

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
FOURTH  
GENERAL CONFERENCE

OF  
The Methodist Church,

HELD SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> TO SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>, 1894,

IN  
QUEEN'S AVENUE CHURCH, LONDON, ONT.



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department of the Dominion Government such regulation as "shall prevent vessels with excursion parties to report to, or get clearance from, any port upon the Sabbath Day."

We express our gratitude to God for the issue of the long conflict in Toronto, so vigorously sustained, concerning the running of street cars on the Lord's Day. We recognize the fidelity and promptness of the chief officers of the city, and look upon the successful maintenance of a quiet Sabbath against such a persistent attack as an honor to the Christian people of the city, and a valuable object-lesson to the Dominion.

Finally, we are glad to assemble in this Conference session in a city where no Sunday street cars are proposed; where Sabbath funerals are reduced to a minimum; where the Sunday newspaper is a foreigner; where the attempt to secure pleasure excursions on the river on the Lord's Day was promptly suppressed by the City Council, and where the temples of worship are so numerous and well attended.

ISAAC TOVELL, *Chairman.*

A. C. COURTICE, *Secretary.*

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## 2. REPORT OF COMMITTEE, No. 2.

Your Committee beg leave to report as follows:

1. That the Rev. G. McRitchie and Rev. J. Scanlon, together with the ministers of our Church resident in Ottawa, be authorized by this Conference to act with the Lord's Day Alliance during the quadrennium in the interest of a proper observance of the Sabbath.

2. That the Rev. John Potts, D.D., Dr. Lavell and Mr. Emerson Coatsworth, M.P., be a committee to present to the proper department of Government at Ottawa the prayer that vessels with excursion parties shall not be allowed to report to, or get clearances from, any of our Canadian ports on the Sabbath Day.

I. TOVELL, *Chairman.*

A. C. COURTICE, *Secretary.*

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# XXVII.—WORK OF DEACONESSES.

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## REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

Your Committee beg leave to report as follows:—

That no memorials or communications were referred to us for consideration.

We have, however, learned with much satisfaction that, in accordance with the provisions of section 122 of the Discipline, there has been organized in the city of Toronto, under the authority of the Toronto Conference, a Deaconess Home.

In connection with this Home there is a Conference Board of twenty-one members, seven of whom are ministers, seven women and seven laymen, appointed by the Conference to exercise a general control of the interests of this form of work and to have the management of the Home.

There has also been formed a Deaconess Aid Society, which has undertaken to furnish and maintain the Home as to running expenses.

Proper care is exercised in the admission of candidates, who are required, when admitted, to observe the established rules and regulations, and willingly give all their time to the work assigned them.

Certificates are issued to duly qualified persons, authorizing them to perform the duty of deaconesses in connection with the Church, provided that no person shall receive such certificate until she shall have served a probation of two years' continuous service, completed the prescribed course of study and shall be over twenty-two years of age.

After carefully examining the methods of work in this and other Homes, and looking at the results accomplished, your Committee would recommend—

1. That similar Homes be established, where desirable and practicable, in the cities and large towns of our Conferences.
2. For the present, the following course of study, as adopted by the Toronto Conference, viz.:

#### FIRST YEAR'S STUDY.

(a) For those not preparing to become trained nurses—

English Bible, book by book; the Discipline, Catechism, Theological Compend. (Binney), Smaller History of the Bible (Smith), Life of Christ (Stalker), Bible Geography (Hurlbut), Church History (Hurst), Text-book on Temperance (Nattress).

(b) For those preparing to become trained nurses—

The Bible, the Discipline, Catechism, Physiology (Hutchinson), Clara Weeks' Nursing Manual, How to Get Strong (Blaikie), and the theoretical instruction prescribed by the faculty of any standard Training School for Nurses, together with practical work in the hospital wards, under the direction of the head nurse.

(c) Recommended to be read—

The Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation (Walker), How to Study the Bible (Moody), Life of Elizabeth Fry (Mrs. Creswell), Christian Perfection (Wesley), Women and Temperance, Story of Methodism (Hyde), Deaconesses: Ancient and Modern (Wheeler), Deaconesses (Biblical), Early Church—European, American (Lucy Rider Meyer).

#### SECOND YEAR'S READING.

(a) To be pursued by both classes—

Life of Paul (Stalker), Life of John Wesley (Watson), Women of Methodism (Abel Stevens), Outline of the World's History (Swinton), History of Canada (Withrow and Adams), Manual of Methodism (Galbraith), How We Live; or, The Human Body, and How to take Care of It; the Bible, book by book.

