

Religious Intelligencer.

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

FREDERICTON N.B., OCTOBER 17 1900

W HOLE No. 2472

XLVIII.—NO 43

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE Sixty-Eighth Annual Session.

SATURDAY EVENING.—Conference assembled at 7.30. After routine of the Nominating Committee, by Rev. W. Clarke, presented its first report, naming committees as follows:

Absent Brethren—Revs. G. Swin and H. Hartt, and Messrs. D. A. Phillips, J. W. Smith, F. C. Bloods, W. Vanwart and Wm. Peters. Collections—Rev. J. H. Henderson and Messrs. G. J. Worden and T. L. Alexander.

Deceased Brethren—Revs. C. T. Phillips, J. Perry, J. Noble, T. S. Vanwart, and Mr. Charles White.

Appeals—Revs. W. H. Perry, L. A. Cosman, J. N. Barnes, J. B. Daggett, and Mr. J. E. Good.

Correspondence—Revs. J. J. Barnes, J. Perry, J. T. Parsons and Messrs. J. Watson, J. V. Morrell.

District Meetings—Revs. L. A. Fenwick, T. S. Vanwart, C. B. Lewis, H. A. Donnell, B. H. Nobles, A. H. McLeod, and S. J. Perry.

The report was adopted, and the committee given leave to sit again.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS' REPORT.

In the absence of the Corresponding Secretary for Sabbath Schools, bro. J. McCready, his report was presented by Rev. F. G. Francis, as follows:

"The report is not complete, but is made from such material as came to hand. Eighty-eight schools reported, having 5483 scholars, and 478 teachers. Classified as to Districts they are as follows:

	Schools.	Scholars.	Teachers.
1st Dis.	3	95	9
2nd "	18	970	90
3rd "	9	758	65
4th "	13	694	52
5th "	4	403	42
6th "	22	1192	107
7th "	12	1371	113

The Executive Committee notes with pleasure the increase in the number of schools reported, there being more than last year, with nearly 1000 more scholars and sixty teachers. This increase was, doubtless, the result of the vigorous discussion of this branch of our work at last Conference. Let us not think of resting until all the unreported schools are brought into line, so that the Secretary's report can show our full strength in this work. There is an increase in "evergreen" schools—sixty-three to fifty-five last year; the volumes in the libraries have increased from 5705 to 7255; \$2161.00 were raised for Sunday School work, being nearly \$600.00 in excess of last year; and the value of S. S. property increased \$500.00. The reported conversions are 129, an increase over last year; surely our labour cannot be thought to be in vain when so many young people are being brought to Christ and fitted for His service. Seventy-nine schools use the Lesson Helps. The superintendents of the need of more teachers. Let us fervently pray for God's blessing on those now engaged in the work, and that many others may be willing to obey their Lord's call to this good service.

In addition to the foregoing report the Secretary directed the attention of Conference to several matters in connection with the reports which needed remedy, in order, to insure accuracy and completeness of returns.

The adoption of the report was moved by Rev. Gideon Swin, seconded by T. B. Barsett, both of whom spoke earnestly and effectively. Speeches were made, also, by Col. Alexander, Rev. D. Patterson and Dr. Hartley.

A committee, consisting of the Corresponding Secretary, Rev. D. Patterson and T. B. Barsett, was appointed to prepare forms of reports.

A committee composed of Revs. J. B. Daggett, F. C. Hartley, W. H. Perry, Gideon Swin, L. A. Fenwick, David Long and Col. Alexander, was appointed to prepare a mailing list of those to whom Minutes of Conference should be sent for the churches.

Adjourned.

SUNDAY.—There were large congregations at all the Sunday services, and the spirit of devotion was unusually manifest. At 9 a. m. there was prayer meeting, led by Rev. F. G. Francis, and participated in by a large number. At 10.30 a. m. the annual sermon was preached by Rev. David Long; at 3 p. m. Rev. Edwin Crowell, of the Nova Scotia Conference, preached; and at 7 p. m. Rev. F. C. Hartley. The Lord's Supper was administered in the afternoon service; the Moderator and the pastor of the church administering. At Hibernia Rev. G. W. Foster preached in the morning; and Rev. J. J. Barnes in the evening; at

Jerusalem, Rev. C. T. Phillips in the morning, and Rev. A. D. Paul in the evening; at Queenstown, in the afternoon, Rev. J. W. Clark; and at Hampstead village, in the evening, Rev. B. H. Nobles.

