

TERMS AND NOTICES

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BRING ALL YOU CAN.

We will be glad if the ministers will speak to their congregations about the INTELLIGENCER before Conference, and intimate that they will take subscriptions, both old and new. Many subscriptions are due, a considerable number of which we hope the brethren may be able to bring with them to Conference.

Religious Intelligencer.

REV. JOSEPH McLEOD, D. D., EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 29TH, 1897.

Any compromise with evil is wrong. The price paid, no matter how great, does not change the character of the transaction.

There may be a small attendance at the prayer meeting, and yet it may be a meeting of blessing, not only to those present but through them to many others.

It is not possible to determine whether a work has been a success or a failure until all the circumstances are known. Many a worker has been censured for failure, when if all the facts had been known it would have been seen that he had done wise and heroic service and won the truest success.

"Returned Empty" is the term of reproach applied to bishops of the Church of England who, having been in charge of dioceses in the colonies or in remote places, have resigned and returned home. There are, it is stated, twenty-nine such bishops residents in England. A few have had to give up their positions owing to broken health or age, and they are held in honour, while those who have given up their work because they like to be in England are not highly thought of.

A New England woman is made responsible in the 'Examiner,' for the newest excuse for withholding an offering for foreign missions. The collector for missions called and made known her errand, and was met with the reply: "No, I have nothing to give to foreign missions. I have been thinking over this whole question, and I would like to have you tell me what the heathen have ever done for me."

The collector might have suggested that, at least, the heathen world gives us all an opportunity to show just what kind of Christians we are.

The movement in the Methodist Episcopal church for larger lay representation in the General Conference is evidently gaining strength. As at present constituted the ministers are two-thirds of the members of the Conference. The constitution cannot be changed unless three-fourths of the ministers vote for it. Up to the present they have not been willing to give the laymen equal representation in General Conference. The Methodist laymen of Indiana had a convention a few days ago to consider the matter, and they took strong ground against the unfairness of the present arrangement.

"There is in ministerial ranks too much worldliness and too little other-worldliness." The 'Christian Work' says so; and we are sure a paper of his high character would not make such a statement without what it believes to be good reason. The chief reason is the unwillingness of many young ministers to enter upon the work in mission fields, at home and abroad; they prefer to wait for what they regard as more "eligible" calls. When a young minister, or one of any age, thinks chiefly about "a nice, easy field" he is near the place where his real usefulness as a Christian minister ends; he has more of the worldly mind than of the mind of Christ.

The General Conference.

Next week the New Brunswick General Conference of the Free Baptist Church will meet in this city. It will be the third time the Conference has met here. It was here, first, in July 1864, and again in October 1884. As on those occasions the Conference was heartily welcomed to the city and hospitably entertained, so it will be this year. And as those sessions were noteworthy by reason of advanced ground taken in Christian work, so let us all hope and pray that the session of this year will be marked by a holy purpose of broader, better, and braver things in the service of our Lord.

The Conference brings together not only the ministers of the denomination—those who have been set apart to be the religious teachers and leaders of the people, but also, a number of laymen—those, presumably, whom their brethren regard as representative of the intelligence, devotion and Christian enterprise of the churches, and worthy to be entrusted with the treatment and determination of questions affecting the welfare of the whole body. Each year there come some who have for many years enjoyed the confidence of their brethren by being appointed to represent them in Conference; and each year there is, also, the introduction of new members. The veterans are welcomed not only for the service they have done, but for the value of their large experience and the matured judgment they bring to the consideration of all questions touching the welfare of Zion. The younger members are welcomed because their coming gives promise, under God, that though the fathers pass away the work will go forward; because they bring the large hope and courage and the aggressive spirit characteristic of youth, and because of the freshness which they bring to the consideration of plans of Christian work, and the vigor with which they go about their execution.

The meeting of the chief court of a religious body is an event of much importance. The mere meeting, the election of officers, the appointments of committees, the hearing reports and other routine are not enough; even several good sermons and sundry earnest speeches added, with much enthusiasm, do not make a Conference.

