

Religious Intelligencer.

THAT GOD IN ALL THINGS MAY BE GLORIFIED THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.—Peter

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FREDERICTON N.B., OCTOBER 14, 1896.

WHOLE No 2225

The General Conference.

Sixty-fourth Annual Session.

(Continued.)

Saturday.—The report last week ended with the proceedings of the Saturday afternoon meeting, which was one of much interest.

Business was resumed at 7.30 p. m. After routine the Nominating committee presented its first report, as follows:

Committee on absent brethren.—Rev. W. H. Perry, Rev. G. W. Foster, William VanWart, L. V. Seely, L. Dunphy and W. G. McLeod.

Committee on collection.—Rev. John Henderson, P. Smith, W. Whitaker, E. McLeod and E. Tracy.

Committee on Appeals.—Rev. David Long, Rev. G. A. Hartley, Rev. G. F. Currie, Geo. Hayward and C. H. Jones.

Committee on deceased brethren.—Revs. Jos. Noble, C. F. Phillips, Henry Hart, O. N. Mott and C. B. Lewis.

Committee on correspondence.—Rev. W. J. Halse, W. Kirkpatrick, W. H. Butler, J. H. Dickinson and J. Carpenter.

Committee on district meetings.—Messrs. Vernon Matthews, J. S. Kenny, J. H. Wetmore, D. W. Clarke, J. A. Jones, Rev. E. B. Gray and Rev. S. Perry.

Committee on literature.—Rev. J. W. Clarke, L. A. Limerick, John E. Slipp, Rev. J. J. Barnes and W. Sheppard.

Delegate of F. B. general conference.—Rev. Gideon Swin; substitute, Rev. W. H. Perry.

The Corresponding Secretary for Sabbath Schools, bro. J. E. McCready presented his report:

The Executive Committee for Sabbath Schools have pleasure in presenting the following report for the year 1895-96. With one school less than was reported last year, the returns show an increase of nearly two hundred scholars and fifty teachers, and of over three hundred dollars in the funds raised for carrying on the good work, divided as follows:—

FIRST DISTRICT reports five schools, 163 scholars and 16 teachers. One school less than reported last year. Converted during the year four. It would appear that we have lost from this District five or six schools which have not reported, for two years, viz. Bath, Bumfau, Fort Fairfield, California, Ortonville and Long Island.

SECOND DISTRICT reports 16 schools—two less than last year, 903 scholars and 76 teachers. Converted during the year 51.

THIRD DISTRICT reports 13 schools, 842 scholars and 74 teachers. Converted during the year 47. This District has a gain of two schools and 125 scholars.

FOURTH DISTRICT reports 11 schools, 530 scholars and 46 teachers.

FIFTH DISTRICT reports 10 schools, 395 scholars and 44 teachers. Converted during the year 25.

SIXTH DISTRICT reports 23 schools, 1325 scholars and 114 teachers. Conversions during year 122.

SEVENTH DISTRICT reports 11 schools, 1274 scholars and 109 teachers. Conversions during the year 40.

Then follows a table setting forth in detail the statistical facts gleaned from the reports of which the following is a summary:

In the 89 schools 5,432 pupils enrolled. Average attendance of pupils 3,739. Number of teachers, 479, and average attendance of teachers, 402.

Fifty-nine of the schools were opened 12 months of the year and 30 six months. There are 7,534 volumes in the libraries and the cash received during the year was \$1,887.64. The value of the school property is \$2,104.29. The number converted 303.

The returns show an increase of scholars in the 3rd, 5th and 6th Districts, while the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 7th do not report as many scholars as last year. Possibly a number of reports sent have not reached me. Correspondence brings out the fact that in some cases reports were sent to the District meetings which have not come into my hands. Perhaps some that were sent failed, also, to reach the Clerks of Districts.

We regard with pleasure the number of conversions of members of the schools reported. The largest number is from the Sixth District, 122. While the total is less than last year, it is worthy of note that the decrease is chiefly in the Seventh District, where the unusual number last year was due principally to special evangelistic labour.

It is pleasant to note that evergreen schools are still increasing, notably in the First District. To have all our schools evergreen should be the earnest endeavour of every S. S. worker; and we trust that a larger number each year will be reported as being taught the word of truth every Sabbath in the year.

Attention may be directed to the fact that, according to the reports received, the attendance of pastors at the schools decreases rather than increases.

The amount of school property seems also, to have become less. This however, may be due to neglect to report

the facts than to loss of property, as the general increase in attendance would indicate.

Your committee feels that there is reason to rejoice that this branch of our work is progressing so favourably; and would urge renewed activity in all the churches in this most important part of our denominational duty.

