

There was a large congregation. The meeting will, doubtless, be reported in the W. M. department. It is enough for us to say here that the reports showed that the year just closed had been the best in the history of the District Society.

Sunday was a delightful day. The congregations at all the services were large. The early morning prayer meeting was a season of spiritual refreshing. The communion service in the afternoon was greatly impressive. Throughout the day there was manifest, in a good degree, the divine presence. The order of services was as follows:

9.30 a. m. Prayer meeting, led by Rev. E. B. Gray, preaching, 10.30 a. m., by Rev. Dr. McLeod; at 3 p. m. by Rev. C. T. Phillips; at 7.30 p. m. by Rev. J. J. Barnes; in the Baptist church, at 10.30 a. m., by Rev. J. Perry; at 3 p. m., by Rev. C. Stirling; at Lower Brighton, 10.30 a. m., by Rev. Wm. DeWare; at Victoria Corner, 7.30 p. m., by Rev. E. B. Gray; at East Florenceville, 7.30 p. m., by Rev. Dr. McLeod.

Monday, at 8 a. m., the business was resumed, Rev. H. Hartt in the chair. Prayer by Rev. E. B. Gray. After reading the minutes and roll call, the election of Chairman for the ensuing year took place, resulting in the choice of Rev. J. B. Daggett, with Rev. J. Perry as assistant. Bro. E. L. West, for the committee on Sabbath Schools presented a report, as follows:

The number of schools reported, 14; number of scholars enrolled, 568; average attendance of scholars, 365; teachers enrolled 62; average attendance of teachers, 51. Money raised during the year \$128.65. All the schools reported, except one, are 'evergreen.' The committee finds from the reports that not one of the schools reported has regular pastoral attendance; some schools reporting that the pastor does not visit them at all, or only when it is perfectly convenient for him to do so. The committee believes that more conversions have occurred in these schools than have been visited by their pastors. Four schools report conversions; the total reported being 38.

The report was well considered, the discussion being participated in by brethren Crandemire, Doucett, Margeson, West, Gray, Owens, McLeod, DeWare, White, Watson, Phillips, Barnes and Fenwick. It was pointed out, amongst other things, that reports had not been received from all the schools. The necessity of devoting more time to the consideration of Sabbath School matters in the District Meeting was strongly urged, and action was taken later providing for such larger consideration. Rev. W. DeWare, for the committee on delegates to Conference presented the following report:

Delegates, brethren E. L. West, S. M. Boyer, S. Crandemire, G. W. Jamieson and W. C. Watson; substitutes, brethren C. White, J. Dickinson, S. Foster, W. Margeson and C. VanWart.

The report was adopted. Rev. L. A. Fenwick, for the committee on the churches' reports presented the following:

1. Twenty-two churches have reported; four have not reported, viz. Foreston, East Bridgewater, South Wakefield and Brookville. 2. The members reported are—residents, 1234; non-residents, 474; total 1649. Forty-eight have been added by baptism, four by letter and four by experience; twenty-three have died, four have been dismissed to other Free Baptist Church and four to other denominations; net increase twenty-five.

3. Church property is valued at \$42,000; there are three parsonages, valued at \$2,250, and one new parsonage in course of construction. There has been paid for support of the ministry, \$2545.00; current expenses, \$514.00; church building, \$655.00; home missions, \$38.85; foreign missions, \$41.34; Conference fund \$45.90; W. M. Society, \$33.45; miscellaneous, \$142.08.

4. Twenty churches report regular pastoral care and Sabbath preaching, eighteen churches report conference regularly held, eleven have had the Lord's Supper administered, seventeen have had weekly prayer meetings, eight have had revivals, 15 have had missionary prayer meetings. There is but one Y. P. Society reported.

5. Little effort has been made to follow the instructions of General Conference in communicating with non-resident members. We are glad to note that it is a growing sentiment among our people that the Lord's cause should be supported by free and direct offerings, and that the old-time tea meetings, bazaar and picnic &c. is passing away, we hope forever.

6. So far as we are able to determine from the reports, the year has not been one of much gain by the churches either in the support of their own work or the general work of the denomination; but, at the same time, there has been an earnest holding fast and maintaining that which we have.

The report elicited a good discussion. The financial statement, as made up from the reports of the churches, is very incomplete, not showing nearly what the churches contribute during the year. This is due to the fact that a considerable portion of the mission money, Conference fund &c. is not gathered till after the District Meeting,

and is, therefore, not mentioned in the reports. It was explained that it would be much more satisfactory, and make the reports which are presented to Conference, and sent out to the public nearly accurate, and more creditable to our people. It was also urged that the churches that have not yet done so, take steps immediately to secure contributions to all the funds of the Conference—Home and Foreign Missions, Aged and Sick Ministers' fund, Students fund, and the Conference fund. Adjourned at noon.

