Messenger and Visitor

The Maritime Baptist Publishing Company, Ltd

Publishers and Proprietors

TERMS } $2.00 PER ANNUM.
$1.50 IF PAID IN ADVANCE.

S. McC. BLACK - - - - - EDITOR.
A. H. CHIPMAN - - - BUSINESS MANAGER.
85 Germain Street, St. John, N. B.

Printed by PATERSON & CO., 105 and 107 Germain St.

The Winnipeg Convention.

A poet has intimated that the best laid schemes of mice and men frequently miscarry, and thus it has been with our plan of presenting in good time to the readers of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR, from an able and practiced pen, an account of the Winnipeg Convention. For some reason as yet inexplicable, our expectations in this matter have so far failed of realization, and the best that we can at present do for our readers in this connection, is to give them what we are able to pick up from printed sources. For what appears in this article we are indebted chiefly to the Canadian Baptist, which has published a quite full report of the Convention's proceedings.

The delegates who met at Winnipeg to form the Convention numbered in all two hundred and forty. Of this number Ontario and Quebec contributed 108; Manitoba and the Northwest, 87; British Columbia, 13; and the Maritime Provinces, 25. The Convention organized by electing the following officers. President, Hon. H. R. Emmerson, of New Brunswick; Vice-Presidents, Hon. John Dryden, of Ontaria; D. Bentley, Esq., of Quebec; George Christie, Esq., Nova Scotia; E. M. Sipprell, Esq., New Brunswick; G. F. Stephens Esq., of Manitoba; Rev. Alexander McDonald, of the North West Territories; and Rev. W. T. Stackhouse, of British Columbia; Secretary, Rev. C. A. Eaton; Assistant Secretaries, Rev. W. E. Norton, of Owen Sound; and Rev. T. M. Marshall, of Grenfell; Treasurer, Dr. C. L. Starr, Toronto.

The Convention received a cordial welcome at the hands of the people of Winnipeg, and the delegates appear to have found much to interest them both inside and outside of the Convention.

In its discussions the Convention took a wide range, embracing Sunday School work, Home and Foreign Missions and Education. In connection with these subjects there were addresses and discussions of deep interest. On Sunday three discourses were delivered. In the morning Rev. A. A. Cameron of Ottawa, preached a Missionary Sermon. At three o'clock, Dr. Thomas of Toronto, preached the Convention Sermon, on "Baptistic Christianity" from Eph. 2 · 20, and in the evening the Education Sermon was preached by Rev. J. D. Freeman of Fredericton, from John 10 · 10.

Monday was Young People's day. Among the addresses delivered in this connection was one on Spirituality, by Rev. John McNiell; Rev. H. G. Mellick also spoke on The Necessity of Spirituality in Christian Work. Rev. W. N. Hutchins, of Canning, N. S., spoke on Consecration, and Rev. R. W. Trotter, of British Columbia, on The Immediate Social Mission of the Church. Rev. S J. Farmer of Petrolia, spoke on Training Young People for Christian Service, and an interesting discussion, led by Rev. F. T. Tapscott, dealt with the "Man Problem," or how to win men for Christ and the Church. At the meeting of Monday evening the following resolution was presented and adopted:

That a Standing Committee of five members on Young People's work be appointed by this General Convention; that a message of greeting be sent the B. Y. P. U. A. Convention now assembled in Cincinnati, Ohio; that we affirm the past usefulness of the B. Y. P. U., and hope it may go on to the full accomplishment of its God-given mission.

Tuesday morning Rev. Isaiah Wallace delivered a sermon, having for its theme "The Apostolic Church." "A Century of Baptist Progress in the Maritime Provinces," was the subject of an inspiring address by Pastor W. F. Parker of Yarmouth; "Home Mission Work in Ontario and Quebec" was discussed by Rev. J. P. McEwen, Supt. of Home Missions for those Provinces; Rev. E. E. Daley of Sackville, spoke on Mission Work by Baptist Women in Canada, and a paper prepared by Mr. R. D. Warren, discussed "The Church at Work—from a Layman's Standpoint." At the evening session Rev. W. W. Weeks of Toronto, gave a characteristically strong address on "Baptists and the Bible," while Rev. W. T. Stackhouse and Rev. A. J. Vining discussed the subject of Western Missions. A pleasing incident of this meeting was the presentation to Mr. Vining, by Dr. Spencer, from the young people of the First church of Brantford, of a cheque of $200 for the erection of the first house of worship among the Galicians.

