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The N. B. Western Association.

This Association began the second half century of its history in the meetings held at Florenceville, June 24-26. It was entertained by a hospitable people, who live in one of the most fertile agricultural districts in the Maritime Provinces. Carleton County has long been noted for the beauty and variety of its scenery.

Along the St. John River, especially at this season of the year, there is spread before one a constantly changing and delightful prospect. At Florenceville, the elevation from the level of the river affords an extended and delightful view, both north and south.

It was much regretted that the attendance of delegates was not larger. The unfavorable weather doubtless kept many at home who otherwise would have come, but in the churches the interest in the meeting must have been less than in some former years.

On Friday afternoon the Association was called to order by the Clerk of last year, Rev. C. N. Barton, in the absence of the retiring Moderator. The election of officers resulted in the choice of Rev. A. H. Hayward, pastor of the entertaining church, as Moderator. Pastor Hayward, in a few well chosen words, extended a welcome to the Association. Rev. C. N. Barton was re-appointed Clerk; Rev. J. H. Cahill, Ass't Clerk; Deacon M. S. Hall, Treas.; Rev. A. Freeman, Vice Moderator. Visiting brethren, Principal I. B. Oakes, Prof. L. E. Wortman, Rev. S. D. Ervine, Rev. H. A. Charlton and A. H. Chipman, were invited to seats in the Association. The Clerk and Ass't Clerk, as requested, prepared and read a list of the delegates present or expected. Revs. T. Todd, J. D. Freeman and J. W. S. Young, a committee of arrangement, appointed by the Moderator, presented a partial report and their outline of a program was on motion adopted.

Rev. J. H. Cahill, chairman, read the report of the Committee on Denominational Literature. This report urged the importance of Baptists being acquainted with and interested in their own doctrines and church history. If our denomination is to grow and be a great power, then our people must more and more become familiar with the distinctive principles for which we, as a denomination, stand. This knowledge may be obtained from such literature as is supplied by the Baptist Book Room of Halifax, an arsenal of Baptist Literature always supplied with that which we, as a denomination, need in our schools and in our homes. The MESSENGER AND VISITOR also is a standard bearer of Baptist principles, a paper which, when read, will develop and strengthen the mental and moral nature, a paper worthy the patronage of every Baptist family, and the reading of every Baptist adherent.

The suggestion and endorsement of this report was generally approved in the brief discussion which followed its reading, the speakers being Revs. J. D. Freeman, T. Todd and Deacon M. S. Hall and A. H. Chipman, and the report adopted.

The report on Education was read by Rev. J. D. Freeman, the chairman of the committee. It was a definite statement of the attendance at the Academy and the Seminary and the College. It showed that for the year a total of 319 students at our institutions is an encouraging number, and yet one that can be much enlarged. The report referred to the changes in the teaching staff now occurring, paid fitting tribute to the work of the men retiring and told of the character of the men engaged to fill their places. It made an appeal to the churches in Western N. B. to support institutions which are their own and through their help or lack of help must extend their work or fall in accomplishing their mission.

Rev. H. A. Charlton, an old time student at Acadia, spoke of his love for the College and his increasing interest in her welfare. Principal Oakes asked for more students, referred to the excellent equipment of the institutions at Wolfville, called attention to the particular needs at this time for the completion of the Forward Movement Fund. Other speakers, who also were earnest in their endorsement of our schools, were Revs. T. Todd and A. Freeman, Prof. Wortman and Dea. M. S. Hall. The meeting closed with prayer by Rev. J. W. S. Young.

FRIDAY NIGHT.

At 8 p. m. a short sermon was preached by Rev. A. Freeman. His text was taken from Matthew 5, the 12th Verse, and his theme: "The Christian Religion a Religion

of Gladness." The speaker was heard, with much profit, by a large congregation.

