rural churches around us, we are still advancing. This spring we purchased a dwelling place for the pastor, which has given us a debt of $1,100, still we believe it was a good work; since immigration moved Northwest, we have been compelled to go along. A church was founded near Edmonton, Alberta, in 1892, called "Heimthal" now Otoskwan, with the Rev. F. A. Mueller as pastor. In May, 1895, a house or worship was dedicated near LeDuc, whither the field has been extended. A second house of worship was dedicated on June 17th, of this year, and on the 9th a second church was recognized at LeDuc, necessarily a third church will have to be organized at Witaskwin in the near future, where the erection of a small chapel has begun, completion of which is expected before cold weather sets in. The A. B. H. M. Society has nobly assisted in the erection of these meeting houses. On this large and very trying field where there is so much real poverty we have but one pastor. He cannot master the situation alone in the future. We should have several good men to take care of these people. The Gretna and Wolsley churches were organized in 1894. Rev. Friesen who voluntarily began work in Gretna, Man., built a chapel which is almost free of debt. During the last six months most of the members have moved towards Plum Coulee, Winkler and Morden. Rev. Geo. Burgdorff from Ill., has charge of this field since May, with good results and numerous conversions. A church was organized in Morden July 6th. The Wolsley field offers encouragement. A student was placed there who has gone away, hence this little flock is at present without a leader. They have undertaken to build a place of worship on the gift of two acres of ground. A little help would be a good investment. We should try to supply the place. We find that the visiting of churches during the year proves beneficial in many ways—conversions generally take place and the brethren are encouraged. Although the German work has its many difficulties we are encouraged knowing the Lord of Hosts is with us. Rev. G. Aschulie, General Supt. of German Missions of Am. Bap. Home Mission Society, is at present visiting the field and will be at our convention. We have about 500 members, with four completed meeting houses; and three nearing completion which will be seven in all.

EVANGELISTIC WORK.

Although we have not had funds to engage a permanent evangelist in the country, we are glad to be able to report that our churches have had some assistance in special evangelistic work. A number of our pastors have given very acceptable help to churches in their neighborhood. Pastor Lehigh has assisted several churches, and great blessing has attended his labors. Pastor Grant aided Bro. Whidden in a very gracious work in Morden, and Bro. Whidden in turn helped Bro. Marshall with blessed results. Bro. Chapman did acceptable work at Manitou and Ninga. Bro. Avancesh has helped Bro. Fenske and Bro. Vansickle, and others have been giving a helping hand as far as they could reach. Blessing has attended these brethren wherever they have gone preaching the word, and great encouragement is thereby given our missionaries to assist each other in this special work.

Bro. McCrossan who had been doing evangelistic work in the States, but who is a member of the First Church, Winnipeg, visited the city in the winter, and engaged in special services with Bro. Grant; they had a very gracious season. At the close of these services he went to the assistance of Bro. McArthur, and great blessing attended the services. He has been spending the last few weeks in Melita with great success. The blessed Lord has been walking among the golden candlesticks holding the stars in his right hand, our life and our light are in him, to him be the glory forever.

Summing up our present standing we have five self-supporting churches: Winnipeg First and Logan Avenue, Emerson, Portage la Prairie and Brandon. We have 48 mission churches; 37 English speaking; 9 German; 1 Indian; 1 Scandinavian. There have been added to the churches during the year 711, about 350 by baptism. There are 33 houses of worship; we have 27 pastors; 21 English; 4 German; 1 Scandinavian; we have 9 students; 8 English. 1 Scandinavin. We have 2 Indian missionaries; 1 white, 1 Indian; we have an evangelist and a general superintendent.

Dear Brethren, the Lord has laid upon us this great work, He has been with us, and thus far He had led us on, we should trust Him for the future, and attempt great things for Him.

"We would close this report in the words of Dr. Gordon: "We must learn to hear the voice of God, we must let Him speak to us and through us, we must not be betrayed into listening to false teachers and surrendering to the guidance of evil counsellors. The Lord is constantly admonishing us to heed the voice of the true Teacher and Guide, the Holy Ghost."

Officers for the ensuing year: President, Rev. F. W. Avancesh; 1st Vice President, Peter Cameron; 2nd Vice President, Rev. H. H. Hall; Superintendent and Corresponding Secretary, H. G. Mellick; Recording Secretary, H. H. Hall; Treasurer, H. E. Sharpe; Statistical Secretary, F. J. Allen; Auditors, D. L. McIntyre and W. Lugsdin.