On behalf of the S. S. Executive, J. E. McCready, Cor. Sec.

On the motion to adopt this report interesting addresses were made by brethren W. C. Keirstead and others. Rev. Dr. Carey (Baptist) who was present made a pleasant fraternal address.

THE SABBATH.

The Sabbath was a beautiful day.

There was an early morning prayer meeting, largely attended, and a season of much spiritual enjoyment. . . . At 11 a. m. the Conference sermon was preached by Rev. C. T. Phillips. His text was Romans 7:4, the subject being "Fruit unto God." The large congregation was deeply moved by the preacher's tender and earnest presentation of truth. . . . There was a Sabbath school service at 2 p. m., the pastor, Rev. W. J. Halse, presiding. . . . At 3 p. m. Rev. D. T. Porter, delegate from the N. S. Conference, preached a very earnest and practical sermon. At the close of the afternoon preaching the ordinance of the Lord's Supper was administered to a large number, Revs. Jos. Noble and Jos. McLeod officiating. It was a deeply impressive service. . . . At 7 p. m. Rev. G. F. Currie preached, and was, as always, practical and pointed. . . . Pulpits of our own and other denominations were supplied by ministers of the Conference, as follows:

Carleton Free Baptist, 11 a. m., Lic. C. T. Coombs; 6.30 p. m., Rev. G. W. Foster.

Waterloo St. Free Baptist, 11 a. m., Rev. A. Perry; 7 p. m., Rev. J. T. Parsons.

Main St. Baptist, 11 a. m., Rev. D. Long; 7 p. m., Rev. Dr. McLeod.

Brussels St. Baptist, 11 a. m., Rev. E. Crowell M. A.; 7 p. m., Rev. F. C. Hartley A. B.

Leinster St. Baptist, 11 a. m., Rev. W. C. Keirstead.

Ref. Baptist, Rev. J. J. Barnes.

Portland St. Methodist, 11 a. m., Rev. G. F. Currie; 7 p. m., Lic. A. H. Williams.

Zion Methodist, 11 a. m., Rev. J. T. Parsons; 7 p. m., Rev. W. C. Keirstead.

Exmouth St. Methodist, 11 a. m., Rev. Dr. McLeod.

Carleton Methodist, Rev. F. A. Currier, M. A.

Tabernacle Baptist, 11 a. m., Rev. Gideon Swin; 7 p. m., Rev. S. J. Perry.

Golden Grove, Rev. W. H. Perry.

MONDAY. At 9 a. m. the Conference resumed business, the moderator, Rev. G. W. Foster, in the chair. Hymn 544 was sung. The Moderator read Ps. 34, and Rev. H. Hartt offered prayer. . . . After roll call and reading of the minutes, the election of Moderator for the ensuing year was proceeded with. The first ballot resulted in the election of Rev. B. H. Nobles.

Ballotting for the office of Assistant Moderator resulted in the choice of Rev. G. Swin. The Moderator elect being presented, thanked the Conference for so marked an expression of confidence, and asked the hearty co-operation of all members in the work before them. The retiring Moderator and the Assistant Moderator, also, spoke briefly and gracefully.

Rev. J. W. Clarke, for the committee on Deceased Brethren, presented the following report:

Bro. Moderator: Your committee on deceased brethren, for the year now ended, have to report the departure by death of one of our oldest and most devoted ministers. Rev. John G. McKenzie, of precious memory, triumphed over "the last enemy which is death," on the morning of August 4th last, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. David T. Hartt, of Fredericton Junction, in the 72nd year of his age.

Bro. McKenzie, whose last pastorate comprised the churches at Rusagornish, Ormotto and Waasis, had arranged an exchange of pulpits with the pastor of the Fredericton Junction pastorate; but, after reaching that place, he became so ill that he was unable to fill the appointments. His illness, however, continued only a few days, and during that time he was able to walk about, calling on some friends the day before his death. Although for several years his health had been failing, he

continued actively engaged in the service of God, earnestly preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ until his last Sabbath on earth.

He was buried at Jerusalem, Queens Co., by the side of her who for many years had walked by his side, and who had preceded him in walking "through the valley of the shadow of death."

His funeral was large, being attended by many sorrowing friends, from various sections of the country. The services, which were deeply impressive and solemn, were conducted by his pastor, Rev. G. W. Foster, who preached an appropriate sermon from the appropriate text, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them, also, that love his appearing."

