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# THE OLD GOSPEL IS STILL POWERFUL

## If Applied in Love to the Hearts of Mankind—Conference Sunday.

At the annual ordination service of the Montreal Conference in Sydenham street church Sunday morning, Rev. R. McMath and C. H. Hetherington were ordained into the ministry of the Methodist church by Rev. S. D. Chown, D.D., LL.D., general superintendent of the Methodist church of Canada and assisted by Rev. C. D. Baldwin, president of the Montreal conference and the chairman of the districts.

The ceremony was very impressive and took place before a congregation which crowded the church to its capacity, about fifteen hundred being present. Among those on the platform were Dr. S. D. Chown, Dr. McMullen, Rev. C. D. Baldwin, Rev. W. T. G. Brown and Dr. R. H. Bell.

The general superintendent gave the ordination sermon speaking of the importance of the evangelistic note in the ministry of the present day. He also spoke earnestly to the young men, who were entering the ministry, of the nature of their life work.

The sermon was based on the text found in Matt. 26:73; which in Moffatt's translation reads "Your accent betrays you." The speaker explained the context in which when Peter was denying Christ was revealed by his Galilean accent. Dr. Chown said that men reveal themselves in many ways as by their accent, tone and smile. Some of these revelations are discerned only by the Divine mind. An accent in a man's voice has no virtue the speaker pointed out and he was glad that the educational policy of the Methodist church puts its students in association with all classes of men so that all artificialities are rubbed off and they stand as men among men. The minister must by the nature of his calling devote himself to find the truth and preach it in all sincerity and love.

The preacher added that in the church there are a great many accents in the pulpit and it was not right that secondary questions be over-estimated.

The philosophical, theological and the sociological were some of the types mentioned by the General Superintendent which are all of value in their place. The untrue impression was being given by some that the Methodist church was more interested in social comforts than with the evil of the world. He briefly classified two groups of Bible students,

the most commendable being the "moth" who in a quiet way absorbs the teachings of the Book. The only way to study was in this manner. "The evangelistic vein must be kept to the front," said the speaker, while philosophy, sociology and theology were of value yet the men who depend on evangelism must know the Bible well and the evangelist must be a student of men's consciousness and the workings of their hearts.

Dr. Chown advised the young men not to spend time searching for the imperfections but to preach affirmative truth, the Bread of Life. Put first things first stated the preacher for in these times many churches are running after eccentricities of all sorts.

In conclusion he urged the ministers to confine themselves with the centre of the ministry and not to waste time at the circumference, thus centering on the great things and the secret of the accent would be in their souls.

### The Evening Service.

Rev. Wallace McMullen, D.D., was the preacher in the conference church Sunday evening and addressed a large audience. From the parables of the lost sheep, the lost pieces of money and the prodigal son, the preacher drew vital truths. From the first he showed the pity manifested by the shepherd; from the second the fact that God values highly the possibilities of man; and that the third varied from the others in that it presented the choice was on the part of the son. Dr. McMullen explained that it was in the parts of the parable that are different from any of the others that great truths may be found.

The following churches had conference delegates in their pulpits, Queen street, Princess street, Chalmers, Cooke's, St. Andrew's, Zion, First Baptist, Union street Baptist, Calvary Congregational, Salvation Army, and Fortmouth.

### Sketch of the President.

Rev. Charles D. Baldwin, pastor of Sharbot Lake circuit, in the Perth district, and president of the conference for the ensuing year, has been in the ministry exactly forty years and was ordained and received into full connection in the Montreal conference in Sydenham street church just thirty-five years ago.

The new president was born at Youghal, County Cork, Ireland, and was a Methodist local preacher when he came to Canada in 1882. He was educated at McGill, and graduated in theology at the Wesleyan College, Montreal. He was ordained in 1887, and has always been stationed in the Montreal conference, for twenty years in Quebec province and twenty in Ontario. He has acted in the capacity of journal secretary of the conference for eleven years, and in other secretarial offices for five more. He was general conference statistician for six years, and has been twice ministerial delegate to general conferences. He has missed attendance at the annual conferences, only once in forty years.

### General Conference Delegates.

The sessions of Saturday afternoon were in the nature of the meeting and organization of the conference committees. The balloting for the delegates to attend the General Conference to be held in Toronto in September continued from the morning session till late in the afternoon. There were six ballots required to be taken before the following were announced as the delegates to the conference: Rev. C. D. Baldwin, Rev. R. Smith, Rev. W. T. G. Brown, Rev. W. S. Lennon, Rev. G. A. McIntosh, Rev. W. H. Raney, Rev. Melvin Taylor, Rev. James Smith, Rev. A. A. Radley, Rev. R. B. Brown, Rev. T. P. Perry, Rev. G. W. McCall, Rev. Thos. Brown, Rev. T. E. Holling, Rev. J. H. Miller, Rev. J. D. Ellis, Rev. W. A. Gifford, Rev. D. Mick, Rev. Isaac Nelson and Rev. W. T. Halpenny. The following were elected as alternates in case some of those elected are unable to attend: Rev. H. E. Warren, Rev. W. H. Stevens, Rev. A. E. Runnells, Rev. J. Pinel and Rev. J. K. Curtis.

The laymen went into session on Saturday morning as the lay electoral college and balloted for the representatives to the General Conference. The final results were not announced until evening. The laymen passed a resolution which was to be presented to the conference in session to be commending it to deal with the rural problem, the consolidation of the rural fields with the community centre as the objective, co-operating with educational institutions, the encouragement of the rural pastor to develop his work along community lines and authorization of special courses to fit men for the rural districts.