The matters with which Conference has power to deal are as many and varied as the needs of the denomination—indeed, as the needs of any single church of the denomination. All these needs it should earnestly seek to discover, and as earnestly seek to meet them.

What the Conference will do this year no one can tell in advance. It is to be hoped that it will deal most carefully and thoroughly with everything which affects the life of the churches, and adopt, as needed, such measures as will most promote "the growth of the whole body in Christian knowledge, holiness" and efficiency.

Among the matters that should have careful attention are Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Education, and Ministers' Relief. The whole financial condition especially of the several branches of work which come more directly under the care and direction of Conference needs attention.

It is hoped that every member of Conference is getting ready for it. No trifling thing should keep any member away. Every member should, unless providentially prevented, be present at the beginning, and remain to the close. Members of committees appointed last year, and officers who have reports to make should have them ready. The session should not be hurried. The interests entrusted to Conference are too valuable, too sacred, to be hurriedly considered. So much of the prosperity of Christ's church is involved that every item of work should be prayerfully and thoroughly done. Conference is in the eye of the people. Not only our own people watch it with interest, but other people, too, are looking on. Our own people are helped or discouraged as they see the work of Conference done carefully or carelessly; and other people form their impressions of our character as a Christ body by what we do, and how we do it. If all remember that it is the Lord's work we are dealing with, we will surely give to it our best thoughts and all the time it requires.

Amidst all the business there will, of course, be ample provision for devotional services.

There will, as always, and very rightly, be rejoicings because of the goodness of the Lord to His people. The past and the present will be compared, and, with thanksgiving, the people will exclaim, "What hath God wrought!"

Out of this thanksgiving should come a purpose to "Go Forward." This

should be the motto of the Conference. Anything less than a holy purpose, under God, to do more and better things in His service and for His glory would be unworthy a Christian body.

Are we all hoping for a good Conference? Then let us pray for the manifest presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout the session.

Notes on Current Events.

Hon. W. S. Fielding, Finance Minister, has gone to England to float a loan of \$10,000,000 for the Dominion government.

President Kruger, of the South African Republic, is reported seriously ill. One of the physicians who examined him recently, told him that he would not probably live more than a year and a half. The old gentleman is, however, resolved to seek re-election to the Presidency.

The Inspector of Inebriates' Retreats in England has just issued a report which contains some interesting statements. It is claimed that about one-third of those who go to the Inebriates' Retreats are cured of drunkenness. The figures of one of the Homes show that of 442 cases discharged, subsequent reports show that 149 are doing well, 24 have improved, 31 are dead, four are insane, and 164 have not improved. The other cases were not traced. The report goes on to say that the number of habitual drunkards in English society is greatly underestimated, and adds:—"Immoderate drinking, though frightfully common among the industrial classes, is still more prevalent among the 'upper ten'." Continuing, the report says: "It is also certain that among women of all classes drunkenness is increasing rapidly. Out of 442 cases mentioned above (at one Home), 101 were university men, 316 were well educated, 235 were married, and the others were widowers or bachelors. In fifty-five percent of the cases the excess was traceable to predisposing hereditary indications."

It has been suggested that one way by which to more emphasize the union of the British Empire is to do away with the names by which the various parts of the Empire are now designated as Canada, Australia, etc., and to apply, instead, the name British Empire to all countries under British rule. There would, of course, have to be a way of designating the different sections of the Empire. Great Britain proper would be known as 'British Empire Central,' Canada would be known as 'British Empire-North-West,' etc. This may sound very well to some people, but it will be some time before the various parts of the Empire will give up their distinctive names.

The "Good roads" meeting held in St. John last week was attended by a good number of thoughtful gentlemen, and was a success. The talks of Mr. Campbell, the Superintendent of roads in Ontario, were interesting and instructive. A Good Roads Association was formed. Geo. F. Hill M. P. is President; Howard Trueman, Vice-President; there is also a Vice-President for each county, and J. S. Armstrong C. E. Sec. Treas; the Directors are W. W. Hubbard, Sussex; J. J. McGaffigan, J. M. Barnes, Hon. H. R. Emmerson, A. A. Stockton Wm. Shaw, Hon. L. P. Farris. Just what they will do, and how they will proceed to do it, will appear later.