Thursday was given to Education. The Relation of Christianity to the Social Problem, was the subject of a masterly address delivered by Prof. J. H. Farmer, and followed by a discussion in which several members of the Convention participated. The Educational Work at Grande Ligne was presented by Rev. M. W. Parent, and the report of the Commitee on Education was presented by Chancellor Wallace of McMaster. This report emphasized strongly the importance of making the spiritual the dominant idea in education, and in view of the special conditions under which the work at Grande Ligne, the Feller Institute and Brandon College is being prosecuted, these institutions were commended to the sympathy of the friends of Christian Education in the other Provinces. In the evening different phases of the work of Baptist Education in the Dominion were discussed by Principal McDiarmid of Brandon College, Chancellor Wallace of McMaster, and President Trotter of Acadia.

Thursday was devoted to the discussion of subjects especially effecting the national welfare. Among the subjects discussed were Temperance, the Sabbath, the Relation of Church and State, and the Relation of the Church to the Political Life. At the evening session Hon. John Bryden spoke on "The Church as a Factor in National Development," and Dr. C. A. Eaton discussed prophetically "The Baptist Contribution to Canada in the Twentieth Century."

Among the resolutions adopted by the Convention was one declaring in favor of a Common Hymn and Tune Book for all the Baptist churches of the Dominion, and recommending to the Provincial Conventions the appointment of a joint committee to consider the propriety of publishing such a book.

A resolution respecting the Sabbath recognized the indispensable necessity of the weekly rest day, protested against the growing tendency to make the Sabbath a day of pleasure, and against the unnecessary labor required on that day by Railway companies, and other large corporations, insisted that our legislators should guard the day against all encroachment and violation, require the cessation of all work, except that of necessity and mercy, and make provision for the day whereby every member of the community shall fully enjoy the blessings the day was designed to afford.

In connection with the discussions on "The Relation of the Church and the State" and "The Relation of the Church to the Political Life," the following resolutions were adopted:

"Profoundly convinced as we are that the Lord Jesus Christ commissioned disciples, and disciples only, to publish the gospel and propagate his truth, and that as we move in obedience to that commission he will supply all our needs—

Resolved, That we re-affirm our historical position regarding the separation of Church and State, involving, as it does, our opposition (1) the practical control of State institutions by denominational authorities; (2) the support of denominational institutions by the State; (3) the non-exemption of church property from State taxation; and (4) the assumption of distinctively religious teaching by the State in any manner or in any form."

"We urge upon our people that they take an intelligent interest in the political life of our country, with the view of promoting truth and righteousness in national affairs, and just views of the dignity and sacredness of the ballot."

The resolution on Temperance, to quote 'The Baptist's' abstract

"rejoiced in the growing sentiment in favor of Prohibition; expressed the keen disappointment felt by many Christian people because the Federal Government has not seen the way to accept the result of the plebiscite as a sufficient warrant for the enactment of a prohibitory liquor law; voiced the satisfaction of the body with the action of the Provincial Governments of Prince Edward Island and of Manitoba, which have, with the hearty concurrence of both political parties, placed on their statute books radical prohibitory enactments; urged the Baptists of those two provinces to strengthen the hands of the representatives who are doing all they can to rid our country of the liquor scourge; and called upon all Canadian Baptists to be consistently persistent in hastening the day when prohibitory legislation shall obtain from the Atlantic to the Pacific. This resolution called forth a vigorous discussion pro and con, but was finally adopted."

