

THE RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

"THAT GOD IN ALL THINGS MAY BE GLORIFIED THROUGH JESUS CHRIST." -Peter.

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THE CONFERENCE. SEVENTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION,

The Conference began, as always, with the Ministers' Meeting on Friday. It opened at 10 a. m., Rev. C. T. Phillips presiding. The hymn, "Thus far the Lord has led us on," was sung, Ps. 107 was read, and prayer was offered by Rev. J. N. Barnes and the Chairman. Roll call showed a number absent, several of whom came later in the day. Two—Rev. Dr. Hartley and Rev. C. F. Rideout—were not present because they had answered the roll-call in the church above. Fitting reference was made to the deceased brethren, and a committee appointed to prepare a minute for the records of the Conference.

Rev. G. H. Hamlen, of the Free Baptist India mission, and Rev. J. J. Hull, of the Maine Association, being present, were invited to seats. The election of Chairman for the ensuing year resulted in the choice of Rev. G. W. Foster, with Rev. Gideon Swim as Assistant Chairman. Revs. J. N. Barnes, T. O. DeWitt and G. Swim were elected members of the Ministers' Conference Executive.

The matters which usually engage the attention of the ministers were given consideration. The Conference found itself in harmony in doctrine and practice. Rev. A. M. McNitch's letter from the Nova Scotia Conference was presented, and he was voted to membership; and Rev. D. Patterson, of the N. S. Conference was invited to a seat. There was a season of special prayer for the Tobique work, and for the special meetings being conducted there now by Bro. Bell.

Friday evening there was public worship. Rev. J. J. Hull preached. There was a large congregation. At the close of the service there was an adjourned session of the Ministers' Meeting. Rev. J. E. Gosline, delegate from the N. S. Conference, having arrived, was invited to a seat.

Saturday.—To many the meeting of the session is the conference—the testimony meeting, on Saturday. It opened at 10 a. m. The pastor, Rev. H. H. Ferguson, presided. The Scripture lesson was read by Rev. F. A. Currier, and prayer was offered by Rev. J. N. Barnes. The pastor spoke warm words of welcome on behalf of the church and community. The attendance was very large, and there were numerous testimonies of Christian faith and love. For two hours the service continued with marked interest and enjoyment.

At 2 p. m. the business of the Conference was begun. The Moderator, Rev. F. G. Francis, called the meeting to order. "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" was sung, and prayer was offered by Rev. John Perry. In the absence of the Secretary, Rev. F. C. Hartley was appointed Secretary, *pro tem*. After roll-call, the Corresponding Secretary presented the following report:

Bro. Moderator and Brethren,—

The territory in this province occupied by our churches is divided into seven districts. Each district has an annual meeting, at which the churches of the district are required to present reports. The reports presented at the District Meetings furnish the material from which the Corresponding Secretary of Conference makes his report on "the state of religion" in the churches. The report this year will deal with the districts separately.

THE FIRST DISTRICT embraces Victoria County, and the parish of Kent, and part of the parish of Wicklow, in Carleton Co. There are twenty-one churches in the District. Seven churches reported this year. The reported churches have 234 members, and contributed \$473.49 to all purposes. Only one pastor, Rev. L. A. Fenwick, has labored in the District the whole year. The churches in his pastorate are Bath, Wicklow, Beechwood, Mineral, Upper Kent and Lower Perth. He gave, also, as much attention as possible to the other churches in the District. Licentiate Manzer spent most of the year on the Tobique river as a teacher and in other employment, and preached as he had opportunity. Licentiate T. D. Bell has been in the District since July, and has had charge of the churches in the upper part of the District, including those on the Tobique river. This District has always been regarded as a mission field, though it has not always had as much care as the interests there seem to require. Perhaps the Conference may discover a

way of providing more and regular care for this needy and promising field.

THE SECOND DISTRICT includes all of Carleton Co., except the parish of Kent and Wicklow front. There are twenty-six churches, nineteen of which reported to the District Meeting in June. Five pastors cared for the reported churches—Revs. T. S. Vanwart, G. W. Foster, A. W. Currie, F. A. Currier, and E. S. Parker. Five churches—Gordonville, Hartland, Mount Pleasant, Tracey Mills and Woodstock—reported revivals. The number added to the churches by baptism was fifty-three, the net gain in membership being thirty-seven. The money contributions of the reported churches were \$5,725.48. Several churches in the District were without regular pastoral care during the year, though most of them received some attention from visiting ministers.

THE THIRD DISTRICT is York County, in which there are twenty-eight churches. Fifteen churches presented reports at the annual meeting of the District in September. The churches were ministered to by Revs. J. J. Barnes, F. C. Hartley, H. A. Bonnell, A. D. Paul and A. Rideout, and Licentiates Bolster and McCutcheon. The churches reporting revivals are Campbell Settlement, Fredericton, Gibson, Marysville, Keswick, and Southampton. Thirty-eight were added by baptism, the net gain in membership being five. For all purposes the reported churches contributed \$5,090.19.