MONDAY.—At 8 a. m. there was prayer meeting, led by Rev. S. J. Perry. At 9 a. m. business was taken up, Rev. Dr. Hartley in the chair. Prayer by Rev. T. O. DeWitt. After roll call and other routine, the first business was the election of Moderator for the year. The balloting resulted in the choice of Rev. W. H. Perry for Moderator, and Rev. F. G. Francis, assistant Moderator. Both the retiring Moderator and new Moderator made suitable remarks. The committee on education, by Rev. J. B. Daggett, presented a report, as follows:

Your committee beg leave to report—1. We would reiterate and emphasize the stand this Conference has often taken as to the necessity of our young men who are entering the ministry procuring the best education possible.

2. We have at present the following young men in course at schools: At the Chicago University, W. C. Keirstead M. A., pursuing a Divinity course, and now in the third year; at the Biblical Training School, Lewiston, Me., A. E. Saunders, in his last year, G. D. Milbury, who is also preparing for college, and W. S. Kirkpatrick, in his first year; E. S. Parker, in fourth year, and Frank Dunfield, in his first year, at Bates College; F. Knollin and A. A. Rideout, at the U. N. B., in the second year, bro. Rideout being pastor at Marysville; A. D. Paul, who is pastor at Gibson, will take a special course at the U. N. B.; and J. C. Wilson intends to enter the U. N. B.; M. L. Gregg and H. M. Manzer will remain out of college one year.

3. We again call the attention of Conference to the need of more general contributions to the educational fund, as many of the young men should be aided while pursuing their studies.

The report was discussed at some length, some brethren questioning the wisdom of giving any assistance to students for the ministry, other than remuneration for the work done by them in vacations and at other times. But the general feeling seemed to be that in many cases moderate money grants, judiciously given, were really necessary.

The report was adopted.

In accordance with notice given a year ago, Rev. L. A. Fenwick moved to change the article defining the membership of District Meetings to include the Superintendents of Free Baptist Sabbath Schools.

The resolution was lost. Bro. Fenwick gave notice of like motion at the next annual session of Conference. The object of the proposed change is to assure better consideration of Sunday School work by the District Meetings.

It was voted to accept the invitation of the Waterville, C. C. church to hold the next session of Conference there.

With a view to get an expression of opinion as to the best time of the year to have the Conference, a motion to change the time to the last Saturday in June was made. There were various opinions, but a large majority of the members evidently believed no better time than early October, as now, could be found. The motion was lost.

Adjourned.

2 p. m. Moderator in the chair. Prayer by Rev. J. B. Daggett. Minutes. Rev. J. T. Parsons, from committee appointed last year, to prepare a revised course of study, reported that they had not completed their work, and asked leave to report next year. Leave was granted.

The committee on the Sabbath, by Rev. J. N. Barnes, presented the following:

"It is a well known fact that this Conference is and has been pronounced on the proper observance of the Christian Sabbath. But we deeply regret that notwithstanding all that has been said and done in the past, men go on violating God's holy day. Your committee would recommend that magistrates and good citizens do use their influence in putting away this growing evil."

Report adopted.

A letter of dismission of Rev. F. S. Hartley from the Nova Scotia Conference to the New Brunswick Confer-

ence was read, and on motion he was received to membership in the Conference.

Rev. G. Swin, for the committee on absent ministers, presented a report: Nine ministers are absent. Revs. J. S. Jones, C. F. Rideout, I. D. Harvey, W. R. Reid, E. S. Parker, W. C. Keirstead, S. J. Case, Wm. DeWare and J. A. Robertson; Revs. J. S. Jones and C. F. Rideout on account of old age; Rev. Wm. DeWare on account of sickness; Rev. J. A. Robertson sent no excuse; Rev. Irwin Harvey is sick; Rev. E. S. Parker and W. C. Keirstead are attending schools outside of the province; Rev. S. J. Case is teaching in New Hampshire.

At 3 p. m. the Conference went into committee on licentiates. At 5.30 p. m. the committee reported progress and asked leave to sit again. Leave granted.

WOMAN'S MISSION SOCIETY. While the committee on licentiates was in session in the school house, the church was occupied by the W. M. Society for their annual public meeting. A full report of it will appear later. It was a most interesting meeting.

MONDAY EVENING. Conference re-assembled at 7.30 p. m. Prayer by Rev. G. F. Currie. After routine Jas. Patterson, Treasurer of Conference presented his report. The Mission executives was the order of business. The Treasurer for Foreign Missions, E. W. Shipp, presented his report. The Treasurer for Home Missions, Rev. J. W. Clarke, presented his report. These three reports of treasurers will appear in the Auditor's report later.

Rev. C. T. Phillips, Corresponding Secretary for Foreign Missions presented the following report:

FOREIGN MISSION REPORT.