The framers of the constitution of the proposed Australian federation were intending to leave the name of God out of the instrument. Such a protest has been made against the omission of a suitable recognition of God in the constitution that the original intention will probably be abandoned. A remarkable meeting of protest is reported as having been held in Sydney, Australia a few days ago. Among the speakers were Roman Catholics, Protestants and Jews. The meeting is described as earnest and enthusiastic, Protestant, Catholic and Jew rising and uniting in the Lord's prayer at the opening of the meeting.

Most thoughtful citizens are ready to acknowledge that this country has too many governments and that governing the country costs far too much. Occasionally the feeling finds expression in the papers, but a way of reform has not been set forth. The Montreal Star thinks a movement might be started advocating certain definite economies, and suggests the following as some of them:

"The reduction of the membership of the Dominion Parliament by one-half."

"The cutting in two of each Provincial Legislature in the same way."

"The union of the three maritime Legislatures in one."

The striking of certain specified port folios from the list of each Cabinet Federal and Provincial.

Perhaps highland sessions of the Provincial Legislatures.

If the friends of economy in the country were to come together they would in all probability be able to hit upon other definite economies which might be made without in any way impairing the efficiency of our public institutions. Then when such a programme was agreed upon, we would all have something clear and unmistakable to fight for. There would be no more general crying out for economy. We would have, too, a definite programme to which to pledge candidates. Then when any part of it was accomplished, the saving in public money would be obvious and important and would encourage the campaign for the abolition of the remaining extravagances.

The up risings on the borders of India are being suppressed.

France, alarmed by the shrinking of the birthrate, is giving attention to the question of increasing the population. A society has been organized to carry on an agitation in favour of measures encouraging large families. Many Departmental Assemblies have united in an appeal to the National Government to pass a law reducing taxation in proportion to the number of children in the taxpayer's family, and that this principle be applied to all financial laws. In addition, all favours at the disposal of the State are to be reserved for the members of large families.

The strike of the coal miners of the United States has been settled for the present, the strikers having made a modified proposal, pending a further settlement. That the miners have a real cause of complaint there is no doubt. Something of the treatment they receive is shown in this extract from the report of a special commissioner appointed by the Governor of Indiana to investigate the condition of the striking coal miners of that State. After a careful investigation the commissioner reports "that the miners have a just cause; that there are eight thousand families in the State, having thirty thousand members, who are really starving; that a few years ago the men in these families received one dollar and twenty-five cents per ton for the coal which they mined; that now the average price per ton is thirty-five cents, but the rent of their homes has not decreased, and they are obliged to buy their provisions at the company store."

The persecution of Christians in some parts of China continues. A missionary at Chouping writes: "The rumors about foreigners and Christians kidnapping children are still being circulated. Last week three travellers passing through a village were set upon and beaten to death and buried by the excited mob. Another man living just outside the city was accused of kidnapping and so frightened by threats that he lost his reason. Several Christians have been beaten, and attacks have been made upon some of our country chapels."

Sir Wm. VanHorne, President of the C. P. R., went over the Canada Eastern from this city to Chatham last Thursday, with Mr. Gibson. The fact revives the talk about the C. P. R.'s desire to purchase the road.

Good rains have fallen in India lately. They have extended over a wide area, and assure good wheat crops.

The new Roman Catholic Archbishop—the gentleman who recently came into the right to wear a particularly broad ribbon and a great tassel on his hat, has issued an order forbidding priests to ride bicycles within the city limits, on ground that it is undignified. Perhaps some who have seen priests and preachers pedalling through the streets will agree with the archbishop about the lack of dignity.

