

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

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

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 12TH, 1898.

Thursday, November 24th, has been designated as a day of general thanksgiving in Canada.

Rev. Dr. Gekie, the well-known author of "Hours with the Bible" and other religious works, died in London last week. He was seventy-four years old. He was a minister of the Congregational church in Canada for twelve years.

Sunday and Monday of this week were observed as days of universal prayer for Sunday Schools. The notice of the dates did not reach us in time for last issue, which we regret, as we would have been glad to direct attention to them in advance. We trust there was a general observance of the call to prayer for this most important branch of Christian service, and that great blessings may follow.

Bishop Dumoulin of Niagara, Ont., in an address at the Synod meeting, in Hamilton, last week, spoke of what he called the recent "wave of prohibition" as "dangerous." Poor man! He, of course, does not see any danger in the liquor traffic, for two or three years ago he suggested that Beer gardens and the like would be good things, promotive of temperance. The prohibition movement—which is not by any means a "recent" thing, nor just a "wave"—is dangerous, but only to the legalized rum traffic, to which it has just given a stunning blow, and which it proposed to smite to speedy death.

"Has he no enemies?" was asked about a successful pastor, in the Baptist Argus. The reply was, Yes he has, and so has any man who has a holy purpose in his heart and a consuming fire in his bones. "Woe unto that man of whom all men speak well." He lifts a clarion voice against whisky, gambling, cards, the ball room and all other forms of licentiousness and worldliness, naturally enough, therefore, he has enemies by the score.

Such enemies are the Christian preacher's best certificate of faithfulness.

This word of counsel and encouragement, from the Christian Standard, may help some discouraged preacher or other Christian worker: Religious workers sometimes grow discontented over what they term their limited field. But the limitations are more likely to be in their own souls than in their fields of labor. A drop of water is a limited field to the unskilled observer, but the trained microscopist finds in it a world of interest and a life-time of investigation. It is not a change of field that is needed, but a converted and spiritualized vision. Preachers and other church workers greatly need the benediction of Christ, "Blessed are your eyes for they see." With this grace of the Christly vision they need not sigh for other fields, for they have but to lift up their eyes and behold the fields are white for the harvest.

The Canadian Baptist, in this paragraph, says what many parents need to ponder. "We have never been able to understand how parents can reconcile themselves to giving one child superior educational advantages, and leave another almost destitute of any education whatever, for no better reason than that the one may be thought to have larger abilities than the other, and so to be likely to become successful in a higher degree. For instance, we have before us an article in one of our best exchanges, advocating the 'sound view' that 'The very best use to which money can be put is not equipping human beings for life.

If the word "life" is used in its broad and true sense, as including all the higher capacities and powers of the human soul, we most heartily endorse the view. But then what means the modification just preceding, that "much depends" in regard to giving children superior advantages, "upon the aptitude and fibre of the children." If education is properly regarded as a training of the faculties of a human being for life, with a view to his highest enjoyment, capacity, and usefulness, does it not rather follow that the duller the child the more need of the higher advantages.

The Prohibition Victory.

Complete returns of the Plebiscite vote are not yet officially announced, probably have not yet been received. It is impossible, therefore, to say just what the majority in favour of prohibition is. It is a victory, however, and with that let us all be satisfied, and wait patiently for the official announcement. It is well, too, to wait till then before commenting on the aggregate vote.

The extent, importance and emphasis of the prohibition vote is seen in these facts:—

1. A majority of the vote polled in the whole Dominion.
2. Majorities in every Province but one, and also in the Territories.
3. A large majority, probably two-thirds, of the electoral districts carried.

It is such a victory as any political party would be proud to get, and by virtue of which any party would with great confidence undertake the control of the country's affairs.

That there was a determination in Quebec to swamp the rest of the country with its anti-prohibition vote, is manifest. And that those who sought to accomplish this were not particular as to the means used is equally clear. There is reason enough to suspect—to even believe that the most corrupt methods were resorted to, and that election officials, liquor traffic men and certain leading politicians were in collusion for the accomplishment of a base purpose by the use of base means. The Montreal Witness intimates that some of the Quebec returns are fictitious; and there is a strong suspicion that, in addition to the corrupt means used to swell the vote against prohibition, there is a deliberate attempt to still further "doctor" the returns. There may be an investigation; there ought to be. But whether there is or not, the manifest corruption is sufficient to discredit the vote of Quebec is the judgment of all fair minded people.