To make bricks without straw or clay, is no more impossible than to make a report without something to report. A prominent Foreign Missionary worker, representing a sister denomination, told me the other day "That the Free Baptists of New Brunswick were doing nothing in missions, almost nothing at all." I had two regrets when I heard the statement. The first was that my friend had stated a fact, the second regret was that he was so well informed.

I am sorry that we seem to sorrow more that our failures are known than for the failures themselves. That we have done so little for Foreign Missions ought to be regretted by every church, and church member; that it is regretted by many, we do not doubt. The sincerity of our penitence will be shown by our future attitude towards Foreign Missions.

The spiritual life of the home churches is sustained by their connection with Foreign Missions. A dying church is a church that has never engaged in Foreign Missionary work, or has neglected or given up the work. Neither man nor church can retain spiritual life while disobeying the imperative command "Go and preach the gospel to every creature." Personally, or by proxy, every child of God will go, when the command is given.

To receive we must give, to cease to work is to cease to live. That artist was a christian philosopher who painted the picture of a dying church, painted not a church with crumbling walls, and broken windows, and dismantled roof, but a beautiful church with lofty spire, frescoed walls, and rich memorial windows, and then he painted the Foreign Missionary box covered with cobwebs, and the spiders weaving their webs over the treasury, undisturbed by the gifts of any contributors.

An empty Foreign Missionary treasury indicates meagre offerings for the Home Missionary treasury.

That the Free Baptists of New Brunswick can do more than they have been doing cannot be and will not be denied. That they are not willing to do more, your secretary does not believe. Let two missionaries offer themselves for the foreign field, in addition to the one supported by our sisters, and the missionary elect to be supported by the young people of our churches, and the money for their support will be forthcoming. Who is there who has so little faith as to doubt it for one moment?

Since we met in General Conference last year, the heart of Canada has been troubled as it never was before. The Empire has again had her baptism of blood. England did not ask, and did not need the help of her colonial sons, they wanted our sympathy and moral support. But Canada was not satisfied, and could not be satisfied, with writing eloquent phrases, and courtly rhetoric, worth little more than the parchment upon which they were written. She wanted to show her love for the mother-land in a stronger, better way, and so she sent her sons, and there is not a mother whose boy sleeps on the velvet, who would not send another, if he were needed, to sleep beside him.

Think of the long dreary sea voyage to the southern seas, the long marches, the sultry days, the frosty nights, the

ever watchful enemy, behind his cover of rocks, death watching everywhere for his prey. How does the discomfort of the modern missionary compare with the discomforts of the South African soldiers?

With the exception of the China mission of the present year, the missionaries life is leafy June, the soldiers is bleak November.

There is not a church represented here to-day or a home that has not or would not supply soldiers for the Queen. Is there a church, or home, represented here to-day, that is not ready to furnish, (if needed) soldiers of the King, ready to march anywhere, at his bidding.

We are glad that the work of our sisters is prospering, and that the young people of our churches, the Christian Endeavour have in answer to their prayers, a sister, at a preparatory school who will enter the Foreign field as soon as her home studies are completed.

At a meeting of the Foreign Mission Executive at the close of the Conference last year, \$500.00 was voted to Rev. Dr. Given, treasurer of the Free Baptist Foreign Missionary Board, your secretary has not been informed as to its expenditure.

The adoption of the report was moved by Dr. McLeod, who spoke of the growing missionary interest in the Christian Church, of the progress of the work in the century now ending, and the present extent of missionary operations. He urged more teaching, not only as to the obligation upon christians to engage in mission work, but as to the blessedness of it, and expressed the hope that our own churches may be moved to share more largely in the undertakings which are extending the kingdom of Christ.

Rev. A. J. Prosser, seconding the motion to adopt, spoke briefly, urging the importance of large and hearty participation in the work. We must not only pray, he said, but we must pay too.

Rev. D. Long spoke of the need of more praying to the Lord to send forth more labourers in the great harvest-field which the heathen world presents.

Report adopted.

Rev. L. A. Fenwick, Corresponding Secretary for Home Missions, presented his report, as follows:

HOME MISSION REPORT.

Another year in denominational work has passed and it becomes the duty of your Executive of Home Missions to place before you a summary of the work which has been done.

The Executive have held four meetings during the year, one at Carleton, one at Woodstock, one in Fredericton and one at Hampstead.

The Executive at the beginning of the year felt very much the need of Missionary labour in our field and as Mr. Swin expressed himself to the Ex. as being specially directed of the Lord to take up the work for the year his services were engaged. Bro. Swin laboured under the direction of the Board for a period of five months at the following places, Upper Gagetown, Wilsons Beach, Beaver Harbour, Erb Settlement, Oromocto, Rusagornish, Moncton, Dover and Taylor Village.