THE FOURTH DISTRICT embraces all the churches in Sunbury Co., and three churches in Queens Co.—sixteen churches in all. Fifteen of the churches reported at the District Meeting. The only church reporting revival was Clarendon. Seven members were added by baptism. There was a net loss of thirty-six in the membership of the reported churches. The reported payments for all purposes were \$4,286.50, the largest item being for building and improvements to church buildings. The pastors of the District were Rev. J. B. Daggett and Licentiates Cochrane, Puddington and Kierstead. One new church—the Clarendon church, located at Gaspereau Station—was added. It had previously been a branch of Patterson Settlement church.

THE FIFTH DISTRICT includes Queens Co., except Gagetown and Otnabog, and the parishes of Greenwich, Westfield, Kingston and Kars, in Kings Co. There are twenty-two churches. Sixteen of them reported this year. The pastors of the District were Revs. J. A. Robertson, O. N. Mott, C. B. Lewis and S. J. Perry, and Licentiate Bonnell. Five churches reported revivals, viz., Central Hampstead, Carpenter, Hibernia, Olinville and Shannon. The additions by baptism were thirty-one, and the net gain of the reported churches, thirty-two. Contributions to all purposes reported, \$1,507.99. One new church, Olinville, was added to the District.

THE SIXTH DISTRICT embraces Kings County, except the parishes mentioned as being in the Fifth District, and Westmorland and Albert Counties. There are twenty-nine churches in the District. Twenty-six of them reported this year. Seven churches had revivals, viz., Coverdale, Lutz Mountain, Long Point, Millstream, Moncton, Midland and Sussex. The additions by baptism to the reported churches were fifty-five, and the net loss of members in the reported churches was twenty-eight. Revs. B. H. Nobles, W. H. Perry, G. Swim, A. Perry, F. G. Francis and H. H. Ferguson were the pastors of the District. The money raised by the reported churches was \$5,598.06.

THE SEVENTH DISTRICT embraces St. John City and County, and Charlotte County. There are fourteen churches, all of which reported at the District Meeting in August. Two churches reported revival—Waterloo Street, St. John, and St. John, North. The additions by baptism were seventy-two, and the net gain in the membership of the District was forty. The money contributed was \$7,043.53. The pastors of the churches were Revs. C. T. Phillips, J. A. Robertson, D. Long, A. J. Prosser and R. W. Ferguson.

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What Others Say.

NOT NECESSARY.

Some Christians seem to require that service shall be attractive. That is one of the things that service may be, never must be.—*Zion's Herald*.

SOME TRY TO.

A man cannot forget Christ six days in the week or twenty-nine in the month and then on the seventh or the thirtieth remember him acceptably by partaking of the symbols of his body and blood.—*Free Baptist*.

JUST ONE.

One liar in the church works more mischief than a whole regiment of slanderers outside. One hypocrite in the church is a greater enemy to the cause of Christ than a whole army of persecutors arrayed against it.—*Baptist Commonwealth*.

NEVER MORE EXACTING.

As of old, the business of editing a paper attracts many a man who thinks he can do it much better than the man who has wielded the blue pencil and the scissors for years; but never was the work of journalism more exacting and the achieving of success a more difficult or delicate task.—*Congregationalist*.

A NEEDLESS HABIT.

Some public speakers seem to think that effectiveness in speech is secured by loud and vehement utterance. We have heard preachers in a little room that would be crowded by one hundred people shout as though speaking to a throng of ten thousand in the open air. It is a needless habit, more honored in the breach than the observance.—*The Examiner*.

THE DEAD SEA SINKING.

Despatches from Jerusalem state that Palestine has been the seat of earthquake disturbances, which have chiefly been felt in the valley of the Jordan, particularly around the Dead Sea, which is stated to have sunk in area, and fallen considerably below its ordinary level, so that the River Jordan, which used to flow into it smoothly, now falls into it from an elevation. Apparently the bottom of the Dead Sea has subsided, through the earthquake convulsion. The whole region of the Jordan valley is of the most extraordinary character, and much of it is markedly volcanic. It is a great chasm, stretching for miles between towering hills, and for the most part far below the level of the sea. At the sea of Galilee, for instance, it is six hundred feet below sea level, and at the Dead Sea no less than thirteen hundred feet below sea level. No wonder that its heat is tropical, and in summer almost unbearable.

The last report of the Educational Department of Japan states that over 93 per cent. of the boys of school age in the empire are attending school and over 81 per cent. of the girls—a most excellent showing for any country.