Met again at 1.30 p. m. A resolution moved by Rev. L. A. Fenwick, fixing the Friday afternoon before the third Saturday in June as the time of the next annual meeting of the District, was carried. The object of beginning a half day earlier, is to give time for more consideration of Sunday-school affairs. The Chairman, Clerk and bro. E. L. West were appointed a committee to arrange the order of meetings of the next session, the programme to be published in the INTELLIGENCER at least two months before the next session. The next annual meeting is to be located by the District Executive. The Chairman and Clerk of the District are 'ex-officio' members of the Executive; the other three members are elective—the choice this year being brethren S. Crandemire, W. Davis and Rev. C. T. Phillips. Rev. Wm. DeWare was appointed to preach the annual sermon at the 1900 session.

It having been reported that a fortnightly preaching service has been arranged for at East Florenceville, by Rev. L. A. Fenwick, a resolution approving what had been done and expressing sympathy with the work undertaken, was adopted. The meeting having been in committee on licentiates, reported recommending the continuance of license to bro. C. Stirling till the next session of Conference. The report was adopted. The business of the Meeting was not completed till about 5 p. m. Nearly all the members remained to the close of the meeting, and gave close attention to the business—a fact which promises well for the work of the year now begun.

The hospitality of the Hartland church was all that could be desired. The pastor and his people looked well after those attending the meeting. The interior of the church building has been newly painted, and is looking very neat. It has been resolved to erect a parsonage on the lot adjoining the church, and already some of the lumber is on the ground. Bro. Daggett has secured subscriptions to a considerable amount, and the work will, it is understood, go on without unnecessary delay.

MINISTERS.—Rev. Dr. Hartley was in this city a few days last week. His health is improving. Rev. D. Long, St. John north, and G. F. Currie, Norton, exchanged last Sabbath.

Home Religious News.

—Rev. J. H. McDonald has resigned the pastorate of the Amherst, N. S. Baptist church.

—The Methodist Conference of N. B. and P. E. L., in session last week at St. Stephen, elected Rev. G. M. Campbell, President, and Rev. G. W. Fisher, Secretary. The reports show the increase in membership for the year to be 106. Rev. C. H. Paisley called the attention of the Conference to the fact that the attendance at the Methodist Sunday schools has of late years shown a steady decrease, and that Methodist literature is being crowded out of the Methodist schools. He moved for a committee of three to be appointed to confer with a like committee from the Nova Scotia conference in regard to the matter. The motion passed.

Parliament

MONDAY.—Mr. Davin moved for orders in council respecting letting of contracts without tender. He gave a number of instances in which the government had given contracts without competition and at considerable loss to the country.

Mr. Tarte said that some of these contracts were too urgent for tender. He argued that great loss had often been met by acceptance of the lowest tender, mentioning two cases. He spoke strongly in favor of the government performing public works by labor; he said, contract work is, after all, day's labor, and he could not see why the government should not itself employ the labor.

Mr. Foster expressed the opinion that Mr. Tarte had not justified the departure from the tender and contract system. Admitting exceptions in special cases, the rule requiring public work to be done by public tender is a healthy and prudent one, adopted as the result of experience. Besides motives of economy there were motives of purity and decency.

After recess several private bills were advanced a stage. Sir Wilfrid Laurier promised Mr. Flint that after the redistribution bill should be disposed of a day would be

set aside for the discussion of Mr. Flint's provincial prohibition scheme. TUESDAY.—The house went into supply on the militia vote of \$125,000 for annual drill.

The minister of militia said he was in favor of the annual drill of all troops, but could not yet say that this was the policy of the government. Sir Charles Tupper said that the minister ought to be able to declare the ministerial policy before asking for the \$250,000. Sir Charles himself was in favor of annual drill.

WEDNESDAY.—Colonel Prior brought up the matter of the Northern Commercial Telegraph company. It appears that in bringing down the papers the government kept back communications between the Roche-Haley company and Blair and Tarte among them were letters from Mr. Blair to Roche, promising Roche the support of the government in the enterprise.

Mr. Blair said he had written these letters, but the last one was confidential. He declared that Mr. Roche was chiefly to blame for his own failure.

Sir Charles Tupper said it was an extraordinary thing that Mr. Blair should now say that his letter to Roche should be regarded as a private letter. If it was a private letter, Blair convicted himself of standing in privately with a capitalist and secretly promising him government aid.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said the failure to bring down Dr. Haley's letter was because of some oversight. He insisted that the government had done nothing dishonorable.

As to Blair's alleged confidential letter, Foster dealt severely with the case of a minister who should give private and confidential assurances of government support to his enterprises. The house went into supply.

THURSDAY.—The committee of supply, which began sitting last night, sat until six o'clock this morning and in the last five or six hours passed one item.

The house resumed supply this afternoon and dealt with supplementary bills.