While the earnest and faithful labours of bro. Swin did not result in any large gathering we feel that his work has been productive of much good in maintaining the work in pastorless fields, and sowing the seed of truth for future harvest.

Your Board also had under consideration the aiding of the weaker pastorates and while we have not been able to make all the grants asked for, we have exercised our best judgment in disbursing the limited means at our disposal.

In the 1st Dist. there has been no settled pastor during the year a condition of affairs very much regretted by your Board especially in consideration of the fact that this is the most promising field for denominational extension.

Your Board endeavoured to secure the services of bro. D. Patterson for the Tobique pastorate, failing in this it secured the service of bro. T. S. Vanwart for one month, he also paid a visit to North Lake in the 3rd Dist. In his report of the work on Tobique he speaks strongly of the need and importance of this section saying "that it claims our immediate and constant care."

Bro. M. L. Gregg paid a brief visit to Tobique which was highly appreciated by the churches.

Bro. W. H. Manzer of the U. N. B., has laboured with them since the closing of the college year and judging from his reports appears encouraged with his labours.

Bro. H. Hartt was given a mission to the California church. He reports his mission as helpful to the people although not all he desired, on account of unfavourable weather.

The Bath pastorate has received what assistance could be given them. Bro. Jos. Noble spent as much of his time as he could on this field his labour being appreciated by the people and helpful to the cause.

As opportunity offered labour was

given by bro. Daggett, Rideout and Fenwick until the close of the College year when bro. W. O. Keirstead was sent to the direction of the Board. His labours were highly esteemed by the people. He held special meetings at Lower Perth and as a result 8 were baptized and 13 received into the church.

At Upper Kent he was instrumental in liquidating the small debt that was on the church.

In the 2nd Dist. the only missionary work done by the Board was by bro. G. Douglas Milbury on the remote sections of the Rockland pastorate. He reports having laboured at Beaufort, Foreston, Cloverdale, Maine Shore, Knowlesville. At Knowlesville some special work was done and 8 were baptized, and 2 others professed faith in Christ and they hope will soon be baptized. 9 were added to the church.

In the 3rd Dist. bro. Fletcher Knollin of the U. N. B., spent the Summer with the churches of the Southamptown pastorate. His work was highly regarded by the churches under his care.

A grant was made to the Stanley-Bloomfield pastorate of which bro. J. N. Barnes has had pastoral care. He reports the year as the best since he came on the field. He held special meetings assisted by bro. Gregg. At Cross Creek 4 were baptized and 6 were added to the church. At Bloomfield 6 were baptized and received into the church.

In the 4th District bro. W. E. Kirkpatrick on the Upper Gagetown field received a small grant. Lincoln pastorate also received a small grant. C. B. Lewis pastor. The following churches in this District received assistance from Bro. Swin Upper Gagetown, Oromocto and Rusagornish.

In the 5th District a grant was made to the Bellisle Bay field which has had the pastoral care of Rev. T. O. DeWitt. He had special work on his field which resulted in 23 being baptized and 25 added to the churches. A grant was made to the Kingston church which has had the pastoral care of Rev. L. A. Cosman.

In the 6th District Rev. B. H. Nobles received a grant for work in connexion with Moncton church.

Moncton was kept supplied as well as possible under the care of the Board, having had the services of Revs. Long, Phillips and Nobles and Licentiate R. Ferguson.

Bro. Swin supplied Moncton, Dover and Taylor Village for two months under the direction of the Board. Bro. Allan Rideout also spent 2½ months on this field. He reports having enjoyed the work and that the congregations were good.

In the 7th District Bro. Saunders was sent to Wilsons Beach for the summer.

Bro. J. C. Wilson laboured with the church at Beaver Harbour for the summer. He reports the meetings helpful and the church building remodelled.

A small grant was made to the Fair Haven church of the Deer Island pastorate.

Your Board also have made a grant to the Rev. A. W. Currie of McAdam Junction.

We feel that the year's work has been fairly satisfactory although not all that we could desire. Much work has been done, the results of which are not immediately apparent but which no doubt in the Masters own time will bear precious fruit.

As for the future it should be ours to seek earnestly and prayerfully the will of God and having found that, with deep consecration and firm determination go forward trusting in His strength for its accomplishment.