Other recommendations were passed to be presented to the conference. Among these were that the election of the chairman of the district by the district and not by the annual conference; and the equal representation of ministerial and lay delegates on all committees of the annual conference, the general conference and stationing committee.

The lay electoral college closed its sessions shortly before midnight when the following delegates were

announced to go to the General Conference: Kingston district, Elmer Davis, J. A. Jackson, R. O. Jolliffe; Brockville district, W. T. Rogers; Matilda district, J. Hilliard, A. D. Vancamp; Montreal district, J. H. Carson, J. Cunningham, W. H. Goodwin, J. W. Knox, W. D. Lambly, W. F. Stephen, J. G. Winter; Ottawa district, J. S. Eagleson, H. W. Mix, W. A. Oliver; Pembroke district, W. J. Connelly; Perth district, S. T. Dowson; Quebec district, P. C. Douboise; Stanstead district, G. A. Tremar; and Waterloo district, F. Barrington. The alternates are F. G. Elford, A. O. Dawson, C. Sine, R. J. Ellis, W. Hanson.

### Rev. Dr. Chown Speaks.

The business sessions of the conference Monday morning were presided over by Rev. S. D. Chown, D.D. On rising to respond to a resolution of appreciation of his ordination sermon Dr. Chown briefly addressed the conference. He stated that in view of the early gathering of the General Conference he would not speak at length of the great problems facing the church at the present time. In continuing he regretted the fact that the Methodist church was not giving sufficient publicity to the greatness of its activities as other churches are. Some other church members on being impressed of the greatness through their publications are not anxious for union as they formerly were. He mentioned that in the province of Quebec it was being said that the Methodist church advocated prohibition so as to harm the Roman Catholic church which is not so. The church must more than ever strive to make its moral and spiritual presence felt in the national life of Canada. He briefly referred to union, remarking that if the churches do not attain that end and unite Protestantism as a moral force then it will pass into shame in Canada.

The sessions opened with the Bible class and the final devotional address of Dr. McMullen, who was later thanked, in the form of a resolution, for the inspiring messages which he had given to the conference. He, in replying stated that he did not think that he had ever had a happier time than during the past week. Rev. Stevenson, secretary of the Young People's Forward Movement addressed the conference.

### Lay Association Report.

The main portion of the morning session was taken up with the report of the lay association which this year had been more largely attended than ever before. Several resolutions from the laymen presented to the conference to be sent to the general conference in the form of memorials were passed by the conference.

- (1) The appointment of a lay secretary on each district by the district meeting.
- (2) That the programme of the annual conference be governed by proper legislation and be composed of an equal number of clerical and lay delegates.
- (3) The election of the chairman of the districts by the district instead of by the annual conference.
- (4) The equal representation of ministerial and lay delegates on all committees of the annual conference, general conference and stationing committee. This was passed without any debate.
- (5) The appointment of a representative of the choir on the official board.

### The Rural Problem.

The laymen's recommendation to the conference regarding the rural problem received the attention of the Monday afternoon session. Much discussion was elicited by the suggestion and with a few amendments the resolution was passed. The resolution will be sent to the general conference in the form of a memorial and reads to the effect that the conference recognize that the rural community has not had the consideration and assistance from the Methodist church which it was entitled to receive; that the depopulation of the rural communities is lessening the efficiency of special effort on the part of the church as can only be effected by consolidation of the rural fields, the points of the recommendation are that the fields be consolidated, co-operating with educational institutions, and that encouragement and assistance be given the rural pastors to develop their work to fit themselves for community leadership. The conference itself decided to ask the ministers to make a survey of the circuits with the above in view and report to the district meetings for further consideration.

### Reports on Funds.

Rev. R. J. D. Simpson during the afternoon gave the report of the superannuation fund showing the work that is being done along this line. He stated that it was the opinion of a conference on the question held in New York that the Methodist church of Canada had the best scheme in America. On behalf of the National Campaign Fund committee, William Hanson, Montreal, gave a report which showed that Methodists throughout Canada had contributed \$1.6 per cent of the original \$4,875,000 promise. The Montreal conference has paid \$4.6 per cent of its share and the Kingston district, 91.4 per cent. Dr. Lorne Pierce presented the report of the Book Room showing the work being done by this part of the church's activities.

Rev. J. Webster, Ottawa, who this year celebrates his fiftieth jubilee in the Methodist ministry, addressed the conference.

The report of statistical committee is as follows:

Membership of the conference 43,877, an increase of 363 over last year; families, 24,292; baptisms, 2,119; marriages, 989; burials, 1,532. The following is the report of the conference funds: Superannuation

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fund (ministerial contribution) \$10,726, an increase of \$2,911; superannuation fund, (circuit contributions) \$25,312, an increase of \$3,374; General Missionary fund, \$109,164, an increase of \$6,167; Educational fund, \$8,180; General Conference fund, \$5,078, an increase of \$486; General Sunday School fund, \$3,609, an increase of 486; Contingent fund, \$980; Evangelism and social service, \$4,885; Sustentation fund, \$2,625; W. M. S. fund, \$42,871; National Campaign fund, \$52,451; Circuits Purpose, \$459,890; Ministerial support, \$237,246, an increase of \$5,529.

The grand total is \$1,025,620. The report shows that for connexional purposes \$14,500 more than last year was contributed by the conference.