Our late brother was converted to God in early life, and when but a young man made public profession of his faith in Jesus Christ, and was baptized by the late Rev. W. E. Pennington. Believing himself called to preach the Gospel, and many others having the same feeling regarding him, he was, after due course, ordained a minister in this denomination on Sunday, Oct. 5th, 1856, at Greenwich, Kings Co. The ordination of our aged brother, Rev. Thos. Connor, was also, at the same time and place. It is worthy of mention in this connection that the ministers who conducted the ordination services have all of them "crossed the river," except Rev. G. A. Hartley; they were Elders Samuel Hartt, Benjamin Merritt and Ezekiel McLeod.

During the forty years of bro. McKenzie's ministry, it may truly be said that he preached the word, was instant in season and out of season, was sound in doctrine, endured affliction, did the work of an evangelist, made full proof of his ministry. In his earlier years his work was chiefly evangelistic, and under his labours many were converted and added to the churches. In his later years he had pastoral engagements with several of the churches in Kings, Queens and Sunbury counties, and always obtained and retained the confidence and esteem of the people.

Our brother, who will be with us no more, has passed to his reward but a little before. When the "days of the years of our pilgrimage" are ended we shall greet him on "the evergreen shore" and, with the numbered host, we shall join in ascriptions of praise "unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to whom be glory and dominion forever and ever." Amen.

The voice at midnight came; He started up to hear; A mortal arrow pierced his frame; He fell, but felt no fear.

Tranquil amid alarms, It found him on the field, A veteran slumbering on his arms, Beneath his red-cross shield.

The pains of death are passed; Labour and sorrow cease; And, life's long warfare closed at last, His soul is found in peace.

Bro. F. A. Currie, for the Committee on denominational literature, presented the following report:

1. This is preeminently the age of books; and knowing that what one reads has a great influence in moulding the life and character of the reader, we recommend the greatest care on the part of officials and committees in selecting proper books for the libraries of Sunday schools.

2. We think that if Sunday schools, desirous of purchasing libraries, would be careful to appoint for that purpose only such persons as have an undoubted literary taste and knowledge, that many really unworthy books would be kept out of the schools.

3. We would recommend that S. Schools having libraries to exchange should write the Secretary of the Sunday Schools Executive, stating the number and condition of the books to be exchanged, and requesting the names of others schools having similar desire.

4. We think the establishment of a Denominational Book Room, recommended by your committee of last year, a highly desirable thing.

5. We regret the lack of an adequate supply of denominational hymn-books, and think it unfortunate that so many of our churches select just such books as they choose.

6. We most heartily endorse the RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER as our denominational paper. We regret very much the lack of denominational interest of many of our people, who can subscribe for several secular papers but who cannot afford to take the INTELLIGENCER.

7. We think this Conference should devise some means by which the editor of our denominational paper may be better remunerated for his work.

There was some discussion of the report, particularly of the section suggesting the establishment of a Book Room. The prevailing thought seemed to be that while there should be a head-quarters for denominational literature, it is not necessary and would not be wise to establish a Book Room.

The committee was instructed to arrange for an Agency for Denominational literature.

Rev. G. A. Hartley reported that he had attended to the duty assigned him by Res. 20, of the session of last year; that the Hand Books have been bound, and are in the hands of the Treasurer of Conference.

Bro. Vince suggested that it would be well for the Conference to consider the question of changing the time of holding the annual session. Other business was brought on, and the question of the change of time did not again come up.

It was voted to print 3500 copies of the Year Book for 1896. The usual sum was voted to meet the expense of superintending the publication.

It was voted to print the minutes of the Young People's League in the Year Book.

The Moderator spoke of an appeal made to the Sixth District meeting touching the Moncton pastorate, which had been referred by the District meeting to the Conference. There were certain communications concerning the matter, which, by resolution, were referred to the committee on Correspondence.

Rev. G. W. Foster presented the report of the committee on Absent Brethren. It stated that twelve ministers were absent, six of whom were ill, three were out of the Province, two were detained by business, and one gave no excuse for being absent. The committee suggested that no minister be excused who does not give reasons for being absent, and that secular business be not accepted as an excuse for absence.

Some of the brethren thought that other absent members, as well as absent ministers, should be included in the report. Probably they will be in future. The report was adopted.

Adjourned.

MONDAY AFTERNOON.—At 2 p. m. the public meeting of the W. F. M. Society was held. There was a large attendance. The President, Mrs. A. C. Smith, presided. Besides the reports of the officers, there were addresses by Rev. D. T. Porter, Rev. Jos. Noble, Mrs. Boyer, Mrs. Manning and Mrs. March. As it and the other meetings of the Society will be fully reported by the officers of the Society, nothing more needs to be said of it here than that it was a meeting of much interest.

