

Religious Intelligencer.

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

FREDERICTON N.B., OCTOBER 10 1900

W HOLE No. 2471

XLVII.—NO 42

GENERAL CONFERENCE

Sixty-Eighth Annual Session.

The sixty-eighth annual session of the Baptist Conference of New Brunswick was held at Hampstead, N.B. The session began, as usual, with the Ministers' Conference, which occupied Friday. Some Ministers were absent; some who were not present in the morning put in an appearance in the afternoon. Rev. David Hartley, of the Nova Scotia Conference, was invited to seats, and also Elder J. McIntyre and the meeting licentiates present.

Things of interest particularly to ministers. The selection of officers for ensuing year resulted in the choice of Rev. Perry for Chairman, and Rev. Noble Assistant Chairman; Rev. Parsons is the Secretary. The Chairman and Secretary and Rev. J. Noble, J. Noble and T. S. Van are the Executive Committee of the Ministers' Conference.

The meeting was a pleasant one. The brethren had not seen each other since last Conference. To again was a real pleasure. Two of the members of the Conference—Rev. Gray and Thos. Connor, died during the year. They were missed. Their fellow workers who survive are comforted with the knowledge that their going away from the fellowship of their brethren here their entrance into the fellowship made perfect in the presence of God. They "see the King in His glory," and are like Him, seeing him as he is.

On Friday evening their was preaching by Rev. C. T. Phillips. There were many testimonies after sermon, and the meeting was one of much interest and help.

SATURDAY.—The Saturday morning session of the Conference session is many people "the great day of the year." To all it is almost invariably a meeting of great interest and of much spiritual refreshing and enjoyment. This year it was a good meeting. The order of the Hampstead church, W. H. Perry, led the meeting. He assisted in the opening exercises. Rev. J. Noble and Dr. Hartley, the pastor said the people of the community had been looking towards him, and in their name he gave them welcome to the members of the conference and visitors. Revs. Messrs. Hartley, Noble and Perry were reminiscences. There were many testimonies. Who desired to say "a word for Jesus" were enabled to do so before the hour of closing arrived; many testified their faith and love by rising.

GENERAL CONFERENCE
At 2 p. m. the Moderator, Rev. Dr. Hartley, called the General Conference to order. The devotional services were singing, Scripture lesson (Ps. 26) and the Moderator, prayer by Rev. J. Parsons.

The Clerk, bro. D. McLeod Vince, called the roll, constituting the Conference. The Corresponding Secretary of Conference, Rev. D. McLeod, presented his report as follows:

REPORT OF THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

Moderator and Brethren:

So far as can be, from the data furnished in the reports of the churches to their respective District Meetings, and the reports of ministers, this Report aims to make clear the state of religion in the Free Baptist denomination in New Brunswick. Difficulties, such as have met all who have had this duty to do, are still met, though in steadily, if not rapidly, decreasing degree. Perhaps there will come a time when the returns from the churches will be full and accurate, and when even ministers will observe the rule which requires them to report. Let us hope.

CHURCHES. Reports were made to the District Meetings this year by one hundred and seven (107) churches, eleven less than reported last year. The number of churches reported in each District was:—(1st Dis.) 6; (2nd) 21; (3rd) 13; (4th) 16; (5th) 16; (6th) 23; (7th) 12.

If the enrolment of churches as given by the District Meetings in 1897 was correct, there should now be one hundred and fifty-six (156) churches in the Conference, forty-nine of which have not been heard from this year. A score of them have been silent several years.

The reported churches have 8,539 members. Estimating the unreported membership on the basis of last year, the total membership of the churches at this date is 12,352.

Thirty-one (31) churches report additions of members aggregating 271; thirty-one (31) churches report losses aggregating 137; forty-five churches either report no change in membership, or say nothing about it.

Amongst the reported gains and losses were 57 transfers of members from and to Free Baptist churches, which do not effect the total membership; four members were expelled; 25 members were dismissed to join other denominations; and twenty-four members were received from other denominations.

All the Districts but two had net gains; the First District had no change of membership; the Fourth District had a net loss of five members.

