

PROBLEMS FOR CANADIAN CITIES

Overcrowded Foreign Colonies a Cause of Evil.

STARTLING STATEMENTS.

Hamilton Conference Appoints Committee on Question.

**Laymen's Programme Endorsed —
Radical Policy of Moral Reform
Recommended—To Abolish Liquor
Traffic and Gambling—Fight for
Social Purity.**

(Special Despatch to The Globe.)

Brantford, June 7.—It seemed as though the visit of Messrs. H. H. Fudger and J. H. Gundy of Toronto to the Hamilton Conference this afternoon on behalf of the great Laymen's Missionary Movement had roused the pastors to a sense of their responsibility in connection with the great flood of immigrant foreigners coming into Canada each year. The two Toronto men had no more than finished their few remarks and received assurances of co-operation than Mr. E. Sweet, a lawyer of this place, went upon the platform and revealed a condition of affairs regarding the manner of life of foreigners in Brantford, the like of which they had never imagined. He pointed out to the members of the Conference that their real duty lay nearer home than China and Japan.

Crowded Foreign Settlements.

He was followed by Rev. Dr. Allen of Toronto, Home Mission Secretary. Dr. Allen not only confirmed all that the Brantford lawyer had said, but he went further, and said that in Winnipeg, Toronto, Guelph and London there existed slums and crowded foreign settlements, the like of which was not approached in even old, notorious Whitechapel, in the capital of the empire. He read to his audience a small portion of the address regarding the conditions in North Winnipeg, given by Prof. Osborne of that city in the Metropolitan Church, Toronto, while the great National Missionary Congress was in session. It was plain that these conditions were strange to most of them. Minister after minister rose to his feet and asked that the Conference take some action towards working a cure along the lines of an appeal to the Legislatures or to the cities concerned. The end of it all was that a committee was appointed to bring in a working solution which could be given to the Conference for approval.

Church Union.

In the afternoon, after Rev. Dr. W. S. Griffin had given to the Conference his annual statement and explained clearly the splendid financial standing of the funds, he touched lightly upon the question of Church union. He said that he had gone pretty carefully into the financial standing of the various Churches, and when it came to a matter of union he would never favor it unless the other Churches changed their constitution. "Under existing conditions," remarked the Treasurer, "Church union would interfere with, and possibly jeopardize the existence of many things, near and dear to us Methodists. Of course the other denominations may change their rules, but let me say right here that unless they do, then I stand prepared to contest Church union to the last ditch."

Rev. Dr. William Briggs followed Dr. Griffin with a favorable report of his work at the Methodist Book Room. A committee of three was appointed to see by what means the Hamilton Conference could help to run up the circulation of the Christian Guardian by six thousand or more to establish the paper on a paying basis.

Visitor From Australia.

Rev. Octavius Lake of Adelaide, Australia, was introduced to the Conference by Rev. J. V. Smith of Toronto. He said he had come to Canada to find out how the great outstanding evils, and gambling in particular, were being treated here. He was sorry to see the great crowds which every day thronged the Woodbine at Toronto. He was also sorry to note that in Canada, as in his own country, the representative of his Majesty attended the races in state. He expressed the hope that King Edward would soon be saved from going to the races himself, and by example keep the minor officials of his Imperial Government away.

Laymen's Missionary Delegates.

Messrs. H. H. Fudger and J. H. Gundy of Toronto then followed with short addresses on the interdenominational missionary question, as endorsed by the Laymen's Congress in Toronto. A resolution was passed at once, complying with the requests that strong missionary committees be appointed in each church in the Conference, and that the weekly envelope system be adopted as the surest and easiest way of obtaining the amount re-

quired of the Methodist Church in Canada for the carrying of the Gospel to forty millions of people who have not yet been reached. The Hamilton Conference's share is \$250,000. A Missionary Committee, to be presided over by President Smith, was appointed by another resolution, and the visitors from Toronto were given the assurance that the Hamilton Conference would willingly do its part in the great Canadian programme.

Over in Brant Avenue Methodist Church the Church Stationing Committee was hard at work to-night. They had a large number of pastors to place, and were prepared to sit all night if need be to present their draft to the Conference to-morrow. Several deputations, including one from Fergus, waited upon the committee in regard to the pastors they were to receive, and the committee have a particularly hard task ahead of them.

Moral Reform Movement.

Local option, county prohibition, and then Provincial prohibition, with the Federal Government shutting out the importation of manufactured liquors, briefly sketches the temperance campaign outlined by the report presented by the Temperance Committee for the approval of the Conference. Rev. J. W. Cooley, of Port Elgin, in presenting the report, pointed out that the issue was forced upon them by the attitude of the Government on the three-fifths clause. Premier Whitney had up to the present refused to make a statement placing the unfortunate clause as a piece of permanent legislation. Now the temperance forces were going to carry the fight along comprehensive lines, similar to the big achievements of State prohibition in the United States. The outlined policy proposed that after a certain majority of municipalities within a county had declared in favor of local option, the rest of the county could be closed up tight, and, on the same basis, the Province.

The three-fifths clause was once more described as a piece of unfair legislation, and several ministers spoke very strongly upon the matter. The report, by way of balance, had a good word to say for Provincial Secretary Hanna for the able and firm way in which the Government had pressed the prosecution against the offending liquor men in Owen Sound.

But right in the next breath there came the wish that the law be so amended as to have the "blind pig" keepers in New Ontario sent to jail on the second offence against the law, and when this point was being discussed the opinion generally expressed was that a protest be registered to the Government against the "imposition of fine" policy which apparently was being adopted in that northern country. It also recommended that gambling and betting on races should be made an offence against the code.