At 9 p. m. Prof. Wortman, of Wolfville, was introduced and proceeded to give a practical address upon the equipment of our educational plant and the character of its work. Our fathers had large expectations. They built with seeming audacity. God has accepted their work. Our property at Wolfville is worth in the vicinity of \$100,000 and is endowed to nearly the same amount. The College, the Seminary, and the Academy are doing the work expected of them and a work that in depth and solidity is the equal of that of any similar institutions. This was the opinion not only of the speaker but that given freely by authorities before whom our men have passed. A high tribute was paid to the stamp of men and women sent to Acadia, those from New Brunswick being among the best. St. Martins Seminary was not a failure. Through it many a young man and woman had been started toward a regular and thorough course at Acadia or elsewhere. The institutions at Wolfville should be used to their fullest capacity. For them the fund now raising is absolutely necessary. About one half of the \$75,000 has already been subscribed. This is a time when all should aid to the extent of their ability.

After a further report from the committee of arrangements, Rev. H. D. Worden offered prayer at the close of the meeting.

SATURDAY MORNING.

After a devotional service the morning session opened with prayer by Rev. O. P. Brown. Pastors Ervine and Seeley and Bro. Farley were appointed a committee to read letters. This work occupied so much time that at its completion the following resolution was well supported and adopted:

Resolved, That this association request the clerk in the future to prepare a digest of the church letters to be read before the body in the place of the reading of each letter in detail as is now done.

The following facts were gathered from the reading of the letters: Churches reporting, 45; membership reported, 4,101; baptisms, 98; net increase, 32; money raised for denominational objects, (reported), \$1,374.93. These statistics are not as encouraging as they should be. From the 79 churches at this association a better report in all the departments of their work should be easily possible. We trust that such may be the case another year.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

In the absence of the Moderator, Rev. A. Freeman, Vice-Moderator presided. A few moments were spent in singing and prayer. The report on Systematic Benevolence, prepared by Rev. J. Coombs, was read by the Clerk. This was discussed by Revs. Cahill, Brown, J. D. Freeman, Champion and others, and on motion adopted.

Grande Ligne was represented by a carefully prepared and definite report from Mr. H. C. Creed, read by Dea. M. S. Hall. The year at this remarkable school has been an encouraging one. Protestant and Catholic pupils are earnest in their work. Especially encouraging is the fact that more and more Roman Catholic students seek to enter Grande Ligne because of the excellence of the work done there. Such students are thus brought under influences which otherwise they might not experience. On motion the report was received and adopted.

"Organization, Equipment and Life, as related to church efficiency," was the theme of the Circular Letter prepared and read by Rev. J. D. Freeman. It was well received and displayed evidences of much care and skill in preparation. The view of the writer that organization is in a measure equipment is not the commonly accepted idea, but the position, in this case, is well taken and well defended. It is sometimes well for us to use and direct existing organizations rather than discredit them and lessen their usefulness.

The report on Temperance was presented by Rev. J. H. Cahill, chairman of committee. It was a severe arraignment of the people who sell, and the powers that permit the sale of, intoxicating drink. Churches in the Association were urged to give constant and active support to the existing laws and to be ready for the promised plebiscite. This would not be of advantage, nor easily carried, without the help of every temperance man and woman. Deas. M. S. Hall and B. A. Everett and Revs. O. P. Brown, J. D. Freeman, W. J. Beakney, J. W. S. Young, and S. D. Ervine took part in an interesting discussion, after which the report was on motion adopted.

Rev. Thos. Todd chairman of the committee on ordinations presented the shortest report at the meeting. It was simply a statement that ordinations had taken place during the year and that in no case had his committee been consulted. But this brief report brought on a general and spirited discussion. Pastor Bleakney had not favored last year the appointing of this committee. In his opinion ordinations were most criticised by those who could attend them but would not do so. He believed in a sharing of responsibility and in representative councils. Revs. J. D. Freeman, J. A. Cahill, J. B. Champion, Principal Oakes and Dea. Farley, regretted the fact that whereas the denomination and not the church is held responsible for the standing of its ministry yet very often councils are not representative and men ordained by them

would perhaps have been refused ordination by a larger body. It was their conviction that there was need of just such a committee as had been appointed last year and that this committee should have been consulted in the ordinations that had taken place. Dea. M. S. Hall, Rev. O. P. Brown and J. W. S. Young also took part in the discussion. They differed from the position stated above and were rather inclined to leave the matter to the churches themselves. To place the association on record upon this question, the following motion was moved by Rev. J. D. Freeman and seconded by Rev. J. B. Champion. Resolved—That this association recommend the churches within its bounds to present their candidates for ordination to the annual meeting of the association and request that body to act as the council in the case. This resolution was declared adopted by an aye and nay vote, but as there was doubt in the minds of some, a reconsideration was unanimously carried and the question was again opened for discussion. The speakers were practically the same as those speaking to the first motion and the opinions stated did not materially differ from those already given. Dea. M. S. Hall moved a twelve-months' hold, but his amendment did not carry. The original motion prevailed by a standing vote of 13 to 4.