BAPTISMS. The number of baptisms reported is one hundred and ninety-six (196)—41 less than last year. The baptisms are reported from thirty-one (31) churches, and from Districts as follows: (2nd Dis.) 23; (3rd) 46; (4th) 9; (5th) 46; (6th) 84; (6th) 38.

The net gain for the year is 134—the same as last year.

MINISTERS. During the year two ministers died—Rev. E. B. Gray and Rev. Thos. Connor. These brethren beloved had finished their work, and rejoiced that they were called home. Suitable reference to their lives and labours will be made part of the Conference record during this session. One brother—S. J. Case, was ordained according to instructions given its Executive by Conference at the last session. The ordination took place in St. John west, June 27th last. Revs. C. F. Rideout, W. R. Reid, W. C. Keirstead, E. S. Parker and S. J. Case are out of the Province—bro. Rideout owing to poor health, bro. Reid because of Mrs. Reid's health, bro. Keirstead pursuing his studies at the Chicago University, bro. Parker pursuing his studies at Bates College, and bro. Case teaching in the New Hampton, N. H. Institute (Free Baptist). Rev. A. H. McLeod, having completed his Divinity course, has returned to the Province, and is again engaged in the work.

The number of ordained ministers now on the Conference roll is forty-three. Of these, twenty-eight (28) have been doing pastoral work. Rev. Jos. Noble has, for several years, visited the churches in various parts of the Province as he has had opportunity. Though now past four score and five he has been kept in good health and been able to minister to many people, to their profit and with comfort to himself.

Rev. H. Hartt has visited churches in the First and Second Districts. Rev. I. D. Harvey is pastor at Whitehead. Rev. J. S. Jones is in feeble health, and unable to do any ministerial work.

The licentiates are: M. L. Gregg and J. H. Puddington, licensed by Conference; and E. W. Kirkpatrick, Fletcher Knollin, A. Rideout, H. Ferguson, E. A. Saunders, E. H. Cochrane, J. C. Wilson and G. Douglas Milbury, licensed by District Meetings. Brethren Knollin, Rideout, Saunders, Kirkpatrick and Milbury are now at school—the first two at the N. B. University, the other three at Cobb Divinity School. Some of these licentiates have done pastoral work the whole year, and others nearly the whole year—as will be seen further on in this report. The others did work during the Summer vacation.

PASTORS. Of the reported churches, ninety-six (96) had pastoral care. Several churches not reported have, also, had pastors. The pastors, the churches they served, and the number of members in each

pastorate, are set forth in the following:

FIRST DISTRICT. There are fifteen churches in this District, six of which reported to the Dis. Meeting. There was no pastor in the District during the year. Revs. J. Noble, J. B. Daggett and L. A. Fenwick gave as much care to the churches as they could. Rev. T. S. VanWart visited the Tobique River churches. During the Summer Licentiate W. O. Keirstead visited the churches in Bath pastorate, and held special meetings at Lower Perth, V. Co., with good results. Licentiate H. Manzer, under direction of the H. M. executive, spent the summer with the Tobique churches.

SECOND DISTRICT. Rev. J. W. Clarke:—Woodstock, So Wakefield—282 members.

Rev. L. A. Fenwick:—Victoria, Somerville, Connell, Charleston, Wicklow—206.

Rev. J. J. Barnes:—Waterville, Third Tier, Lindsay, Lakeville, Brookville—229.

Rev. J. B. Daggett:—Hartland, Upper Brighton, Lower Brighton, Pembroke, Newburg—233.

Rev. John Perry:—Rockland, Mount Pleasant, Windsor, Knowlesville, Gordonsville, Foreston—397.

Rev. Wm. DeWare:—Tracey Mills, Knoxford—224.

Licentiate Milbury spent the Summer vacation at Knowlesville and other parts of Rev. J. Perry's pastorate.

THIRD DISTRICT. Rev. F. C. Hartley:—Fredericton—251 members.

Licen. M. L. Gregg:—Gibson—152.

Rev. J. T. Parsons:—Marysville, Penniac—256.

Rev. J. N. Barnes:—Stanley, Bloomfield—117.

Rev. G. W. Foster:—Kewick, Douglas, Kingsley, Jones Forks—222.

