

PROPOSED TO UNION

Vigorous Fight Made in Cumberland Church.

OBJECTORS HOLD CAUCUS

Decisive Vote in General Assembly Will Be Taken Monday--Reports of Board and Committees Are Presented.

FRESNO, Cal., May 19.—The Cumberland Presbyterian General Assembly...

The anti-unionists held another caucus this afternoon. Reporters were excluded.

"I can announce to you that the Cumberland Presbyterian Church will be continued intact with its present doctrines, whatever the action of the general assembly may be."

When asked if that was the decision of the caucus, he would not say it was, but insisted that the statement was authoritative. He added:

"We do not believe the confession of faith of the Presbyterian Church has been revised, but it is the same as it has been for the last 160 years, which is fatalistic and predestinarian."

Rev. A. N. Eshman, a prominent leader of the association, said today that the union fight as well as summarized at once, as many would never go into it so long as a line of the Westminster confession remained, and stated that, if the union was not consummated now, its opponents would raise a campaign fund of \$25,000 to defeat it.

This is the absorbing question, and not much interest was taken in the routine business of the afternoon which, after the standing committees had been announced, consisted of the presentation of numerous reports of boards and committees.

The report of the committee on fraternity and union was mainly devoted to the subject of federation among the Presbyterian and Reformed churches.

An account was given of the meeting of the representatives of the various churches at Pittsburgh and the plan of federation adopted by that conference was summarized in view of the relations existing between the Presbyterian and Cumberland Churches at this time, the committee thinks it unnecessary to recommend any specific action with the federation plan other than to express interest in it and to keep in touch with it.

With reference to the pending union with the Presbyterian Church of the United States, the report declared that in view of the favorable action of a majority of the Presbyteries it was only necessary to remind the assembly of its duty to declare the results of the vote and to give notice to the Northern assembly in accordance with the provisions of the plan of union.

This report was referred to the special committee of five appointed this morning. It will report Monday, as no business session will be held Saturday.

TIDAL WAVE OF FERVOR.

Dr. Chapman Predicts Revival at Presbyterian Assembly.

WINONA LAKE, Ind., May 19.—The reading of reports, appointment of clerks and committees and discussion of evangelistic work by speakers, several of whom mentioned incidentally the proposed union with the Cumberland Presbyterian body, engaged the attention of the delegates to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church today.

This afternoon several speakers discussed the work of the evangelistic committee, which during the past year centered its efforts in Denver and cities along the Pacific coast.

Dr. Chapman said a great tidal wave of religious fervor is about to sweep the United States. Dr. Coyne spoke of the revivals in Denver, and Dr. Baker told of the results in Oakland, Cal. The assembly voted to adopt the report of the committee and will fix a special day of prayer.

The Woman's Board of Home Missions began its annual meeting today. Receipts for the year amounted to \$63,000.

A message from the General Assembly of the colored Cumberland Presbyterian in session at Huntsville, Ala., stated that a committee of seven had been appointed to confer with a similar committee from the assembly in session here, looking to the union of the two branches. About 30,000 colored people compose the Cumberland branch.

At the opening of the session Dr. Sol C. Dickey presided. The congregation with a gavel made from different woods representative of the Winona work. In reply, Dr. Moffat referred to the manner in which the different woods had been blended, and likened them to the different branches of the Presbyterian Church.

This reference to the question of union with the Cumberland Presbyterian brought forth loud applause. Dr. John B. Shaw, of Chicago, reviewed the work of the evangelistic committee in the last four years.

Dr. Moffat announced the appointment of Justice John Harlan, of the United States Supreme Court, as vice-moderator. A number of reports of special committees were received. The committee on marriage and divorce urged that the rule that ministers refuse to perform marriage ceremonies between divorced people, unless the causes for the divorce are Scriptural, be continued. The committee on Christian work among seamen asked that more chaplains be secured for the Navy.

The committee on church co-operation and union submitted a plan for uniting with the Reformed Presbyterian Church. The report of the special committee on evangelistic work was in part as follows: It is the impression of the members of the committee that the first year of its existence the side of evangelism has been shining brightly, the entire spirit of hope and the desire for an awakening; and in some places, not only abroad but in our own land, remarkable revivals of grace have been witnessed recently. Beyond all question, the spiritual condition of the church is remarkably improved. The money expended in the work during the past year was \$82,616; the receipts from miscellaneous sources being \$112,552. The encouragement plan year has been greater than ever before and it is believed there has never been such an opportunity for victory.