At 4.45 p. m. Conference resumed business. Prayer by Rev. G. Swin. Minutes read.

Rev. G. A. Hartley, Sec. of the Board of Managers, presented the Board's report. [The report will be printed in a future issue.]

The report of the Treasurer of the Board of Managers was presented by bro. B. S. Palmer. Referred to the Auditor.

Adjourned.

MONDAY EVENING.—Conference opened at 7 p. m. "All hail the power of Jesus name" &c. was sung. Rev. G. Swin read the first Psalm. Prayer by Rev. J. J. Barnes.

After the reading of the minutes, Rev. W. J. Halse, for the committee on Temperance, presented the following report:

We wish to reiterate the principles of our fathers on the question of temperance. While other evils which are around us are lessened by coming in contact with holy influences and the power of intemperance is steadily waning, the damning effects still remain. We as a Conference, are as determinedly opposed to the liquor traffic in all its work as we have ever been. We are looking forward with hopeful expectations that in the near future the cause of temperance will gloriously triumph. Your committee would exhort all advocates and friends of the cause to play the man at the ballot box.

The report on education was presented by Rev. G. F. Currie:

Your committee on education beg leave to urge that the suggestions of former committees be carefully considered, and carried out, viz., that something be done immediately to place our educational work on a better and more satisfactory basis.

That we have now not even a connection or interest in any institution of learning is a matter of profound regret. And the fact that the young people were being educated in schools of other denominations cannot be otherwise than attended by results injurious to our denominational interests.

There is no doubt that the sentiment of the times demands an educated ministry, and in some way this conference should undertake to meet that demand.

It is true that efforts have been made in past years towards this end;

but very little permanent progress has been made. Repeated and, in some cases, disastrous failures, have seemed to paralyze effort. But we should not be discouraged. If we believe this work is right, "forward" should always be our watchword. The conference notes with pleasure the fact that a number of our young men, with commendable zeal and indomitable will, have educated themselves, having taken their degrees in some of the higher institutions of learning, and that others are following the same course. It is the duty of the conference not only to give sympathy to these young men but to provide some way to extend to them financial help.

The consideration of the report was deferred.

The Secretary reported that the Conference Executive had held but one meeting during the year, immediately after the last session of Conference, the minutes of which were printed in the Year Book of 1895. Any other business which needed attention was merely routine, and was done by correspondence.

Rev. Jos. Noble, for the committee on the Sabbath, presented a report reiterating previous declarations of Conference as to the sacredness of the Lord's day, and the importance of keeping it holy unto the Lord.

The Treasurer for Foreign Missions, bro. E. W. Slipp, submitted his report, showing the expenditure during the year of \$914.73; the balance due the Treasurer being \$180.22. The report was referred to the Auditor.

The Treasurer for Home Missions, Rev. J. W. Clark, submitted his report, showing an expenditure during the year of \$581.85, and a balance on hand of \$268.91. Referred to the Auditor.

Several small bills—the expenses of two delegations, a bill for stationery for the use of Conference, and one for printing forms—were ordered paid.

REPORTS OF MISSIONS.

At 7.30 the order of business was the report of the Executive for Home Missions, which was presented by Rev. F. C. Hartley, Cor. Sec. for H. Missions.

This denomination owes its existence under God, to mission labour. Many a time and oft have we heard how consecrated effort carried the Gospel of free salvation along the shores, up and down the valleys, and over the hills of the province. As a result churches were established holding and teaching the truths peculiar to us as a people and many of our immunities are due to this effort. The need of mission work in this province has not as yet passed away, there are many people who would enjoy Free Baptist faith and practice fully as much as we do. The question is—What right have we who have received our blessings from others to refuse to pass them on to the needy even at the expense of personal sacrifice?

It is a pleasure, dear friends, for your Executive to narrate to-night what they have been enabled to do in mission work during the past year through your generosity. The Executive held a meeting in Woodstock during the session of conference last year when arrangements were made to secure the labours of regular missionaries during the year; four other meetings have been held during the year and considerable correspondence carried on, the best judgment has been given by the executive to the work in hand. All applications received were carefully considered; in some cases the grants asked for were not made, this was not because the executive did not desire to assist but because other needs seemed more urgent. The report will briefly set before you what the executive have endeavoured to accomplish during the year, how the plans have been carried into execution and then to offer a few thoughts suggested by the work.

