

NO UNION FOR PRESBYTERIANS

Vote Not Large Enough to Warrant Union.

Committee Recommends Negotiations be Continued.

Co-operation in Home and Foreign Mission Fields.

Toronto despatch: "The committee is of the opinion that the large vote of the Church in favor of organic union demands some definite action in the direction of closer union between the negotiating churches, though the strong minority in opposition shows that organic union is not feasible at present. It recommends that the Union Committee be reappointed to continue such negotiations as the General Assembly may order relating to union with the Methodist and Congregational Churches in the belief that organic union may yet be consummated. The committee also recommends that the Assembly should proceed at once in the direction of co-operation in home and foreign fields, also in the educational work in the theological colleges and in the foreign publications of the negotiating churches."

The above resolution was the finding of the Presbyterian Committee on Church Union at its meeting yesterday. The resolution in its original form was proposed by President Falconer, of the University of Toronto, at the afternoon session. In his absence at the evening session it was submitted by Rev. Dr. W. J. Clark, of Montreal, Convener of the sub-committee. This was adopted by a vote of sixteen to three.

In opposition to this resolution the following amendment, moved by Rev. Dr. Sedgwick, of Tatamagouche, N. B., and seconded by Mr. Walter Paul, of Montreal, was submitted: "The Assembly rejoices at the large measure of agreement among the negotiating churches which the proceedings of these recent years have disclosed, and which it believes will prepare the way for a large measure of union among Christ's people in this land than at present exists."

"The Assembly recognizes that a majority of those voting have declared themselves in favor of the proposed organic union of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational communions in Canada."

"In view, however, of the fact that about one-half of the membership of this church have refrained from voting on this question, and that of those voting about one-third have expressed themselves in opposition to such organic union—both to that union in itself and in its proposed basis—and that this opposition is strongest in those portions of the church on which she depends chiefly for support in carrying on her general work, in view, too, of the fact that much consideration is due to this opposition, so large and influential, and that in 1905 the Assembly declared 'that a union of the churches to be real and lasting must carry the consent of the entire membership'; in view further of the fact that the resolute determination is that the Presbyterian Church in Canada shall not be suffered to cease to exist; in a word, in view of the fact that these negotiations, if continued as they have been conducted hitherto, will lead to an union which cannot but seriously injure the work of the church at home and abroad, the Assembly feels constrained to allow this whole matter of organic union to remain meanwhile in suspense."

"The Assembly would cordially welcome whatever measures may seem best fitted to draw the negotiating churches into closer and more friendly relations to one another; for example, if practical and properly safeguarded, in theological education and home and foreign mission work."

Rev. Dr. E. D. McLaren, the Secretary, submitted a tabulated statement of the returns sent in by the different Presbyteries. Reports were received from 65 out of 69, the four still to come being Trinidad, Dauphin, Prince Albert and Westminster.

The questions on which a ballot was taken were: First: "Are you in favor of organic union with the Methodist and Congregational Churches?" Second: "Are you in favor of the proposed basis of union?"

The vote on question one is as follows:

Elders—Yea, 6,245; nay, 2,473.
Members—Yea, 106,755; nay, 48,278.
Adherents—Yea, 37,175; nay, 14,174.

Total number of elders reported to last Assembly, 9,675.
Total number of communicants reported to last Assembly, 287,544.
Total number of elders who voted, 8,718.

Total number of communicants who voted, 135,832.
Ninety per cent. of the eldership of the church voted.

Sixty-four and one-half per cent. of the total eldership of the Church voted for union.

Twenty-five and one-half per cent. of the total eldership of the church voted against union.

Fifty-four per cent. of the membership of the church voted for union.

Thirty-seven per cent. of the total membership of the church voted for union.

Seventeen per cent. of the membership of the church voted against union.

NEWS OF THE DAY IN BRIEF

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The village of St. Damase, Que., was wiped out by fire.

Led Prisoner With Rope Around His Neck.

The Madero forces gained the first victory over the insurgents.

Young Man Got Year for Promoting Lottery.

Mr. C. H. Godfrey, the candidate of the reform element, was elected Controller in Montreal by a big majority.

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