Rev. J. W. Clark, in moving the adoption of the report, spoke of the interest of the W. M. Society manifests in home missions, and of that society's proposal to devote \$200.00 this year to work in the Tobique section of the first district. He went on to speak of the necessity of caring for that field—and doing it at once, lest our cause there suffer serious loss.

Rev. T. S. Vanwart seconding the motion to adopt, told some of his experiences and impressions during a month's labour on the Tobique last winter. He said whoever goes to Tobique will get a warm reception, and find plenty of work to do. He has large hope for the future of our cause there if promptly and properly cared for. He told of the Plaster Rock industries, and the opening there for religious work. The whole region, he said, demands immediate, constant and consecrated care.

Rev. Dr. Hartley spoke of his interest in home missions, and commended the work done by the H. M. Executive last year. Several fields, he said, must have care now, or suffer.

Rev. J. B. Daggett told of the scarcity of men, as well as of money. He thought if we more honoured God in the use of our money for His cause, He would give us more men for the work that is crying out so earnestly for "more labourers."

Rev. D. Long urged the importance of endeavouring to get every christian

to give something to this work. The burden and the blessing should not be left to a few, but should be shared by all.

Rev. C. T. Phillips thought it a mistake to talk to the churches about giving "a little." The most of us are too much disposed to that now; what we need is to give a good deal. There are, he said, churches anxious to receive help, that ought to be helping others. More self respect is what such churches need.

Rev. T. O. DeWitt wondered why some of those who love Tobique so much had not gone there long ago—to stay and cultivate so promising a field.

The report was adopted.

The Secretary, D. McLeod Vince, presented the report of the General Conference Executive.

Adjourned.

The committee on District Meetings, by Rev. L. A. Fenwick, presented a report, stating the time and place of the next annual session of each District Meeting. It will appear in due time.

TUESDAY.—Prayer meeting at 8 a. m., led by Rev. A. D. Paul. At 9 a. m. Conference resumed business. The Moderator in the chair. Prayer by Rev. F. S. Hartley. Roll call. Minutes.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

The following report on Temperance was presented by Rev. Dr. McLeod, chairman of the committee:

By their church covenant Free Baptists are pledged against the use of and the traffic in intoxicating liquors. By repeated resolutions of conference they are unequivocally committed to the strongest opposition to the liquor traffic and to the support of all movements and measures for the prohibition of the traffic. We now reaffirm, if possible, and with increased emphasis, the frequently stated antagonism of this body of Christian people to the iniquitous traffic; and repeat the declaration that it is the duty, and should be the purpose, of every church and every individual member of the denomination to unceasingly oppose and strive to overthrow the gigantic crime of crimes.

Last year the Conference put itself on record in disapproval of the action of the government of Canada in disregarding the mandate of the electorate in the prohibition plebiscite. The action of Parliament, at its last session, in declaring that a prohibitory law should not now be enacted, merits the strong condemnation of Christian voters; and this Conference hereby condemns such action as a misrepresentation of the will of the electorate.

It is useless to deny that in the action of the government and Parliament, the prohibition movement has received a severe blow. Not a few temperance people have been much depressed. The liquor traffic men have been correspondingly elated. But none who have at heart the deliverance of this country from the great curse of the legalized drink traffic must allow themselves to be turned aside from the work. If out of the reverses they have suffered, prohibitionists learn to be united, they may be nearer an important victory than they think. We are at a time when prohibitionists should make this the first question in determining their political action.

We approve of the platform of the Maritime Prohibition Association, which aims to have prohibitionists elected in every constituency, and which seeks to do this by working in the party caucuses for the nomination of suitable candidates; and we suggest the appointment of two delegates to attend the next meeting of the Association. We endorse the statement of the Dominion Alliance that as "the government and Parliament have united to sustain the liquor traffic, in defiance of the people's wishes, and in violation of what the public has accepted as an agreement that the traffic would be outlawed," it is the duty of Christian electors "to unite in an effort to make such changes in their representation in the House of Commons as will ensure the embodiment in law of the prohibition which has been endorsed at the polls." "The prohibition question is of more importance than any of the other political issues of the day, and patriotic citizens should earnestly work together, regardless of mere partisan considerations, to secure the election of those who will stand by the right and by the people, and to defeat those who have treated this great movement with so much hostility and contempt." The men of the liquor traffic are united and support only such Parliamentary candidates as they can trust to further their interests. Christian citizens need to be equally united to support only such candidates as represent their views and purposes concerning the liquor traffic—its utter destruction. When they are so united their wishes will be respected, and righteous laws concerning the liquor traffic will take the place of the present wicked laws.

We recommend that more attention be given to temperance teaching and work in our churches,—that at least one Sunday in the year be observed.

(Continued on page four.)