Quebec's claim that because its vote is largely against prohibition there can be no prohibition is what might be expected from that Province. It cries out against "coercion," but does not appear to think there can be any objection to forcing its will upon all the other Provinces. It has so long been deferred to that it is not surprising that it imagines its will must be the law of the whole country. In this case it may be mistaken, as it ought to be. At any rate, it is only fair to wait till definite action is taken before concluding that one Province is to govern all the others.

The liquor traffic people in Montreal think the vote so decisive in their favour that, at a meeting held a few days ago, they passed a resolution "calling on the government to state once and for all that the vested interests of the trade should not only be not interfered with, but also that a stop would be made to any future efforts to harass it, and also that the government declare that Canada is not ripe for prohibition for many years to come. The object of this resolution was to ask the Dominion to prevent these constant agitations of irresponsible parties which had an unsettling and detrimental effect on this branch of business."

On the other hand the Prohibitionists are making arrangements to press upon the government the fact that the country has declared in favour of prohibition with sufficient emphasis, and to ask for legislation according to the expressed will of the people. A meeting of the Executive of the Dominion Alliance, held in Toronto, last week, adopted the following resolutions:

The Dominion Alliance executive committee desires to express its satisfaction at the victory achieved on Sept. 29, in the recording of a substantial majority in favour of the total prohibition of the traffic in intoxicating beverages, and is specially gratified to find in favour of such legislation, not merely a strong majority of voters, but a large majority of all the constituencies represented in Parliament, and seven out of eight provinces of the Dominion.

"That the chairman and secretary of this executive committee be instructed to make arrangements for a deputations, representing the prohibitionists of the Dominion, to wait upon the government as soon as practicable after full returns are received, to call attention to the majority recorded in favour of prohibition, and ask for the speedy embodiment of the

will of the people in definite and effective legislation."

Steps were taken, too, towards the perfecting of the Prohibitory organizations in every Province, with a view to following up the advantage won at the polls on the 29th ult.

To our friends everywhere we have to say do not be moved by talk about a small vote, about Quebec's vote against prohibition, nor about the possibility of nothing resulting from the vote. Keep in mind the facts set forth the beginning of this article, viz, that prohibition has a substantial majority in the whole country; that (counting the Territories as one Province) seven out of eight Provinces have declared for prohibition; that of the electoral districts which send members to Parliament a large majority gave majorities for prohibition; and that, whether looked at from the point of view of Provinces, electoral districts, or majority of the votes polled in the whole country, the victory is more decisive than a great political party ever wins in this country. Having these facts in mind, prohibitionists should be making ready to follow up the great advantage they have gained by pushing for effective legislation in accord with the declared will of the people.

Conference Notes.

Conference is given the right-of-way in this issue. We might spread the report of proceedings over several issues, but prefer to complete it as quickly as possible. This plan, we think, will be more satisfactory to our readers, the majority of whom are, doubtless, anxious to know at the earliest date what Conference did.

The weather during the session was summer-like. Not a drop of rain, not even a cloudy half-day from first to last. Good weather contributes more, perhaps, than we are wont to think to help a Conference pleasantly and promptly through with its work.

The hospitality of the people of Sussex was what those who knew them expected—whole hearted and generous in the fullest degree. The pastor Rev. B. H. Nobles, and the committee on entertainment were untiring in their kind offices in behalf, not only of members of Conference, but of all visitors as well.

The absent ministers, were missed, as were some lay members who have been very regular in their attendance, and were absent this year for the first time, in many years. The attendance of lay delegates was not quite up to the usual. This was due, perhaps, in some cases at least, to the Plebiscite, which kept some of them very busy for several weeks before Conference. There seems reason, however, for the District Meetings to exercise a little more care in the selection of delegates—appointing only such brethren as will agree to attend Conference. It is important that at every session of the Conference every District be fully represented by laymen as well as by ministers. And brethren who cannot attend should not accept appointment as delegates.