The report of the Board of Missions for Freedmen contained the following: The income from church collections exceeded that of last year by \$2,814, and the amount received from other regular sources exceeded that of the previous year by \$4,650. The total receipts from all sources were \$126,534, being \$6,864 more than the previous year. The amount given in church work towards self-support was \$42,564 and the total amount for both church and Sunday-school work was \$108,125. The total expenditures were \$116,984. The work of the churches has been carried on along the same general plan and substantially on the same basis as last year.

The report of the committee on Christian education, which proposed separate books of ritual for church and private worship, was defeated after a spirited debate. The corporation of the Presbyterian building which is being erected on the assembly grounds at a cost of \$50,000, was laid this afternoon. Three thousand people attended a popular meeting in the interest of the Sunday schools at the auditorium tonight. The meeting was under the auspices of the Board of Sabbath school work. Rev. M. A. Matthews, of Seattle, was among the speakers.

NO NEW SELECTION

State Cannot Exchange Patented Land in Reserves.

OTHER QUESTIONS OPEN

Government Has Not Decided Whether Lien Selections Can Be Made for Unpatented School Sections--May Eliminate.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, May 19.—Interior Department officials are reticent about discussing the right of the State of Oregon to make indemnity selections in place of school sections which it loses by reason of their inclusion in forest reserves recently created or soon to be created. One official, who must pass on this

question when it is formally presented, said today that all right to make lien selections has passed away since the liei law was repealed.

Can't Exchange Patented Land. For this reason he holds the view, shared by others, that school lands which have been patented to the state and which may be included within the limits of a forest reserve cannot be exchanged for vacant public lands outside. Technically such lands cannot be included in a forest reserve any more than a private homestead, because the government did not intend to reserve only vacant public lands. But where unsurveyed section 18 and 25, which have not been patented to the state, shall be included in new reserves, it is the opinion of this official that the state will be permitted to make indemnity selections.

It is pointed out that there is a vast difference between indemnity selections and liei selections. The former applies to cases where the state never did procure title to land to which it was entitled; the latter applies to lands that have been patented to the United States. There will be a formal ruling on this question when the letter of State Agent Oswald West is received and that ruling will be general and apply to all states. Since most lands which will hereafter be included in forest reserves are timbered and mountainous, it is said that most school sections will form the basis for wilderness selections, provided Secretary Hitchcock holds that the state still has this right.

Will Omit School Sections. It is a fact, however, that on the advice of Chief Forester Pinchot, school sections will be eliminated from the new reserves created in Oregon and California. "Because of the terrific state land frauds in those two states," as he expresses it, this exclusion will apply largely to school sections lying around the borders of new reserves.

There will be delay in creating the Blue Mountain reserve in Eastern Oregon, because all the papers bearing on that case are not in the hands of District Attorney Hoy and will be used by him in prosecuting Senator Mitchell. Representatives for the state in Williamson and others indicated for attempt fraud in connection with that proposed reserve.

ANOTHER RESERVE CREATED

Wenaha Covers 731,650 Acres in Northern Blue Mountains. OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, May 19.—The President has created a forest reserve in Southeastern Washington and Northeastern Oregon including the northern extremity of the Blue Mountains, to have an area of 731,650 acres, the reserve to be known as Wenaha.

The Wenaha reserve includes land in Union and Umatilla Counties, Oregon, and in Garfield, Asotin, Columbia and Walla Walla Counties, Washington. Almost the entire area is timbered. Within its borders rise many small tributaries of the Snake River. The reserve is as valuable for water conservation as protection to timber. The withdrawal, which has been converted into the Wenaha reserve, bore the name Walla Walla, but the designation was changed to avoid confusion with the Wallowa reserve.

REINSTATEMENT

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CENTRAL WEST DECLINES

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A battle with pistols between a squad of harbor police and a band of river pirates on the North River, at New York, has resulted in the capture of the latter and the recovery of five bags of concha beans, valued at \$200. One was wounded, although scores of shots were exchanged.

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