

Presbytery of P. E. Island

The Presbytery of Prince Edward Island met in regular quarterly session in the Keir Memorial Church, Malpeque on Tuesday, July 18th and was opened in due form by Rev. Fred Williamson in the unavoidable absence of the Moderator Rev. Allister Murray at the hour set for opening.

There were two regular sessions morning and afternoon. A meeting was also held in the evening which took the form of a Presbyterial Visitation.

Those present were Rev. Allister Murray, Moderator; Rev. R. Hensley Stavert, Clerk; Rev. Chas. J. St. Clair Jeans, Rev. Fred Williamson, Rev. R. Moorhead Legate, D.D., Rev. J. Keir Fraser, D.D., Rev. A. R. Gibson, Rev. G. Carlyle Webster, Rev. D. L. Griffiths, Rev. J. A. Pritchard and Messrs. Robert Horne, Wm. J. Montgomery, A. E. Morrison, R. G. McLaren, S. M. Hicks, Robert McNutt, A. A. McDonald, James Jardine and J. J. England representative elders.

Others present not members of the court were Rev. M. E. Genge, D. D., Rev. W. O. Rhoad, V. E. Orsborn, Student, Catechist and Messrs. Wm. McMillan, Andrew McLeod, Fred Clark, Colin Mountain, Thos. Ramsay, George Jardine, Elders and Messrs. John Anderson, John R. McWilliam, David Griffiths, Harold Horne and Alfred Craig, representative laymen.

Rev. Wm. McLean Outremont, Montreal, who supplied for Rev. D. L. Griffiths, Belfast on Sunday, July 16th was present and was asked to sit and to correspond.

The Presbytery extended congratulations to Rev. M. E. Genge, D. D., and Rev. W. O. Rhoad, B. A., Th. B. on their having been received by the General Assembly as Ministers of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and their names were ordered to be placed on the appendix of the Roll of the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island. Both these gentlemen thanked the court for the courtesies extended to them.

The minutes of the last regular quarterly meeting were adopted and the clerk was congratulated on the splendid way in which the minutes were written up.

Rev. G. Carlyle Webster reported for the committee on Legal Titles. At the last session of the Legislature a Blanket Act was passed under the provisions of which all Presbyterian Churches on Prince Edward Island which are now not incorporated may on application be brought under this act. As far as can be learned the following Presbyterian Churches have not yet been incorporated, Bradalbane, Hunter River, Lorne Valley, Dundas, Long River, Geddie Memorial, Granville, Clyde River, Kensington, Freetown, Mt. Stewart, Murray Harbor North, Peters Road, Tryon West Point and Lot 14.

It was recommended that this committee be continued until all of these churches had been brought under this act of incorporation. It was agreed that Rev. G. Carlyle Webster, Convener of this committee should write to all of these congregations and ask them to see that their church properties are brought under the provisions of this Act.

The Presbytery then thanked Mr. Webster and the other members of this committee for the splendid work they had done in having this act of incorporation brought into existence.

A hearty and quite unanimous call from the congregation of Kensington and Freetown addressed to Rev. W. O. Rhoad, B.A., Th.B., was presented to the Court by the Interim Moderator of the Sessions of Kensington and Freetown Rev. G. Carlyle Webster.

The call was signed by 90 members and 54 adherents from Kensington and by 18 members and 16 adherents from Freetown and was accompanied by a guarantee for a salary of \$1800.00 and four weeks holidays.

In order to bring the salary up to the minimum stipend of \$1800.00 the Presbytery will apply to the General Board of Missions for a grant of \$300.00. The action of the Interim Moderator was approved of, and the call was sustained as a regular Gospel call.

On the call having been placed in the hands of Rev. Mr. Rhoad by the Moderator of Presbytery, Rev. Allister Murray, it was accepted by him. Tentative arrangements were made for Mr. Rhoad's induction on Thursday, September 7th at 7:30 p. m. in the Presbyterian Church, Kensington. Rev. Allister Murray Moderator of Presbytery will preside and induct. Rev. J. A. Pritchard will preach the sermon.

Rev. R. Moorhead Legate, D.D., will give the charge to the newly inducted minister and Rev. G. Carlyle Webster will narrate the steps leading up to the call and will also address the people of the congregation.

Rev. Allister Murray the Interim Moderator of the Sessions of Murray Harbor North and Peter's Road reported to the Presbytery that he was calling a meeting on August 3rd for the purpose of finding out if this said congregation wished to call Rev. J. H. Douglas who had been supplying there for the past period that he is hoping that the six months. Mr. Murray also re-named Presbyterian Church at Murray Harbor South will be ready for opening in the near future.

Should the congregation of Murray Harbor North and Peter's Road decide to call Rev. J. H. Douglas and should the new Church at Murray Harbor South be completed in the course of a few weeks Mr. Murray suggested that he would like to have a special meeting of Presbytery called during the latter part of August to deal with both of these matters. The arrangements for the dedication services of the new church were left in the hands of Mr. Murray.

The report of the Presbyterial Committee on the visitation of congregations was given by Rev. R. Moorhead Legate, D.D., the convener of that committee.