(b) Recommended to be read—

Manual of Christian Evidences (Row), Deaconesses in Europe, and their Lessons for America (Jane M. Bancroft), Abiding in Christ (Murray), Life of Collins, Socialism and Christianity (Behrends).

For resolution as to dress of deaconesses, see JOURNAL, page 103.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. GALBRAITH, *Chairman*.

W. J. FAWCETT, *Secretary*.

## XXVIII.—SYSTEMATIC BENEFICENCE.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

Your Committee having considered the memorial forwarded by the Niagara Conference on the subject of Systematic Beneficence, and also that by Revs. Jos. Elliott and A. C. Courtice *re* methods of raising money for Church purposes, beg leave to report as follows:—

We recognize the great importance of this subject in relation to all the financial and spiritual interests of the church of Christ. Systematic and proportionate giving, so strongly inculcated in Holy Scripture, has, we are convinced, been lamentably neglected by the Church to the serious depletion of her treasury and the curtailment of her power. That the Bible expounds and enforces the subject under consideration will appear from the numerous instructions and illustrious examples therein contained. The Old Testament Scriptures clearly prove that, in accordance with a well-known law of reservation, God demanded of His ancient people tithes and offerings, holding out the strongest inducements to obedience, and warning them, under heavy penalty, not to ignore the divine claims on their earthly possessions. God's law of proportionate giving has come down to us from primitive times through the patriarchal, Mosaic and prophetic ages with multiplying illustrations of its beneficent character, and with striking vindications of its imperial rights. The law of tithing received the endorsement of Christ himself, and history informs us was practised by the primitive Christian Church. It therefore stands forth with its obligations unimpaired. Had it been a typical or ceremonial law, then, with all the rest of the Jewish ritual, might it have been set aside as having accomplished its purpose. But as it may be regarded in the light of a moral precept rather than a typical or ceremonial law, it is calculated to serve a most valuable purpose in all ages and under all dispensations.

The Gospel furnishes motives for giving of the highest character, prompting the heart to devise liberal things for the cause of God in this dispensation of unparalleled illumination and blessing. Under the mighty influence of Christ's constraining love, our earthly substance will be contributed with a glad heart, and we shall realize what the Saviour meant when He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Report of Special Committee on Church Property Titles in Manitoba and North-West Territories was read and its adoption moved. Manitoba  
Titles

Rev. J. M. Harrison moved to amend report by adding the name of G. W. Brown to the Commission.—*Carried.*

Report adopted as amended.

Report of Committee on Deaconess Movement was taken up. Deaconesses  
Item 1 read.

On motion, it was amended by adding the words "where desirable and practicable."

Item 1 adopted as amended.

Item 2 adopted.

Report adopted as amended.

Moved by Revs. Drs. Parker and Antliff,—That it be a matter of permission to Deaconess Boards that they shall authorize the adoption and use of such special distinctive dress by the deaconesses as may be judged suitable by the Deaconess Aid Society.—*Carried.*

The Secretary presented a communication from Rev. G. R. Turk, of Winnipeg, *re* Moravian Settlements in North-West, which was referred to Missionary Board.

Rev. Dr. Shaw moved,—That the following be the Committee to prepare and arrange for presentation of an address to the Governor-General:—General Superintendent Rev. Dr. Carman, Secretary Rev. Dr. Shaw, Rev. Dr. Ryckman and Hon. Senator Sanford.—*Carried.* Address to  
Governor-  
General

Rev. Dr. Shaw moved,—That the Secretary, Judge Chesley, and Rev. Dr. Ross, be a Committee to Edit the Journals of this Conference.—*Carried.* Editing  
Committee

The report of the Special Committee on the Amendments of Discipline *re* District Meetings was taken up, read item by item, and adopted. Discipline

The Conference adjourned to 7.30 p.m., Rev. Dr. Griffith pronouncing the benediction.

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#### MONDAY EVENING, *Sept.* 24.

The Conference resumed at 7.30 p.m., the General Superintendent in the chair. Rev. S. Bond, of the London Conference, conducted the devotional exercises.

Minutes of the afternoon session were read and confirmed. Time of  
Legislative  
Effect  
Moved by Rev. S. Bond, seconded by Rev. Dr. Antliff,—That the rules, regulations, decisions and resolutions adopted at this Conference as recorded in our JOURNAL take effect forthwith, unless a later time has been expressly or impliedly