The following was adopted as the Convention's permanent constitution:

1. This Convention shall be called "The National Baptist Convention of Canada."
2. Its object shall be to promote unity of ideal and effort in the Educational, Missionary, and Evangelistic work of the Baptist churches of the Dominion.
3. The Convention shall meet every four years, unless otherwise determined by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have authority to determine the time and place of meeting.
4. The officers shall consist of a President, a vice-President for each province, and one for the territories, a Secretary and Treasurer, an Executive Committee composed of the officers and of five additional members chosen by the Convention when the officers are elected.
5. The Executive Committee shall have power to make all arrangements respecting the calling of meetings of the Convention. In the event of vacancies occurring in the offices, by death, resignation, or otherwise, between the meetings of the Convention, the Executive Committee shall make appointments to fill the same for the unexpired term.
6. The duties of the respective officers shall be those which usually appertain to like officers in our Provincial Conventions.

Editorial Notes.

—The tobacco evil is a good—or rather a bad—second to the drink evil, and when indeed one considers the vastly greater number of the tobacco users as compared with those addicted to strong drink, and the fact that the tobacco habit is in many cases a stepping-stone to the drink habit, one hardly knows which of the evils is entitled to the first place. Tobacco in the form of the cigarette especially is a tremendous menace to the manhood of the country. Thousands of half grown boys in the cities and towns of Canada, who are now becoming addicted to this vice, will be practically ruined by it. The serious character of the evil is being recognized, not only by medical men and philanthropists, but by business men and companies. It is stated that Railway Companies in the United States are refusing to retain in their employ men who smoke cigarettes. It will be well if such a rule shall become general among business firms. The stand which railways and other concerns have taken, in refusing to employ men addicted to the use of intoxicating liquor, has done much to promote temperance reform, while it has been of untold advantage both to the employer and the employed and to the general public. If a young man knew that being a cigarette smoker would shut him out from many desirable positions, he would not be so ready to make himself a slave to the pernicious habit.

—The theory that many, if not all, diseases are the result of the presence of certain germs or microbes in the system has found wide acceptance of late years in the realm of medical sience. The theory, however, never obtained universal acceptance and there is at present perhaps a growing disposition to question its correctness. Some eminent medical men regard the presence of certain germs in the human system as an indication and a result, rather than a cause, of disease. This ground was taken by Dr. Charles E. Page in a paper recenty presented before the American Association of Scientists at Washington. Dr. Page holds that in a state of health the disease germs, so called, are destroyed by the natural germicidal juices of the body, that disease is not produced by the microbes, but that, in diseased conditions of the organs, they appear and act the part of scavengers, assisting in removing the disease-producing substances, just as the worms which are bred in decaying substances perform a like useful function. . . If this theory of disease is the true one, the wise physician will not devote his skill to the destroying of microbes, but recognizing them as a natural and necessary concomitant of a diseased condition, will endeavor to restore a condition of health, in which nature, being able to dispense with the assistance of the scavangers, will easily dispose of them.

—The governments of Europe and America, as well as the public generally, seem to be very much at sea in respect to the present situation in China and its probable outcome. Secretary Hay and other officials of the United States Government, appear to place great confidence in the genuineness and authenticity of the despatch received on Friday last from Mr. Conger, the U. S. Minister at Pekin, and that Government is accordingly urging upon Great Britain and the European Powers the necessity of an immediate movement of the allied forces toward the Chinese Capital, in the hope that it may not yet be too late to rescue the legations there. Sir Halliday McArtney, Secretary of the Chinese legation in London, is also said to place confidence in the Conger despatch, and is quoted as saying that messages from Sir Claude MacDonald, the British Minister at Pekin, and the other Foreign envoys might be expected almost immediately, and expressing the hope that the trouble would soon be over, since the Chinese Government was doing its utmost to overcome the difficulties and control the lawless element. This view of the situation, however, does not appear to be generally held in London, Berlin and Paris. On the contrary, little credence is given to the Conger despatch, and little hope apparently is entertained that the former reports of the general massacre of foreigners in Pekin will prove to be untrue. There appears to be little definite information obtainable as to the circumstances of missionaries. In a few cases the murder of missionaries has been re-