Rev. S. J. Perry:—Upper Hainesville, Staples Settlement, Millville, Bear Island, Lower Queensbury, Dumfries, Prince William, Temperance Vale—367.

Campbell Settlement, Southampton, Meductic and North Lake had no regular pastor. Rev. T. S. VanWart made one visit to North Lake. Rev. D. Patterson spent a few weeks in the pastorate; and Licen. Knollin spent the Summer there.

FOURTH DISTRICT. Rev. J. A. Robertson:—Fredericton Junction, Tracey Station, Little Lake—311.

Rev. O. N. Mott:—Blissville, Mill Settlement, Patterson Settlement, Clarendon—290.

Rev. C. B. Lewis:—Lincoln, Oromocto, Waasis, Rusiagornis, French Lake—325.

Licen. Kirkpatrick:—Upper Gagetown, Bethany, Greenfield, Geary, Victoria, Waterville—195.

FIFTH DISTRICT. Rev. W. H. Perry:—Hampstead, Upper Hampstead, Hibernia, Jerusalem—293.

Licen. Puddington:—Hamilton Mt., Oak Point, Brown's Flat, Westfield—187.

Rev. T. O. DeWitt:—Tennants' Cove, Bellisle Bay, Wickham, Bald Hill—199.

Rev. H. A. Bonnell:—Carpenter, Shannon, Henderson, Big Cove, Narrows, Perry's Point—279.

SIXTH DISTRICT. Rev. A. Perry:—Wheaton Sett., Eagle Sett., Steeves Sett., Lewis Mt., Steeves Mt., Coverdale—382.

Rev. F. G. Francis:—Petitcodiac, Cornhill, Lower Ridge, Portage, Graves Sett.—299.

Rev. A. J. Prosser:—Penobscus, Newtown, Dutch Valley—152.

Rev. B. H. Nobles:—Sussex—102.

Rev. G. F. Currie:—Norton, Midland, Long Point, Erb Sett.—309.

Licen. H. Ferguson:—Apoahqui, Lower Millstream, Snider Mt., Keirstead Mt., Head Millstream—348.

Moncton, Dover, Taylor Village and Lutz Mountain had no pastor. Moncton was supplied much of the time, and it and the other churches had Licen. Rideout for the Summer.

SEVENTH DISTRICT. Rev. G. A. Hartley D. D.:—St. John, West—327.

Rev. C. T. Phillips:—St. John, Waterville—588.

Rev. D. Long:—St. John, North—267.

Rev. A. D. Paul:—Fair Haven, Chocolate Cove, Lambert's Cove—187.

Rev. A. H. McLeod:—North Head, Castalia, Grand Harbour, Seal Cove—425.

Rev. E. S. Parker spent several weeks with the Grand Manan

churches before Rev. A. H. McLeod became pastor. Campo Bello was supplied during the Summer by Licen. Saunders; and Beaver Harbour by Licen. Wilson.

Six pastors have one church each; three have three churches each; seven have four churches each; six have five churches each; four have six churches each; one has seven churches.

MINISTERS' REPORTS. Something of the work of some of the pastors, and of the condition of the churches in their charge, is shown in the reports they have made, according to the rule of Conference (See Year Book 1896). Twenty-six ministers' reports have been received. Summaries of them follow:

Rev. John Perry has had "the same field as last year, viz. Rockland, Mt. Pleasant, Knowlesville and Gordonsville. The churches are doing fairly well." He has "preached three times each Sunday. Held special meetings last Winter at Mt. Pleasant; the church was revived, one was baptized. Have good congregations, and very good meetings. There are no trials among the church members. I have resigned, and do not know who will take charge of the pastorate."

Rev. G. A. Hartley, D. D. has spent another year in Carleton. He reports thus: "Immediately after last Conference, I resumed regular work, feeling much improved in health, and have continued to care for the church during the year. It has been a good year. I have preached twice each Sabbath, and attended all the mid-week prayer meetings, and the weekly meetings of the Christian Endeavor Society, with much comfort to my own soul, and so far as I can judge, with as good acceptance to the church and congregation as during any previous year of the forty two years of my pastorate. The congregations have been good. Souls have been saved. Twenty-one young converts have been baptized, and twenty-three members added to the church. It has been a year of love and of prosperity. The spiritual life of the church has been deepened and all our temporal affairs are in a healthy condition. The Sunday school is large and well officered, and has an efficient staff of teachers. The Christian Endeavor Society is making steady progress and is helpful to the church work in all departments. The Junior Endeavor Society is large, and is full of promise."