The visitors from other Free Baptist Conferences and Societies were cordially welcomed. Their presence was enjoyed. Their good words were cheering. Dr. Chase, representing the Free Baptist Conference of the United States, and representing also Bates College and O. B. Divinity School, the New England Educational Institutions of the denomination, made two thoughtful and cultured addresses and in other ways contributed to the interest of the session.

Mr. H. S. Myers, the wide-awake and enthusiastic General Secretary of Free Baptist Young People's Societies of the United States, voiced the fraternal love of the many thousands of young Christians whom he represents. His presence and words stimulated those who are engaged in the young people's branch of our work.

For Rev. A. W. Currie, the corresponding delegate of the Nova Scotia Conference, it was like coming home to attend the N. B. Conference. This is his native Province, and here he began his ministry. Very soon after entering the ministry he went to Nova Scotia where he has made a good place for himself, and has done excellent work as a pastor. His brethren were glad to see him again. His sermon, Sunday afternoon, was a thoughtful and earnest presentation of the obligations and blessed privileges of discipleship.

Miss Wile, the India missionary of the Nova Scotia Conference, won all hearts. Recently returned from India, on account of broken health, she is yet far from strong. But her zeal in the work to which God has called her knows no limit. She addressed several meetings, and was listened to with the deepest interest, as she told of the work and its needs. Her earnest, heart-felt words impressed all who listened, and must have moved many

to a more thoughtful and consecrated co-operation in the great work of winning the heathen to Christ. Her going among the home churches will surely be a blessing to them. But she should not be permitted to go and do as much as she is willing and even eager to go and do, lest the return of her strength be retarded.

Rev. A. M. McIntosh, of the N. Scotia Conference, formerly of the N. B. Conference, was present as a visitor, and was welcomed by his brethren, who were pleased to see him looking so well. His friends in Sussex, where he was pastor a few years ago, also gave him warm greetings.

Bro. Myers went to Yarmouth Thursday, to visit the Young People's Societies there and in that vicinity. He returned to St. John Monday and addressed a meeting of our Young People's Societies in that city Monday evening, in the Waterloo St. Church. He is to address a meeting in this city Tuesday evening, and one in Woodstock Wednesday evening.

There was a large and interested congregation at the ordination on Tuesday evening. The service throughout was impressive. The young brethren who were solemnly set apart to the Christian ministry go forth to their work with the sympathy of their brethren, and with many prayers that they may be greatly blessed and be a great blessing, in their ministry. They enter at once upon pastoral duties. Rev. L. A. Fenwick becomes pastor of the Victoria pastorate, Rev. A. J. Prosser of the Penobscot pastorate, and Rev. A. D. Paul, of the Deer Island pastorate.

At a meeting of the General Conference Executive, held after the adjournment of Conference, the Moderator and Secretary of Conference and Rev. Dr. McLeod were appointed a committee to meet with representatives of other religious bodies in the Province to consider the question of religious teaching in the Public Schools. This committee was appointed at the request of a committee of the Synod of the Church of England.

The spirit of the Conference was excellent. Christian harmony prevailed. There was, also, an evident purpose to look into things to ascertain the conditions of the churches, and to apply help where needed. The report of the Corresponding Secretary, which set forth, as nearly as possible with the facts in hand, the state of the work throughout our field, was well considered, and steps were taken to meet the needs suggested by the examination.

The determination to give more careful attention to the weak interests, to strengthen and increase our work at every point, and to extend our borders wherever possible, was very marked. The creation of the office of General Secretary came in this connection. In this and all the actions looking towards more efficient work there was great unanimity, and a spirit and purpose which give promise of a good degree of success. To these matters it is possible now to make only this brief reference. They will be dealt with more fully later.

Notes On Current Events.

It is now stated that the Emperor of China is not dead, as was believed. He has abdicated, however, and the Dowager Empress reigns in his stead.

The United States Navy has risen from a seventh or eighth rank among the world's navies to the fourth rank. It is likely to go higher on the list, as its present strength is to be doubled during the next three years. Contracts have been made for the building of thirty-six vessels.

Referring to the contemplated visit of the German Emperor to Jerusalem, some one suggests that the annexation of Jerusalem would swell the German Emperor almost to the bursting point. We should have an "I and Solomon" manifesto in about fifteen minutes after the deed was signed.