First the executive have had in mind the pushing of the work into new fields and also the helping of pastorates and churches failing to secure pastoral labour during the year: It has also been our wish that all the young men who are coming up among us having the ministry in view and especially those who are endeavouring to better qualify themselves for the work, should find employment among our churches during the summer months. This is important for if it is not done our young men will either find employment across the line or will spend their time in secular employment and so lose what benefit might be derived from preaching and acquaintance with our people. We have also continued the policy of previous years in assisting such pastorates as were unable without assistance to secure a pastoral labour. With one exception we have refrained from making grants to individual churches properly included in pastorates having a pastor.

Soon after Conference arrangements were made with Bros. S. J. Perry and O. DeWitt by which their labours might be, in part, under the direction of the Executive. Bro. Perry began

work with the church at Upper Gagetown. During his stay his labours were faithful and profitable. A request having been made for mission labour in the first district Bro. Perry was sent to labour there under the direction of Bros. Noble and Phillips. He held special services with the churches at Bath, Bumfau, Upper Kent, Lower Perth, Wicklow, and Canaan. The services held resulted in so strengthening these churches that they were enabled to retain the services of Bro. Perry as a regular pastor. The Brother reports five baptisms, and the organization of a young people's society in one of his churches.

Bro. DeWitt began work under the executive direction about the middle of November with the church at Clarington, at this place as a result of special services three were baptized and added to the church: In December Bro. DeWitt visited the church at Upper Hainesville, where he held service during part of three months, fifteen were baptized and added to the church. Part of February and all of March were spent at Beaver Harbour where help was much needed. The Lord graciously owned the labours of the missionary in this neighborhood; twenty-one were baptized and added to the church: Part of the month of April was spent at Hainesville where four others were baptized. The next place visited was Millville, formerly in this place we had a thriving little church but of late years from various causes the interest had gone down and the church much scattered: Bro. DeWitt reorganized the church and added to its membership by baptism. In May some labour was given to the church at Blissville, one was baptized. During August and September special services were held at Staple Settlement where eight persons were baptized and a branch church organized. On Sunday 27th inst a new church building in the neighborhood was dedicated to God.

During the month of April Bro. C. T. Coomes a licentiate of the Woodstock church was given a month's mission to the churches at Southhampton and Campbell Settlement &c. During the month Bro. Coomes made a place for himself among these people and at its close was engaged as regular pastor for the remainder of the year. Bro. Coomes held special services at Campbell Settlement where seventeen were baptized.

All the young men who made application to the board for work during vacation were provided for. Bro. W. R. Reid who is at present studying at Cobb's Divinity school was introduced to the "Prince William" — Queensbury circuit. Hewas engaged on this circuit and labours greatly blessed. Bro. Frank S. Hartley; another student of the same school was sent under the direction of the Secretary to labour with the church at Lincoln. The church was much helped and showed its appreciation of the young brother's labour by more than paying his salary. Bro. L. A. Fenwick has laboured at Beaver Harbour. In addition to those already mentioned the executive has given assistance to the following pastorates and churches. In the second District at the request of the District Committee a grant was made to the circuit of which Bro. J. N. Barnes is pastor. He reports having held special services in all of the churches, twenty-nine have been added by baptism and two by letter. In the Third District a small grant was made to Bro. W. C. Keirstead for care extended to Kingsley church, five were baptized and seven were added to the church. The usual grant was continued to the Stanley church of which Bro. A. H. Bonnell is pastor. Bro. Bonnell also visited during the year the people at Bloomfield. At this place twenty-seven years ago one of our ministers organized a church, from that time until the present year they have never heard a Free Baptist sermon. Bro. Bonnell gathered the people together again reorganized the church and added one to it by baptism. In the fifth District a grant was made to Rev. C. B. Lewis' pastorate. One was added by baptism to the church at 2nd Greenwich. In the Sixth Dist. the church at Moncton secured the usual grant. Bro. E. S. Parker has had charge of the church during the year and reports unusual prosperity. Eighteen have been added by baptism. Bro. W. H. Perry, is pastor of the churches in Grand Manan Island to which a grant was made during the year. Bro. Perry's report is highly satisfactory. At Seal Cove eighteen were baptized, four were baptized at Grand Harbour and one at North Head.

A brief summary will reveal the following facts. We have been enabled during the year to assist thirty-one churches. These churches report one hundred and twenty-six baptisms and one hundred and sixty additions. In closing the report we desire to express gratitude to Almighty God for the blessing of the past year and also a hope that the incoming year may be even more successful: Shall this hope be realized? Yes: that is if we are willing with new courage and greater dependence upon the Holy Spirit to do each his part, in praying earnestly, paying properly—and working energetically. Pray, Pay and Work and God's blessing is sure.

(Continued on page 4.)