Rev. J. T. Parsons has spent his ninth year as pastor at Marysville and Peniac. He reports the year as one of "encouraging success. The preaching and other services have been regularly held, with a good attendance. The ordinances have been administered. During the Spring the Lord gave us a revival, strengthening His people and restoring some and converting some. Eight were baptized and eleven were added to the Marysville church. Marysville has a large Sunday School with devoted and efficient officers and teachers. The A. C. F. Society is active and useful; and we have a large staff of loyal, consecrated church workers, who are united and reliable, staying up the pastor's hands, and carrying forward the work of God. The outlook is encouraging. My pastoral relation with these churches ends now."

Rev. J. N. Barnes is closing his third year as pastor of the Stanley and Bloomfield churches. He says: "They have been years of hard work in the face of many discouragements. But the labour has not been in vain. God has been with us. This year has been the best of the three. A number have found the Saviour and have been baptized and added to the churches. The churches are not yet as I could wish, but they are in a better condition than they were. I am now about leaving, and I hope the Lord may direct the right man to this field."

Rev. T. S. VanWart had no pastoral engagement during the year. He did some home mission work at Tobique, and preached throughout the year as opportunity offered.

Rev. C. T. Phillips is completing his first year as pastor of the Waterville St. church, St. John. He reports that "the work is going on fairly well. There are some changes for the better. The church building has been renovated. Special meetings were held in the winter. Seven were baptized and added to the church. The prayer meetings,

C. E. Society and Sabbath School are all doing their work very well."

Rev. J. W. Clarke says of his first year at Woodstock, that "it has been a good year, and a busy one. The congregations have been good. The condition of the church, spiritually, and otherwise, is satisfactory. During the winter there were several conversions. Seventeen were added to the church by baptism, and two by letter. The C. E. Society continues to do good work. It is a great benefit to the young people and to the church. The Sunday School is good, the Superintendent and teachers are efficient and painstaking." He preaches "once a fortnight at South Wakefield. The church there is small; but a good congregation assembles, many of them take part after the sermon, and we always have a good meeting. They, also, have a good Sunday School."

Rev. J. J. Barnes ministered to the Waterville pastorate. He reports: "There has not been the marked revival interest hoped for, yet good has been done in seed sowing, the fruitage of which I hope some one may gather soon. Seven were added to Third Tier church and three to Waterville church. All the meetings have been regularly maintained, including four conferences each month, and three preaching services each Sunday. The Sabbath Schools and mid-week prayer meetings are well sustained. The church building at Lindsay was extensively repaired and improved. Special meetings were held in three churches."

Rev. B. H. Nobles is closing his eighth year as pastor at Sussex. "Looking over the years" he sees "a decided gain along all lines of work. The present year has been one of the best. The church has been strengthened, numerically, financially and spiritually; the people are united in the work, and are interested in all the denominational enterprises. There is room for improvement, and we are determined, by the blessing of God, to do more next year."

Rev. W. H. Perry reports his "second year with the Hampstead pastorate. It has been a pleasant and profitable year. The Lord blessed us with revival at Hibernia; ten were baptized. There was revival also, at Upper Hampstead seven were baptized. In the other churches seed has been sown that we trust will bear fruit to the glory of God. The churches have asked me to remain their pastor another year, and I have consented to do so."

Rev. Gideon Swim reports that "for five months of the year he was under the direction of the H. M. Executive. Three months of that time he was in special meetings, with the following churches,—Upper Gagetown, Campo Bello, Beaver Harbour, Oromocto and Rusiagornis. In these places the good seed was sown, in the confidence that God will give the increase." For two months he supplied the Moncton and Dover pastorate. He has also supplied other churches as opportunity has offered. Two weeks were spent in Canning, N. S. On the Millstream pastorate he baptized eleven persons. He expects, if the way opens, to take a pastorate after Conference."