CHOOSING A BISHOP.—A novel ceremony occurred at Millerville, Pa., on Thursday last week. A great multitude of people assembled at the old Mennonite meetinghouse to witness the choice of a bishop by lot. There was a large number of Mennonite preachers present, and four of their number were candidates for the exalted office. The method of choice was unique, although it is in common use among the Mennonites. After a season of fervent prayer for the divine direction, the four candidates were called forward, and four Bibles exactly similar in size and binding were placed before them. Under the fly-leaf of one of these Bibles a piece of blank paper had been placed. The Bibles had been thoroughly mixed up, and the candidates were then invited to make their selection. The successful candidate was the Rev. Abram Herr, who was the only one declared to be bishop and was immediately ordained. Telescope.

Denominational Notices.

Following are the addresses of the treasurers of the several funds under control of Conference.

Treasurer of General Conference: James Patterson, St. John, N. B.

Treasurer for Home Missions: Rev. J. W. Clarke, 181 Waterloo St., St. John, N. B.

Treasurer for Foreign Missions: E. W. Slipp, St. John, N. B.

Treasurer for Ministerial Students Fund: Rev. G. A. Hartley, D. D., St. John (West) N. B.

Treasurer for Aged and Sick Ministers Fund: Gideon McLeod, Penobscot, K. Co.

DISTRICT MEETINGS.

3rd District, at Kingsley, York, C., to attend, Revs. E. B. Gray, Gideon Slipp, J. E. Noble and Dr. McLeod. 4th District, at Wasatis, Sunbury Co., the 2nd Friday in September. To attend, Revs. G. W. Foster, S. J. Perry, J. E. Noble and Dr. McLeod. 5th District, at Carpenter, the first Friday in July. To attend, Revs. G. W. Foster, John A. Robertson, O. N. Mott, B. H. Nobles, J. W. Clarke, Jos. Noble and Dr. McLeod. 6th District, at Moncton, the 2nd Friday in July. To attend, Revs. J. T. Parsons, C. B. Lewis, J. W. Clarke, G. A. Hartley, D. D., J. E. Noble and Jos. McLeod, D. D.

7th District, at Chocolate Cove, Deer Is. and the 3rd Friday in August. To attend, Revs. J. T. Parsons, T. O. DeWitt, J. E. Barnes, Jos. Noble and Dr. McLeod.

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Marriages.

CARR-PARKS.—On June 21st, by Rev. G. A. Hartley, D. D. at the residence of the bride's mother, Prince Street, St. John, West, Theodore C. Carr of Kenofo, C. Co., and Miss Bertha A. Parks of St. John, West.

SCOTT-MCLEOD.—In St. John, on the 21st inst., by Rev. Dr. McLeod and Rev. J. W. Clarke, Mr. John Scott, of Penobscot, K. Co., and A. A. Perry, second daughter of the late Melbourn McLeod.

FLIPP-REED.—At the Victoria St. Free Baptist Church, St. John, on June 14th, by Rev. David Long, Robert M. Flipp and Ellen Gertrude, daughter of the late Rev. J. E. Reed.

CARR-MAYES.—At the residence of the bride's father, on June 14th, by Rev. David Long, Robert Henry Carr, and Vida E., daughter of David Mayes.

Deaths.

PECK.—At St. John, West, quite suddenly, on June 19th, Mrs. Sophronia Peck, widow of the late Capt. Caleb Peck, in the 70th year of her age, leaving an only daughter, Mrs. (Capt.) Foster to mourn an irreparable loss. Mrs. Peck was highly respected and one of the older members of the Carleton Free Baptist church. She was looking for and welcomed death. G. S. H.

CARPENTER.—At Wickham, Q. Co., June 18th, Col. Carpenter aged 60 years. Deceased was a member of McDonald's Point Baptist church. During his sickness he spoke with confidence of "the hope laid up in heaven." For him "to die was gain." He leaves wife, four sons, and two daughters. Funeral services were conducted by the writer. Text, chosen by bro. Carpenter, Luke 23:26.

DAVID PATTERSON.

WATSON.—At Wickham, Q. Co., June 8th, Phoebe F. Watson, relict of the late John Watson, in the 72nd year of her age. Deceased was a member of the Narrows Baptist church. During the last days of her life she looked forward to the rest that remains for the people of God. She leaves four sons and two daughters. Funeral services by Rev. A. B. McDonald.

DAVID PATTERSON.

PERRY.—At Johnson, Q. Co., June 17th, Mary C. widow of the late Henry A. Perry, in the 75th year of her age. She professed faith in Christ, and was baptized by Rev. A. Meserveau, fifty-seven years ago. She had been a member of Perry's Point Free Baptist church since its organization, March 19th, 1842. She was always loyal to the people of her choice, and was one of them in adversity. Though Perry's Point church had not been reported for years, through her efforts it was last year reported by a goodly amount for Conference Fund. Last Fall she was among the foremost in financial aid to encourage the revival of the cause of God in our midst. When the Lord visited us and built us up again, he was desirous of being among us on account of sickness, but we had her prayers, and she was given to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living, before called to her home. Given to christian hospitality, many readers of this notice will recall the kindness received at her home. She leaves one son one daughter and twelve grand children.

DAVID PATTERSON.



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