The following are the committee recommendations.

1. That there be at least two visitations of congregations during the year and that they be included in the agenda of regular meetings of Presbytery.

2. That for the purpose of such visitations the office-bearers and members of the congregation to be visited shall be cited by due notice to appear before the Presbytery at an hour deemed most likely to secure a representative attendance.

3. That the stated questions contained in the Book of Forms shall be put by the Moderator and answers recorded by the Clerk of Presbytery, the Presbytery thereafter deliberating thereon and coming to a finding which shall be read to the congregation concerned at public worship on a following convenient Sabbath.

The report was received and the recommendations adopted.

At Malpeque on July 18th this Presbyterial Committee took charge of the evening meeting and held a Presbyterial visitation.

At this meeting Rev. R. Moorhead Legate, D.D., convener of the committee presided, Rev. Charles J. St. Clair Jeans delivered an address on "Presbyterial Polity"—a copy of which is being published along with the minutes of Presbytery and Rev. Allister Murray, Moderator of Presbytery asked the prescribed questions.

The finding of this committee regarding the Malpeque congregation was as follows: "The Presbytery having heard the answers to the prescribed questions given by the minister, and office-bearers of the congregation desire to express their approval of the manner in which the work of God is being carried out by the minister and his co-workers, and their joy at the condition of matters spiritually in the midst of the people. The Presbytery commends the minister, office-bearers, all workers and the whole congregation to the further guidance of God and prays the continuance of His rich blessing on their work."

The Home Mission report was given by Rev. G. Carlyle Webster convener of the Presbytery's committee on Home Missions. Mr. Webster reported that the people of North Rustico had asked for the services of Mr. V. E. Orsborn for the summer months. The services of Mr. Orsborn, he was pleased to say, had been secured. He further reported that he had secured the services of Donald Campbell, Heatherdale, for the West Point field. It was agreed that the Presbytery continue to press for the small grant promised to the Marshfield Pastoral charge.

The committee of three of which Rev. G. Carlyle Webster was Convener appointed at the May meeting to deal with the question as to whether or not a summer school should be held this year, reported that they had examined the letters received by V. E. Orsborn from the different congregations as to how many young people had reported by the first of June whether or not they could attend summer school.

As only a comparatively small number had reported as being able to attend, the committee decided that they were not justified in going on with the summer school. This committee having learned that Rev. W. M. Kannawin, D. D., Secretary of the Board of Sunday

Schools and Young Peoples Societies had reserved the time required for the summer school via. July 26th, August 3rd decided to invite him to make a tour of the congregations on Prince Edward Island between these dates, subject to the approval of Presbytery.

At the meeting in Malpeque, the Presbytery gave its approval and the clerk was asked to work out an itinerary for Dr. Kannawin—making it his aim to have Dr. Kannawin visit every place possible.

The itinerary as mapped out as present is as follows: Tuesday, July 26th, Alberton 2:30 p. m. and Tyne Valley 7:45 p. m. Wednesday, July 27th, Bradalbane 2:30 p. m. and Kensington at 7:45 p. m. Thursday July 28th, Mt. Stewart 7:45 p. m. Friday July 29th, Cardigan 2:30 p. m. and Caledonia 7:45 p. m. Saturday July 30th, Tryon 7:45 p. m. Sunday, July 31st 11 a. m. Summerside Presbyterian Church 3 p. m. Clyde River 7 p. m. Zion Church 8 p. m. Brookfield Monday July 31st. New London Beach 2:30 p. m. with supper following; Tuesday August 1st Murray Harbor South, 2:30 p. m. and Cambridge Hall 7:45 p. m. Wednesday, August 2nd, Wood Islands Church 2:30 p. m. and Belfast Church 7:45 p. m. On Thursday August 3rd Dr. Kannawin will set out for Fredericton, N. B., on his return to Toronto.

Rev. Alex. R. Gibson reported that the arrangement made by Presbytery over a year ago whereby the work in the Montague and Cardigan congregations was to be carried on under the one minister had not worked and very satisfactorily. The work was altogether too heavy for any one man. In order that the cause would not suffer in these two congregations, he recommended that a second man be secured as soon as possible. He outlined several possible courses to be followed under the circumstances.

The Home Mission committee will deal with this matter in the near future.

Rev. R. Moorhead Legate, D. D. and Rev. Alex. R. Gibson, commissioners to the General Assembly which met in Peterborough, Ont., June 7 to 14 gave glowing reports of the said meeting. The work of the different departments of the church was in splendid condition. Financially the church is stronger today than at any other time since 1925. The Knox College question over which there had been considerable heated discussion will, it is believed be settled to the satisfaction of all by the time of the meeting of the next General Assembly.

