The Conference.

SEVENTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION.

(Continued.)

TUESDAY.—Business was resumed, with prayer by Rev. J. A. Robertson.

Rev. F. G. Francis was granted dismission to join the Nova Scotia Conference.

J. E. Good, Esq., reported from the Board of Managers:

Bro. Moderator,—

In submitting to this Conference its annual report, the Board of Managers wish to express the deep loss they feel in the death of Dr. G. A. Hartley, who has been a member and secretary of this board for about forty years. We feel that we, as well as this Conference, have lost a wise and painstaking officer and sympathizing friend.

No meeting of the board has been called during the year. The treasurer's report will give an account of the finances. There has been no new churches or parsonages conveyed to the Conference during the year, but some have been repaired, which will add to the comfort of the ministers and other persons concerned. As far as your board knows, the local boards of trustees appointed by Conference have performed their duties faithfully in overseeing the property committed to their care. Your board recommends the appointing by this Conference of the following named local boards of trustees for the ensuing year, or until others are appointed in their stead. This board to exercise its usual jurisdiction over these trustees.

B. S. Palmer, Esq., Treasurer of the Board of Managers, reported on hand in cash $352.75, in securities $5,324.17.

Rev. J. B. Daggett submitted the following supplementary report from the Executive for Home Missions:

Bro. Moderator,—

Your Executive for Home Missions beg leave to submit the following: The Young People's League at its last annual session held in Marysville in August last, voted to employ a home missionary, and make his services a free gift to the board. Negotiations have been going on between the board of the executive of the Y. P. League and Bro. Paul, and it is with pleasure we have to report that arrangements have been completed. Bro. Paul has accepted the position, his salary and all expenses incidental thereto have been assured by the League, and we have accepted the responsibility of his direction. He will be placed in the field at once, assisting pastors in evangelistic services and ministering to pastorless churches. For the generous action of our Y. P. League we should be very thankful, and should pray that heaven's richest blessing may rest upon the missionaries' labors.

Rev. F. C. Hartley reported for the Committee on Examination of Students that one young man, Bro. H. R. Boyer, had undergone examination in part of the first year's prescribed course. The suggestion that the committee on the course of study be continued, was adopted.

Rev. F. C. Hartley, from Committee on Education, submitted the following:

1. To teach and lead the people the ministry must be in a position so to do. At the present time every facility is offered whereby young men who so desire may obtain such necessary education. The public school, universities, theological institutes, are on the prescribed course of study, make some degree of education possible for all.

2. Your committee notice with pleasure, that with few exceptions the young men who are now seeking entrance into our ministry are most anxious to prepare themselves for the most efficient service.

3. Your committee are glad that the Young People's League continues to manifest practical sympathy for the young men attending colleges and schools by extending financial assistance to such as need it.

4. We suggest that all our young men who are now attending some educational institute be requested to pass satisfactory examinations in the prescribed course of study before they shall be ordained, except under exceptional circumstances.

5. There are at present a number of our young men studying at the different schools and colleges. Bros. E. H. Cochrane, J. G. Perry, J. C. Wilson and H. M. Manzer at the U. N. B., and Bro. Geo. Bolster at the high school in Fredericton. Bros. Knollin, Rideout, W. O. Keirstead, Milbury and Kirkpatrick at Lewiston. Bros. W. C. Keirstead and S. J. Case at higher educational institutes.

Rev. E. S. Parker, from the Committee on the Augmentation Scheme, presented the following:

1. That in place of the said scheme as outlined in the Year Book of 1902, page 53, we recommend that this Conference recommend that our churches and pastorates make the minimum salary of their pastors $500.00.

2. That the present home mission board constitute also the augmentation fund committee, whose duty it shall be to devise means of raising the money and paying out the same to deserving pastorates.

Rev. Gideon Swim, from the Committee of the Whole on Licentiates, reported and recommended:

1. That Bros. J. C. Wilson, W. E. Kirkpatrick, E. H. Cochrane, W. O. Keirstead, G. D. Milbury, H. M. Manzer, G. F. Bolster and J. G. Perry be granted Conference licenses.

2. That Bros. Fenwick, Currie and Prosser be a committee to examine Bro. T. D. Bell, and report the result of examination to the Executive of Conference, and the Executive of Conference is duly empowered, if they deem it expedient, to grant a Conference license to Bro. T. D. Bell.

3. That Bros. W. H. McCutcheon, J. J. Bonnell and H. R. Boyer be continued on District Meeting license.

4. That the Conference recommend Bro. J. H. Puddington to labor as a lay preacher.

These recommendations were adopted.

Adjourned.

Session opened with prayer by Rev. C. B. Lewis. Rev. B. H. Nobles reported $94.37 on hand for the student's fund.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Presbyterian people for the use of their church, and that $2 be paid the sexton for his care of same.

A resolution was passed in which the Corresponding Secretary was requested to write to the clerks of the various Districts to get those churches which have not reported to send in some report which will be incorporated in the Year Book of 1903.

The sum of $500.000 was voted to the RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

Rev. B. H. Nobles, seconded by Rev. C. T. Phillips, moved the following resolution, which was adopted:

1. The census makes it appear that the Free Baptists of the province have decreased several thousands in ten years.

2. Immediately on the announcement of the census figures the Corresponding Secretary of this Conference directed the attention of the Census Commissioner to the fact that serious errors had been made, either in the enumeration or compilation of the religions of the people. The commissioner promised investigation and correction of any discovered errors. Later he made corrections, increasing the number of Free Baptists less than two hundred.

3. When the census volume containing the details of the religions of the population appeared, the Corresponding Secretary was able to point out many places in various parts of the province where the census statements about our people were flagrantly wrong. These facts were brought to the attention of the Census Commissioner and the Minister of Agriculture, and they were respectfully asked to have corrections made. They promised attention to the matter. The result of their alleged investigation and correction was the addition of 442 names to our number; the merest fraction of the losses caused us by the blunders of the census staff.

4. We have to record our great regret that the Census Commissioner has been unwilling to correct the gross errors, causing us an apparent loss of several thousands, which do us and our work so grave injustice, and to declare his conduct as a public official most reprehensible.

5. The Corresponding Secretary has with much painstaking labor endeavored to have justice done our people; and this Conference hereby expresses the heartiest endorsement of his course and approval of his faithful labor in this matter.

Gideon McLeod, Esq., reported $685.51 on hand for Sick and Disabled Minister's Fund.

The Conference then went into committee of the whole to discuss the Baptist union question. The committee reported that having agreed upon the Basis of Union, with some modifications. The report of the committee was adopted.

Rev. M. L. Gregg was granted a letter of dismissal to join the Maine State Association of Free Baptists.

The sum of $10 was voted Rev. Mr. Hamlin to pay his expenses to Conference. An equal amount was voted to the reporter of the RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

Adjourned with prayer by Rev. J. J. Barnes.

Evening session. Opened with prayer by Rev. F. C. Hartley.

On motion of Rev. W. H. Perry, a vote of thanks was tendered the pastor of the church and the people of Lower Millstream for the royal way in which they had entertained the Conference.

Rev. L. A. Fenwick, Auditor, reported that he had examined the accounts of the various treasurers and found them correct.

Dr. McLeod read a communication from the Baptist Convention respecting union, and the appointment of a committee to confer with a committee of the Conference whenever the Conference should appoint such committee. Its suggestion was received and acted upon, and Revs. Dr. McLeod, D. Long, A. Perry, F. C. Hartley, and J. B. Daggett

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