The Jewish Year Book estimates that there are about eleven million Jews in the world, half of them still under Russian jurisdiction, notwithstanding their wholesale expulsion from the empire during the last six or seven years. Of the race in general it may be said that, numerically speaking, it is extremely small for its age, its chance of getting bigger apparently not increasing with its years.

The earlier reports of the fight with the Indians at Bear Island, Minn., were quite exaggerated. The report that Gen. Baker and his men were killed is not correct. Several soldiers have been killed, and a number wounded.

It is stated that the trouble with the Indians, like many others, was greatly aggravated, if not begun, by whiskey selling.

(Continued from page one.)

enter. The hymn book section of the report received considerable attention. The Psalmody is the authorized hymnal; and while it is a most excellent selection, and is in general use in the churches, there is felt to be need of a book an edition of which can be had at a lower price than any edition of the Psalmody is sold, one too, that will be more suitable for prayer meetings. A committee, consisting of the Secretary, the Moderator and brethren Parsons, Parker and Phillips, was appointed to take in consideration the subject of a hymnal, and report at the next annual session.

The report was adopted.

MONDAY AFTERNOON.—Conference reassembled at 1.30 p. m. Prayer by Rev. I. D. Harvey. After routine, the report of the Corresponding Secretary of Conference was taken up. The Cor. Sec. mentioned reports received from Revs. J. T. I. Parsons and T. W. Carpenter and Licentiate Williams, which do not appear in his report, the first named having been overlooked, and the other two not having reached him till after the session began—the report being then completed and printed. He, also, explained that there was, he was sure, incompleteness in the financial statement of the report, and that it was due to the fact that the financial returns of a number of the churches were not included in their reports to their respective District Meetings. He urged that every church make its report complete in every respect, and then the financial table of the Cor. Sec's. Report to Conference would be full, and greatly more just and creditable to the whole body.

The condition of the churches, as set forth in the report, was well considered and discussed by a number of brethren. Bro. Foster thought it a loss of time and, perhaps, a source of irritation to have very frequent requests for contributions. He thought it might be an advantage to have all the contributions for the general purposes of the denomination grouped, the contributors designating the objects to which they wished to contribute, if they so desired, otherwise the amount to be divided according to a schedule agreed upon by the Conference. Home mission work, he thought, required special attention; and believed that it would pay to have an officer of the Conference to look after the general interests of the body. To conserve our home interests, strengthening the weak and occupying new ground where necessary—is vital.

Dr. McLeod said there are some parts of the denominational field sorely in need of attention—such attention as the Conference must give directly. If neglected the weakening process must go on, and with increasing rapidity. The Conference should address itself to careful consideration of the needs of the field. It is a good sign that these matters are being so carefully looked into, and he believed the Conference is disposed to meet all demands for care and help, and is quite equal to the work.

Dr. Hartley endorsed what had been said, and emphasized the great importance of the best care being given to the home field. He believed the money necessary for such care as is required could be raised. He spoke, also, of the difficulties of keeping trace of non-resident members, but believed much more could be done in this direction, and hoped the pastors and churches would endeavour to do it.

Bro. Vince approved of the proposal to have a missionary secretary, or superintendent, which is only a modern form of the work done by our fathers in their own independent way.

Rev. J. B. Daggett said that one difficulty, and a chief one, is the lack of a strong pastoral system, embracing the weak fields. There should be, he thought, a pastorate committee, or some authority, to keep in close touch with the pastors, and to help those in need of pastors. He told of a Methodist pastor who raised \$100.00 for the Mission fund of that denomination, and who said that seventy-five per cent of it was received from Free Baptists. "Nobody could blame him for getting it; but if we had looked after the field the contributors would have come to our treasures. He objected to mission work which promotes revivals, and then leaves the churches and the newly converted uncared for.

Rev. Jos. Noble thought if the right man could be found for general missionary agent the money would be forthcoming. He, also, expressed the belief that many pastors might do more in looking after uncared for places adjacent to their pastorates.

