

PROBLEMS FOR BAPTISTS.

REV. DR. HARKNESS OF WINNIPEG RECOUNTS SOME.

What the Church is Confronted With in Respect to Work Among the Immigrants — An Earnest Appeal for Men.

At least four hundred enthusiastic delegates attended the opening session this morning of the Baptist Laymen's Missionary Movement in the hall of Jarvis Street Baptist Church yesterday morning. The speeches were brief and to the point, and the delegates were continuous in their applause of the speakers.

Mr. J. N. Shenstone, Chairman, briefly outlined the great work lying before all the Christian Churches in Canada, and made a ringing appeal to the Baptists to do their share of the work. Mr. J. W. Sprague of Fredericton, N. B., spoke on the problems the Church had to face and to solve in the Maritime Provinces. Rev. A. E. Bosworth spoke of the great success in face of many difficulties of the Grand Ligne Mission.

Rev. W. E. Norton, D.D., superintendent of the home mission work in Ontario and Quebec, pointed to the great influx of immigrants into Ontario and Quebec, many of whom were foreigners, and urged extended and systematic work by the Baptist Church, so that it should be able to do its share in the evangelization of these foreign people.

"I bring you the greetings of the southern Baptists," said the Hon. Joshua Levering, Chairman of the Southern Baptists' Laymen's Movement. Proceeding, the speaker referred to the number of Canadians holding prominent positions in the Christian churches of the south. He had messages of good-will from Prof. Wallace, Prof. Goodspeed, and others well known in Canada.

Rev. D. B. Harkness of Winnipeg outlined the problems of western missions from the Baptist point of view. These problems differed somewhat from other church problems, although all were substantially the same. The first was the territorial problem growing out of the extent of the area to be covered. In these vast territories, extending roughly 1,500 miles from east to west and about 350 from north to south, the 200 Baptist churches in that district were practically at the rate of one church to each fifty square miles, but there were two or more churches in some large centres, so that outside of these places the average was about one church for every 100 square miles. Then there was not only the vastness but the newness of the people and the country. Only a few of the people living there were born in that great land, and nearly always the first question put to the newcomer was, Where are you from? Well, you will hear some of them try to say Bruce, and the Chinaman, when asked where he was from, answered from "Bluice alle samee." In this great western land there were 12,000 Baptists, or one for every 125 of the population. There were 400,000 people of foreign birth in this great west land, or at the proportion of 3 in 10 of the population.

The various peoples in the west was well illustrated by the story told of the supposed case of a Galician who quarrelled with a Chinaman over work done by a Hungarian carpenter when a Russian tailor tried to make peace. A Syrian waiter took the Chinaman's side, a Bohemian cook took the side of the Galician, a Swedish doctor dressed the Chinaman's wounds, an Irish policeman arrested the Galician, who was tried by a Scotch magistrate, convicted by the evidence of an Italian organ grinder, locked up by a German turnkey and attended in jail by a Polish priest.

Continuing, Rev. Mr. Harkness said the Baptist people must realize that their business is to so spread the Gospel that in the years to come the children of these foreigners may grow up loyal, law-abiding Canadians. The problem of ministerial supply was also a serious one. It should be fairly and squarely stated that not every minister, even in eastern Canada, was fitted for the work of the west. He closed with an eloquent plea for men to aid in the great work.