A report from Arkansas tells of a religion-craze caused by a sect calling itself "The Order of Holiness." In Heber, one of the Summer resorts in the State, disciples of this sect began to hold what they called "holiness meetings." The report says that "they preached strange doctrines. Marriage was denounced as ungodly, ordinary religion was declared to be a fraud upon the credulity of man, and labor of all kinds was said to be unnecessary. The disciples called upon men and women to renounce their marriage vows, quit work, come into camp, become sanctified, receive the Holy Spirit, and be joyful. In two weeks the disciples gathered about them 200 followers. Men and women were crazed with the teachings. Men and women shout until they are exhausted and become unconscious. The leaders

declare their condition due to the action of the Holy Spirit.

Major Walsh, the Administrator of the Klondike region, started for the Yukon last Saturday. There are eight or ten in the party. The party are fitted out precisely the same as an Arctic expedition. They are equipped with eiderdown quilts, wolf robe sleeping bag, day and night moccasins, rubber and fur goods for water and cold, and are each armed with Colt revolvers, 45 calibre, a precise and deadly weapon, and one hundred rounds of ammunition each. The bags in which to sleep at night are made of duck outside and lined with flannel filled in between with eiderdown. Major Walsh is prepared to spend the winter in a tent if he cannot get a cabin and will share the hardships of weather and commissariat with his men. Eight double wall tents 16 by 14 are being taken along and these with a stove in each should be tolerably warm even with the thermometer sixty below zero. There will be a detachment of twenty mounted police accompany the party from Vancouver and dog drivers and 120 husky dogs with sleds for the trip from Lake Tagish to Dawson, six hundred miles, all of which will have to be walked by the expedition if the rivers and lakes are closed with ice.

The late government decided, and declared as its policy, that at the expiration of the then existing arrangements with steamship companies no subsidy for carrying mails would be given to any company not making a Canadian port its terminus. It was generally understood, that the subsidy arrangement expired last year, but the present government decided that it had another year to run. The time is nearly up, and the steamship companies have intimated that, having made their winter ports at Portland and at Boston, they do not intend to call at any Canadian port. The government is face to face with a somewhat difficult question. The two steamship companies—the Allan and the Dominion—with their railroad connections &c are, without doubt, powerful; but it remains to be seen whether the government will submit to them or carry out the purely Canadian policy.

Home Religious News.

—Evangelists Crossley and Hunter are now in Bridgetown, N. S.

—The Presbyterian Synod of the Maritime Provinces is to meet in Moncton Tuesday of next week.

—The Disciples of Christ have erected a neat house of worship at Mascarene, Charlotte Co. It will be dedicated the 10th of next month.

—From £71,000 recently left in England to the society for the Propagation of the Gospel (Episcopal); £640 comes to this Province—£40 for a new church building at Andover, £100 for a church at Marysville, and £500 towards the Davenport School, St. John.

—At the annual meeting of the Moncton Y. M. C. A. held last week the reports showed that the membership had increased from 102 to 468. The receipts during the year were \$2,253.31 and the disbursements \$1,941.93. The women's auxiliary has 50 members, with a credit balance of \$341.19.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.—Rev. Mr. Strathie, of Newport, N. S., writes the Presbyterian Witness of an experience his church had in raising money for repairing the church building. The amount needed was about \$300. How was the money to be raised? was the question. He says:

The air was full of the talk of tea-meetings, and it seemed to be a foregone conclusion that this was the only means by which such a large sum could be raised in this comparatively weak congregation. A congregational meeting was held and the matter fully discussed. A few thought that the money could be raised by free gifts. Nearly all the others thought it could not. At length it was agreed to see how much could be gathered through the free offering of the people. One man said he would give fifty dollars. This caused all of us to open our eyes, and most of us our hearts. Two others said they would give twenty each. Half a dozen said they would give ten dollars each. And so on. The result is that we have all that we asked for, and more than we expected. And the people individually feel far better over it. Thus what no one expected, and only a few thought possible was quickly brought to pass. And so it is ever, it seems to me. People think they are not able to give directly, but the trouble is they do not make up their minds to give. Resolve to do anything in the Lord's name and it can be done.

DEATH OF A MINISTER.—On Wednesday of last week, Rev. Theodore Cossman, D. D., aged ninety, the oldest Lutheran minister in Canada, died at Lunenburg, N. S. He has been over sixty years in the ministry.