After the appointment of working committees the following brethren were introduced and briefly addressed the Convention: Prof. Farmer, of McMaster university, Toronto; Pastor Vansickle, of Moosomin; Rev. S. Van Tassel, the white missionary amongst the Indians. The last mentioned told how he had desired to labor on the most needy field, He had been for some years in Arabia, but had been forced by the Turkish government to leave. He hoped to remain in this country and give his life to the Indian work. Others introduced were: Pastor Lew. Wallace, of Manitou; Pastor J. A. Vining, of the Logan avenue church; Bro. J. C. Bowen; Rev. J. H. Bowering, of Moose Jaw; Bro. S. Everton, of Shoal Lake, and Mr. Frost of Calgary.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The report of the treasurer, Mr. H. E. Sharpe, was as follows:

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand at beginning of year	$ 73 20
Ontario and Quebec	4,000 78
W. B. H. M. Society	300 00
Nova Scotia	725 53
N. B. & P. E. I.	160 30
W. B. M. Union	600 00
W. B. M. Union for Indians	150 00
Manitoba	1,487 98
Sundry sources	69 95
Northwest Baptists	79 26
	$8,321 00

DISBURSEMENTS.

Pastors	$6,497 74
Students	342 10
Telegrams and postage	13 52
Stationery, etc.	83 56
McIntyre Bros., N. W. B.	170 15
Logan avenue church	35 00
Superintendent's expenses	181 65
Prof. McKee, expenses	28 40
Expenses, delegate to England	250 00
Expenses re eastern committee	14 30
Eastern deleg. to convention, 1895	86 20
Indian work	100 00
	$8,303 82
Cash on hand	17 23
Liabilities	400 00

Manitoba doubled her contributions for missions over last year, while those from Ontario and the Maritime Provinces showed a slight decrease.

Messrs. D. L. McIntyre, and W. E. Lugsden, auditors, certified to the correctness of the treasurer's report. A supplementary report was submitted bringing the statements down to June 30th. The receipts shown were $1,312.65; the disbursements $1,189 27; liabilities after deducting cash on hand $460.87.

The Ladies Convention opened in the afternoon. In the meantime the Ways and Means Committee discussed future policy. At this meeting addresses were delivered by Rev. Mr. Schulte, general superintendent of German work; Rev. H. H. Hall, of Portage La Prairie; Prof. Farmer of McMaster Hall, Toronto; and Rev. Alexander Grant, of Winnipeg. Limitations of space render it impossible to republish here reports of these excellent addresses.

SUNDAY SCHOOL WORK.

Thursday morning, after the devotional services, the Convention took up the consideration of Sunday school work. The report was given by Bro. Whitman of Emerson. A conference was conducted by Pastor Hall. An excellent paper was read by Miss Morrison of Emerson. This proved to be a very interesting and helpful session.

The following recommendations were adopted: 1. That the churches be urged to give special attention to Sunday school work. 2. That pastors and students be requested to see that Sunday schools are organized, properly officered and equipped to do efficient work on all our fields. 3. That pastors render all assistance possible to teachers and officers towards fitting them to become more efficient workers. 4. That teachers' meetings be held weekly for the study of the lesson, and other matters relating to Sunday school work. 5. That Sunday school workers avail themselves of such opportunities as county and provincial conventions for the purpose of learning better methods of Sunday school work. 6. That Baptist Publication society helps and papers be used in all our Sunday schools. 7. That the convention have a form for statistical reports on Sunday school department, giving information on membership, libraries, collections, missionary assistance, conversions and baptisms, to be included with the church reports. 8. That home department work be taken up as far and as fast as possible. 9. That our aim for the future be the conversion of children at the earliest possible date in their existence, and that the development of their christian character; and that the Sunday school is the best means in the world to assist in the accomplishment of this end.

THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE.

The future policy committee, Mr. G. F. Stephens, chairman; Mr. T. M. Marshal, secretary, reported:

That the office of superintendent be continued.

That a series of missionary meetings be held within the bounds of this convention during October and November, if possible, for the purpose of educating our people in home missions and securing money therefor.

That through our Ontario and Quebec committee we arrange for a full collection of the $7,000 as appropriated for work in this country by the Ontario and Quebec convention.

That one be sent to the Maritime provinces for from three to six months to interest the churches in our work.

That we recommend the board to draw the attention of the American Baptist Publication society to the Canadian Northwest as a suitable field for colportage, and we recommend that the board also make arrangements for the distribution of denominational literature.

That we recommend the board to make all possible effort to continue the work begun in Great Britain in securing their co-operation by the formation in Britain of a colonial society.

BAPTIST COLLEGE.

The educational committee report as follows: "Whereas it is the settled conviction of this body that a college is essential to the most effective development of our missionary work, resolved that instead of preparing a detailed policy at the present time, we recommend the board to address itself at once to the task of securing a man to take this work to his heart and lead us in its establishment."

THE ST. PETER'S RESERVE.

At the concluding sitting of the convention, the committee of six appointed to meet a similar committee from the Church of England synod of the diocese of Rupert's Land, reported that the diocesan committee had waited on the convention committee and represented to them certain desires the Church of England has to the conduct of Indian missions in the country. These representations had been submitted in writing, but the committee of the convention had only briefly considered them. The committee was reappointed to prepare a suitable reply and carry on such further negotiations as might be found necessary and desirable. It is expected that when the reply is prepared, both documents will be published together.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE.

The remainder of the afternoon and evening was given up to the young people's programme. The first item was a "Model Meeting," conducted by Pastor Vining, the subject was "Christ, the believer's model." Reports from the various parts of the field were then presented showing what the young people are doing.