Rev. J. A. Cahill moved and Dea. M. S. Hall seconded the following resolution: Resolved—That this association have its minutes printed in the "New Brunswick Baptist Annual." A question arose as to whether this would change the present arrangement of having the minutes printed in the Baptist Year Book.

The Clerk of the Association and others were quite sure that no change was intended and the motion was passed.

Earlier in the meeting the report on Home Missions was presented by Rev. T. Todd, Chairman of Committee. Bro. Todd had not understood his appointment and his report was not as detailed as probably it otherwise would have been. Pastor J. D. Freeman suggested that the Secretary of the Home Mission Board, Rev. S. D. Ervine, supplement the report of the committee. To this Deacon M. S. Hall offered objection. It would be unwise, he thought, for the N. B. Convention to announce its policy or report its work in detail to any other body than its own assembled in yearly Convention. Pastor Cahill and Secretary Ervine did not agree with Dea. Hall. Mr. Ervine was ready to answer any and all questions. He recognized the obligation of this Board to the churches represented in this Association. As nearly as he could remember \$1200 had been given this year to Home Mission work in this province. The meeting adjourned with prayer by Pastor F. N. Atkinson.

SATURDAY EVENING.

The meeting opened with reading of Scripture and prayer by Rev. J. B. Champion. The report of Nominating Committee was adopted and is as follows: Denominational Literature—H. C. Creed, M. S. Hall, John Farley; Sabbath Schools—Rev. A. H. Hayward, O. N. Merritt, W. A. Bradley; Systematic Benevolence—J. W. Spurden, Rev. A. B. McDonald, T. E. Babbitt; Grande Ligne Mission—Rev. T. Todd, Rev. J. W. S. Young, Rev. O. P. Brown; For Missions—Revs. J. D. Freeman, W. J. Bleakney, and D. C. Parent; Northwest Missions—Revs. A. B. McDonald, M. P. King and C. N. Barton; Circular Letter—Rev. Geo. Howard; Education—Rev. J. W. Rutledge, Allan Hoben, Havelock Coy; Temperance—Rev. J. H. Cahill, Rev. C. Henderson, J. Farley; New Churches—Rev. H. D. Worden, Leverett Estabrook, Edwin Duppuy; Associational Sermon—Rev. Calvin Currie; Rev. F. N. Atkinson, alternate.

Rev. S. D. Ervine, Secretary of the N. B. Convention, was the first speaker of the evening. His subject was Home Mission work. In this address he referred to the work now being done on the various mission fields, the need for more workers and the kind of men best adapted for this work, the value of larger and more frequent contributions, the importance of harmony of effort.

A man well qualified to continue on the subject of Home Missions, Rev. J. W. S. Young, was the next speaker. Evangelistic work, under favoring and unfavorable circumstances, is familiar to him. He told of the trials and encouragements of this year's work and made an urgent plea for the needy fields that are now calling for aid.

Foreign Missions was the subject of an inspiring address by Pastor J. D. Freeman. His remarks were based upon Paul's vision at Troas, the man of Macedonia. This Macedonian cry was the cry of a solitary man. We need the vision not of millions, a word we cannot grasp, but of one man in need of help. I. A man in God's own image. II. At the incarnation God was made in the image of that man. III. For that man the God man died. IV. Through grace that man might become a man of God, and a saved soul. V. Without the gospel of Christ he must inevitably perish. It was the humanitarian argument for Foreign Missions. Our need of today was this power of vision, to see a man in the light of the word of God and the cross of Jesus Christ. This power of vision is ours through the indwelling of the holy spirit.

The Sabbath day services opened with prayer and praise, 9:15 to 10:15, a helpful meeting. At 10:30. The Association sermon was preached, by Rev. J. A. Cahill, from John 12:24. The subject "Life through death," was presented in a thoughtful and interesting manner, and received an attentive hearing from the large con-

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