Rev. C. B. Lewis has just completed his second year as pastor of the Lincoln-Rusiagornis pastorate. He reports that there was no special revival, but, he says, "they were enabled to 'hold the fort,' which sometimes means more than achieving victories under other circumstances. While the spiritual condition is not as good as is desirable, we have been conscious of the divine presence and help; and trust the seed sown may be fruitful."

Rev. F. C. Hartley has continued pastor of the Fredericton church. "During the year the regular work of the church and its auxiliaries has been maintained with good results. Six persons have been baptized and two others have been received into the church on experience. Spiritually and financially the church is in good condition. The Sunday School, Christian Endeavor and Woman's Mission Society are doing good work. The outlook is hopeful."

Rev. H. A. Bonnell, immediately after last Conference, spent three weeks at Beaver Harbour; then one Sabbath at Bellisle, a few days at Hibernia with bro. W. H. Perry in special work, and two Sabbaths with Millstream churches. The last of December he went by direction

of the H. M. Executive to Carpenter. Later he made engagements for the remainder of the year with that pastorate. He reports having held "special meetings at the Narrows and Perry's Point, without seeing great results." He thinks the field should have home mission aid for a time. Besides preaching at the churches, he has a preaching appointment in the Hall at Cody Station, near which there are several Free Baptist families. He has been asked to remain another year as pastor, and will probably do so.

Rev. D. Long, of Victoria St. church, St. John, reports: "We are getting along fairly well. The interest in all departments of the work of the church shows an advance. Special meetings were held during the winter, and a number added to the church. The church building has been improved."

Rev. Abram Perry has spent his eleventh year with the Salisbury pastorate. He reports having "conducted twenty-two regular services every four weeks. The spiritual condition of the churches is not as uniform as I would wish. Financially they are doing more than their regular work; this year they have paid one third of the price of their parsonage. I have decided to remain another year."

Rev. S. J. Perry had charge of two pastorates. He held "special meetings at Upper Hainesville, which resulted in seventeen being added to the church, fifteen of them by baptism. Two were added by baptism to the Staples Settlement church."

Rev. J. B. Daggett, has completed three years in charge of the Hartland pastorate. He says: "The work during the year has been well sustained, both spiritually and financially. Regular preaching services have been held each Lord's day; prayer and conference meetings show marked strengthening of spiritual life among the faithful. There has not been as much done for the salvation of the unconverted as is desirable, yet some have been brought to Christ. The Hartland church enjoyed a season of revival. The pastorate has built a parsonage, which the pastor occupies, located at Hartland. A pleasant and commodious house is now assured God's servants who shall come this way. The Newburg church building has been advanced towards completion. I will remain another year here."

Rev. E. S. Parker, who is again at college, reports that he spent three months in the Fall and Winter at Grand Manan. He was with each of the three churches four weeks, "holding services every night but Saturday, and preaching three times each Sabbath." At North Head and Seal Cove continuous storms interfered somewhat with the meetings, but good was done. "At Grand Harbour there was a blessed awakening. Fourteen were added to the church." At Seal Cove one was baptized. Bro. Parker expects to finish his course at Bates College next Spring, and "shall hope to return to Canada next year."

Rev. D. Patterson has not been a pastor this year, but has not been idle. His report that "after Conference he went to Carpenter, and held special meetings two weeks. The Lord blessed the work; the church was strengthened numerically and spiritually; six were baptized and united with the church; others took part in the work, and others made a start in the professed Christian life. He went to Southampton pastorate the last of February and remained there until April 5th. The Lord requires of our people there a single hearted, forward, consecrated, business-like taking up of christian work. The inheritance of labour is yet with our people there." He has received a call from that pastorate, and "will go there if it can be made practicable." He spent two Sabbaths at Kempt, N. S. by invitation. During other parts of the year he has "preached, as opportunity served, both in our own churches and at other places, as supply and independent missionary."

Rev. A. J. Prosser reports his work in the Penobscus pastorate as somewhat uneventful. The churches are moving along in the regular way. Several weeks of special work was engaged in, but scarcely any revival experienced. At Newtown the church has been steadily increasing in its support and membership, seven having been added.

(Continued on page four.)