A paper was read on "How the societies may assist members in private Bible study," by A. T. Robinson.

The proposed constitution for the "Baptist Young People's Union," was read by Mr. A. E. Davey and adopted. On motion this constitution was brought before the general convention for approval, and was approved.

The following officers were then elected: President, A. E. Davey, Winnipeg; Vice-President, Miss Dale, Portage la Prairie; Sec.-Treas., W. A. McIntyre, Winnipeg; Executive, W. R. Bartlett, Brandon; George Robinson, Emerson; W. E. Wadge, Portage la Prairie; J. W. C. Swan, Winnipeg; Pastor, J. W. Litch, Boissevain.

Y. P. PLATFORM MEETING.

Mr. A. E. Davey, president, took the chair and delivered an opening address. A quartette was sung by the Misses F. Hilton and H. Campbell, and Messrs. A. E. Davey and R. Sharpe.

A paper was read by Miss Parsons on "Giving."

Pastor J. P. McIntyre addressed the meeting on "The Young Christian's quiet Hour."

Pastor Frost, of Calgary, spoke on "Loyalty to Christ."

Pastor L. Wallace spoke on "Loyalty to Christ in all things."

Evangelist McCrossan gave an address on "Soul Winning."

Pastor Whidden described the heart perquisites of soul-winning.

Prof. Farmer emphasized the need of taking a quiet hour, instead of so much religious exercise.

The meeting closed with the singing of the hymn, "God be with you till we meet again."

The discussions of subjects before the Convention were vigorous but kind. Several resolutions were passed; the following will be of special interest:

Reports from the committee on resolutions were then presented. The first one was vigorously supported by many speakers, who unanimously voiced the sentiments of those present. The resolution was as follows: Whereas, Baptists are, and ever have been, opposed to the teaching of religion by the state, or the support of denominational schools by money grants, we, in convention assembled, as representing the Baptists of Manitoba and Northwest Territories, hereby place ourselves on record as determinedly opposed to all legislation not strictly in accord with the most absolute separation of church and state, believing as we do that the teachings of the New Testament and a recognition of equal rights to all citizens unite in this demand.

One of the most interesting departments of our Convention was an encampment of 20 Indians. They pitched their tents on a vacant lot near the church.

Pastor Hall, of Portage, was appointed the delegate to the Maritime Convention to represent us to that body.

Superintendent Mellick was unanimously asked to continue for the ensuing year.

Bro. McCrossan was engaged as evangelist.

With the blessing of God upon the plans thus made and our faithful staff of workers, we are looking for large results this year.

By order of the Convention,
H. H. HALL,
H. G. MELLICK,
Pub. Committee.

Literary Note.

McClure's Magazine for August will open with a paper on "Mr. Gladstone at Eighty-six," by W. E. Stead, founder of the English "Review of Reviews," and the one writer of personal studies of eminent men who never fails to get at the real personage. The paper will deal especially with the conditions and manner of life which have enabled Mr. Gladstone to reach eighty six in perfect health and with all his faculties in full vigor. It will also define Mr. Gladstone's attitude regarding the recent differences between the United States and Great Britain. It will be illustrated with recent portraits of Mr. Gladstone and his family.

Condemn no man for not thinking as you think. Let every one enjoy the full and free liberty of thinking for himself. Let every man use his own judgment, since every man must give an account of himself to God. Abhor every approach, in any kind or degree, to the spirit of persecution. If you cannot reason or persuade a man into the truth, never attempt to force a man into it. If love will not compel him to come, leave him to God, the judge of all.—John Wesley.

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HEAD O'ER ALL THINGS.

BY J. E. RANKIN.

Head o'er all things, mighty Jesus,
Many crowns upon thy brow;
Thine the great eternal ages
Thine the evanescent now.
Thou art Alpha and Omega,
All time's forces thee attend,
Over arching, all triumphant,
The beginning and the end.

All earth's pomp and pride and splendor
Quick shall crumble to decay;
Her philosophy shall vanish,
And her wisdom pass away,
And, at last, her wisest sages
Reverent shall Thy footprints greet,
Humbly stoop to kiss Thy raiment,
Lay their leaning at Thy feet.

Thine the hidden, deep resources
Of the earth and sea and air;
Thou dost give them all commandment,
And they speed them everywhere.
Head o'er all things, mighty Jesus,
Subject make them to Thy sway,
Tributary to Thy kingdom,
To the great; the latter day.

N. Y. Advocate.

WANTED.—1. All the Minutes of the New Brunswick Association, from 1821 to 1847, except the years 1841; '42, '44 and 46. 2. Minutes of the Eastern N. B. Association for 1850. 3. Any copies of the Eastern, Western and Southern N. B. Associations that have been published since 1881 apart from the Year Book. 4. Reports of the Canadian Baptist Telugu Mission previous to 1882. 5. Any pamphlets containing histories of Baptist Churches or Associations in the Maritime Provinces. The stamps necessary for transmission will be forwarded if names and addresses of senders are given. Address.

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