Rev. D. Long said the present need is not some one to go and hold revivals, good as that is, but for some one to investigate and advise, to arouse and encourage churches to do something for themselves, and to furnish the in-

formation upon which the right kind of help could be given where needed.

Rev. J. J. Barnes said we need something to help apply the pastorate system in a better way than now, in many cases. He thought the appointment of a General Secretary, with such powers as have been suggested, would meet the need in a good degree.

Further consideration of the Report was deferred, and a committee consisting of brethren Foster, G. A. Hartley, McLeod, Nobles, Vince and Clarke, appointed to prepare and present a resolution on the subjects discussed.

The Conference adjourned at 3 p. m., to allow the W. M. Society public meeting to be held.

W. M. SOCIETY.—The annual public meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society was held at 3 p. m. It was a most interesting meeting, and will be reported later in the department devoted to the work carried on by our sisters.

MONDAY EVENING.—Conference resumed business at 7.30 p. m. Scripture lesson (Isa. 12) read by the Moderator. Prayer by Rev. E. S. Parker. After the reading of the minutes, Rev. E. S. Parker presented the report of the committee on Education:

Your committee on Education submit the following:—

1.—The importance of an educated ministry need not at any length be emphasized at this stage of our denominational progress. While we consider the aid of the Holy Spirit indispensable in the work of the ministry, and first in importance, we, as a Conference, regard it also important that the men who lead souls to Christ, who need an aptness in teaching, who must rightly divide the word of truth, who shall make full proof of their ministry, shall be men who have been prepared for this great work, by a systematic course of study.

2.—The fact is gratifying that six members of the conference are enrolled in courses of study as follows: Revs. W. C. Keirstead and A. H. McLeod, and Licentiate T. Patterson at Cobb Divinity School; Lic. M. L. Gregg at the N. B. University; and Revs. W. R. R. and E. S. Parker in Bates' College.

The report was laid on the table for consideration later.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Bro. E. W. Slipp, Treasurer for Foreign Missions, presented his report showing the amount on hand \$690.09.

Rev. G. F. Currie, Corresponding Secretary for Foreign Missions presented the following report:

BROTHER MODERATOR.—The Free Baptist Missionary work, which the Free Baptist bodies of the United States, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick are connected with and interested in, occupies a territory in India, situated in the Southern part of Bengal. Within the Districts where this mission is established according to the census of 1892 the number of males are 1,782,318, and the number of females 1,828,677, making a total population of 3,610,995.

In the year 1838 work was commenced at Balasore by Free Will Baptist missionaries; and the first independent Free Baptist mission established. On January 27th 1839 the first Hindu convert to Christ through the agency of this mission was baptized. Since then, without any serious interruption, notwithstanding many discouragements at times, the work has gone steadily on teaching the benighted the way of life and salvation. I here give the names of some of the churches and a brief sketch of their present standing.

Balasore was established in 1838. To this church during the past year 4 have been added by baptism. The total membership is 144. The reports say "a great change is taking place in the feelings of Hindus towards Christians and Christianity. In places where a few years ago, almost none were willing to listen to the Gospel, now many are ready and eager to listen, some buy gospel portions, and invite the preachers to their houses, and even ask them to sleep on their verandas, a thing never heard of in this section till recently." Balasore district is evidently turning slowly but surely to the Lord. The province of Orissa, of which Balasore district is a part, is a hot bed of Hinduism. "But," says the report, "the weeds of this heathen superstition are dying more and more rapidly under the fresh air and blessed sunlight of God's truth."

Babagadia established in 1880 has a total membership of 20. It is one of those small Christian communities adjacent to Midnapore, where for five years there has been shortage of crops, and on that account the people have become discouraged and many are moving away.

Bhimpoore has a total membership of 226. During the year 16 have been added by baptism; and on the whole seems to be a strong and vigorous church. A new building for worship which will seat 250 people is nearing completion. They make an appeal for \$300 which is needed to finish the building clear of debt. Any who wish to contribute are asked to send their offering to Dr. Givan.

Bhudruk has a membership of 25. Some additions during the year have been made by letter and otherwise. This station was established in 1890. The reports show that this Christian community though small in numbers are strong in faith and with four Christian workers are sowing the good seed in the many villages within their reach. They ask that we all help them by our prayers.