The commissioners reported how that they had both done their part in having Rev. M. E. Genge, D. D., and Rev. W. O. Rhoad, B.A., Th.B. received as ministers of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The General Assembly's Board of Education having been brought to know of the splendid work now being done by Mr. V. E. Orsborn it is believed that in the near future that the short course of studies asked for will be prescribed. On being asked what his interpretation of the resolution passed by the General Assembly re the minimum salary was, Dr. Legate stated that the minimum salary of ministers in the Presbyterian Church in Canada remained the same as before viz \$1800.00, the use of manse and four weeks holidays. A provision was made whereby a congregation after having been thoroughly looked over by Presbytery was found to be not able to raise the \$1800.00 would be allowed to call on a salary of \$1600.00—but for one year only, as the end of this first year it must raise the full \$1800.00 per year.

Rev. G. Carlyle Webster reported that recently he had come to know two young men who were looking forward to the entering of the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

A committee consisting of Mr. John Anderson, Treasurer of the Presbytery Fund, Rev. R. Hensley Stavert, Clerk and Rev. Chas. J. St. Clair Jeans was appointed to look into standing of the Presbytery Fund. A number of the congregations have not been paying into the Fund as they should. This is making it difficult for the faithful ones to meet all of the demands made upon this Fund.

Rev. R. Moorhead Legate, D. D. reported to the Presbytery that it had been his privilege to have been present at a "Get Together" meeting of the four sections of the pastoral charge of Marshfield, etc. held not long since on the Church and Manse grounds at Marshfield.

The later afternoon and earlier evening were taken up with sports, social intercourse, and lunch, while in the later evening a splendid program was put on in the church to which parties from all four sections of the field contributed. At this gathering many people from these different sections met for the first time. All went away from this event, feeling that they found respect for the people of their field but also a very profitable gathering. Oxford Groups movement. This Dr. Legate said that it was a splendid movement has a number of very did ideas and he strongly recommended that all of our congregations having within their bounds

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some of the customs practiced by these people. About their method of prayer and holding communion with God for example there was an atmosphere of familiarity that could not but eventually destroy the spirit of true reverence.

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I was asked by the Moderator of the Presbytery, and also by the Convener of the Committee on Presbyterial Visitation, to give an address tonight on some aspect of Presbyterial Polity. I agreed, albeit with some surprise, for the Presbytery has its Doctors of Divinity, and a subject like the one propounded is assuredly no easy one. For on considering the matter, how can one treat one aspect and confine oneself rigorously to that; how can one observe part of a living organism without taking into account the sustaining and qualifying action of the whole? For the Presbyterian Constitution is, indeed, a splendidly integrated whole, conserving through the working of all its parts the freedom and rights of everyone of our church's members. Its graduated series of courts express admirably the genius of a free people in governing themselves; each explains the others, each is necessary to the others; and all form such a compact unity, with the principles of the parity of presbyters and popular representation running right through as the main threads, that, if an understanding of the part is necessary to an understanding of the whole, an understanding of the complete system is necessary for a proper appreciation of the function of the part. To treat of the whole system in adequate fashion is manifestly impossible tonight. Anything I have to say must of necessity leave wide gaps which, I hope, will be filled up by future speakers at such visitations.

Now, Presbyterianism is simply belief in the apostolic and Catholic Church as governed by Presbyters. It is not a question of creed, or generally speaking, of doctrine at all. The thing that sets us apart is the character of our constitution. It is that constitution for which our forefathers fought, for one hundred years in Scotland, until the State recognized its validity. They did not contend for predestination, nor for the doctrine of the sovereign decrees of God, nor for any of the dogmas of personal salvation. They contended for the right of presbytery, the right to rule themselves by presbytery. The solemn court of the church which exercises its functions today in Malpeque was purchased for us by the agony and the exile and the martyrdom of a multitude. You are Presbyterians, not because you subscribe to the Reformed Faith, for other churches do that, but because you subscribe to, and are willing to be disciplined by, a particular form of church government which we believe to be essentially scriptural, and to be incomparably the best for the free development of the apostolic, catholic church whose Head is the Lord Jesus Christ. It is surprising how many people lose sight of that. It is surprising how even many Presbyterians seem to consider that Presbyterianism is simply an adherence to the strict forms of Calvinistic dogma sometimes vaguely expressed for example in the statement that "What will be, will be." Of course, our theology, our doctrinal statements, our standards are Calvinistic. But then so are the Thirty-Nine Articles of the Anglican Church. We cannot lay an exclusive claim to Reformed Calvinistic theology. But we can lay an exclusive claim to our particular form of polity or church government. That, I say, is at once our glory, and the differentiating principle of our church.

It is that system, we believe, that is still vital for the order and growth of the faith. It is that system you maintained by your loyalty in 1925. It is that system you must still maintain. You must be zealous to maintain it by the adherence and respect and honour you give to the courts of your church. You must be jealous for the functions of these courts and render them proper obedience, for they are there, not to serve their own ends, but to serve the church, and to seek its welfare under Jesus Christ. Everything pertaining to the order and procedure of such courts must be carefully observed if your own rights are to be secured. The highest forms of life are the most highly organized. The Presbyterian Church is a very highly organized form of government. Impatient and simple souls may be contemptuous of what they call "red tape" and slow and cautious procedure from step to step. But such deliberate and careful, even punctilious observance of due order has been found best for many generations of Presbyterians and is still best for you today. The operation of these courts preserve you on

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