(Continued from page one.) to be needful in the present working of our polity that an advisory and consultative Board be appointed, **THIRTEEN RESOLVED**, (1) that the Executive of Conference, with power to add, be that Board; (2) that they shall have power to advise with and counsel any local church; if needed, as to the engagement of a minister until the said minister becomes a member of this Conference; (3) that they may aid in the examination and installation of pastors; (4) that they may be called to aid in the settlement of church difficulties, any such application for aid to be sent to the Clerk of Conference; (5) that we earnestly recommend all our membership in all difficulties to follow the scriptural injunctions.

Mover, T. H. SIDDALL, Seconded, Wm. MILLAR. The amendment was carried. The Report was adopted as amended.

RESOLVED: That Bros. G. M. Wilson, A. Gayton and A. Cook be a com. to arrange the terms with Bros. West and Porter for the work at Parrsboro.

The Report of the Committee re. East River meeting house was read and adopted, viz.: (1) your committee cannot consider the evidence given in the East River meeting house matter, as proving a just claim to that property on the part of the Free Baptists of N. B. Maine and N. S., and the more especially as the majority of the building committee are opposed to such a change.

(2) We think, however, that it is very evident that misunderstandings have arisen by the common use of the Free Baptist name by two different denominations.

(3) As we have heretofore in our Conference called the attention of the late Rev. Mr. Turner to the fact that Free Baptist is our denominational name, and as many interests connected with our churches and Conference depend upon the maintenance of the legal use of that name as provided in our Act of Incorporation; We beg to report that we do not see our way clear to deed the property as requested by Capt. J. R. Blauvelt (even though we had the legal right to do so, which is doubtful), but that we affirm our intention to administer this trust in the spirit of the written constitution which makes it a "Free Baptist church free to all ministers to preach in of good standing, not interfering with the Free Baptists," and under which constitution our brethren of the Free Baptists of N. B. Maine and N. Scotia are entitled to and shall receive a full measure of privilege.

A communication from the Elders' Conference was read, and its proposals respecting a superannuation fund for ministers &c, were adopted and referred to the Ministers Aid Society, with request to formulate them. (See appendix.)

The committee charged with the collections for the monument for the grave of the late Rev. S. K. West were authorized to carry out the project at an expense of sixty-five dollars, and that the collections account should be closed at the end of November.

RESOLVED, that a paper be read on OPEN COMMUNION at the next yearly meeting.

RESOLVED, to divide the Sunday collections in the same way as last year.

Resolved, that the Yarmouth F. B. church have our pipe organ in Starr St. church, Halifax, as a gift.

Resolved, that the Cor. Sec. in his report place the Second Barrington Church on pastorate No. 1 instead of No. 4.

The Nominating Committee named as Quarterly meeting delegates: Elders Millar and Francis, to Kingsland Cumb. Co.; Elders West and Cooper to Q. Co. The report was adopted.

The committee re Parrsboro read the following report: "That we recommend in view of the work done in the past year, and also for the present year regarding our new interest in the town of Parrsboro, that this Conference grant seventy-five dollars to Bros. D. T. Porter and J. K. West." Adopted.

RESOLVED, that the Home Mission treasury contribute twenty-five dollars for the past year's work at Parrsboro, and that the balance be paid by the Conference.

On motion to adjourn the Conference was closed with prayer.

EDWIN CROWELL, Clerk.

P. S. The secretaries of the different Societies have not yet submitted the full reports and minutes of the annual meetings. I enclose the material at hand.

COR. SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Not having received reports from all the District Secretaries, I am unable to give a full report of what is being done in Foreign Missions by our churches.

From those that I have received, from letters which have appeared in the INTELLIGENCER and from conversation with individuals, I think I may report an increase of interest in our work in India. This is due largely to letters written by Miss Wile to the churches.

Let us remember that these letters are no pastime to our missionary but to one who has so many demands upon her time, they often mean sacrifice of what should be rest-hours. We may

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