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suggests the formation of a consultative body composed of the Bishops, clergy, and lay communicants, which would be empowered to consider and discuss questions bearing upon the practical working of the Church. Such a body would influence public thought, and prepare the way for legislation by convocation. The chief defects of the system sought to be remedied by the report, and enumerated in it are: "(1). The mind of the Bishops and clergy is ascertained through the Synodical organizations as these are defined by the Code of Canons. The laity have no means under the existing Canons of expressing their views. Therefore, the mind of the whole Church is not, by the present organization, ascertained on any subject proposed for legislation. (2.) The laity at present have no adequate means of knowing what legislative proposals are to be dealt with by the Provincial Synod, and even the privileges they now possess might disappear without their being consulted. . . . (3.) The Bishops have no authorized means of ascertaining the views of the laity. (4.) The clergy have no authorized means of discussing proposed legislation with the laity, nor even in one body among themselves, prior to a meeting of the Provincial Synod, their only means of consultation at present being in the seven separate Diocesan Synods. (5.) The provision for notice contained in the Canons with regard to proposed legislation is inadequate." The remedy suggested for these defects is the formation of a central consultative body to be called the Consultative Council on Church Legislation, consisting of "(a.) The Bishops. (b.) Representative clergy to be elected from each diocese by the clerical members of the Diocesan Councils, to the same number as the diocese would be entitled to send as elected members to the Provincial Synod . . . but not necessarily the same representatives as those elected to the Provincial Synod. (c.) Representative laymen, being communicants of the Church, to be elected by the lay members of the Diocesan Councils, in number equal to the clerical representatives, the choice not being restricted to their own number, nor to laymen of the diocese. (d.) Ten members—five clerical and five lay—to be chosen by the Bishops in meeting assembled." The Commission recommended that the Council should be elected once every three years, should consult, in its discretion, on any proposed legislation of Provincial Synod, subject to notice; on any legislation proposed to the Episcopal Synod by any Diocesan Synod, and shall have same right as Diocesan Synods to present subjects for legislation; shall have power to consult on any subject seeming to need legislative action, and to present same to the Episcopal Synod, and each order may meet, deliberate, and vote separately, and that the Council should have a constitution approved by the Episcopal Synod, yet should have power to frame its own procedure. The appointment of its convener to be made by the Bishops. The report is one of unusual importance, and indicates that the Scottish Church is striving to keep in touch with the progressive spirit of our age, and at the same time not to be unmindful of the lessons of the past, or the Catholic character of the Church.

WEEK TO WEEK.

Spectator's Comments on Questions of Public Interest to Churchmen.

The report of the General Missionary Society for the year 1903, has come to hand. It would seem like an act of cruelty to treat this first-born of a great organization with anything but the greatest consideration. The marks of a tender youth are visible all over it, and like the glories of the West, much of its charm lies in what may be, rather than what is. The "reports" of the western Bishops contained therein, dwell

with greater unction upon what could be accomplished if—than upon what has actually been performed. To the casual reader they partake more of the character of an appeal than a record. One hundred pages or thereabout are devoted to lists of subscribers which are manifestly incomplete, but there is no note to indicate the cause of this lapse. The financial statement appears in its original form without a key to any of its mysteries. We have appealed personally to lay and clerical members of the Board for some explanations, but they replied that they didn't understand it themselves. This was comforting, for it somewhat relieved the suspicion of personal density on our part. And lastly, we would note the modesty that has withheld the insertion of the transactions of the Board that has resulted in the administration of a great trust. We are quite aware that the minutes of the meetings have been printed, and forwarded to the members, but one would imagine that a "report" could hardly be deemed complete, without them. As a mine of information, it would appear as though the ore were of the low grade variety, but with the prospector's sanguine temperament further development we trust will produce better results. There will be room for a most effective contrast in years to come.

The appointment of Doctor Osler, of Johns Hopkins University, a Toronto man, and a graduate of McGill, Montreal, to the chair of Regius Professor of Medicine, in Oxford, is an event most gratifying to this country. The current of educational appointments has been running so long from the old to the new world, it is particularly satisfactory to find that at length Canada has some specialized wisdom to contribute to the most honoured seat of learning beyond the Atlantic. We have, on more than one occasion, protested against that lack of confidence in the capabilities of the native born sons of our own Dominion which has been transparently evident in some at least of our great universities. In raising this question, one is always sure to be written down as narrow and unduly prejudiced. But surely, we may distinguish between prejudice against those who come from abroad to occupy important positions, and the desire to raise up men of our own to meet any emergency. The wisdom of an educational policy in a young country like this must be judged as much by its fruitfulness in developing native talent, as by any other standard. Our statesmen have been putting forth their energies with commendable zeal for years to build up the commerce and industries of Canada and exploit its resources. The results have given confidence to our people and command respect abroad. It is in the same spirit that we plead for an educational policy throughout the country that looks to the development of the intellectual powers within our borders so that the filling of professorial chairs in our great seats of learning by graduates of the same will be regarded as natural and normal rather than exceptional. It is worthy of note that the special faculty where Doctor Osler received his medical training as a student is officered almost entirely by Canadians and graduates of the self-same faculty. McGill Medical School has won renown throughout this continent, and it has won it through its own sons, a circumstance that makes its success all the more notable, and furnishes educationalists in their departments with an interesting subject for thought.

The signs seem impropitious for the scheme of Empire-unification, which Mr. Chamberlain has so valiantly advocated for many months. Its final triumph may come, but the time is not yet. For a year and a half the British by-elections have been running almost steadily against a government known to sympathize very cordially with the proposals of the ex-colonial secretary. It is not at all probable that the next parliament will have any mandate to act on the lines suggested by Mr. Chamberlain. It is alto-

gether likely that he never expected that so great a change in policy could be brought about in so short a space of time. It is manifest that the party primarily interested in a new imperial commercial policy is the imperial parliament, and until that body is in a position to make definite overtures, it is only dignified and prudent for the colonies to remain silent. It has appeared to Spectator, that the whole question at issue has been encumbered and obscured by a consideration of details, when in reality, the sum and substance of the situation is a political and commercial principle. Are the electors of Great Britain prepared to give parliament authority to negotiate for better trade relations with the over-sea dominions on the lines of mutual preferences? That is the principle. Its commercial character is obvious, and its political significance may be even more important than we can conjecture at present. The authority to negotiate, to discuss and consider, is something quite different from the power to enact. The parliament constituted of members responsible to the electors must finally pass upon any conclusion that may be arrived at by the government. If the self-governing dominions were to cry out with one voice for a certain concession on the part of the Mother Country, what power on earth could compel the imperial statesmen to accept such a proposal, unless it was agreeable to them? If the whole British electorate stood behind Mr. Chamberlain and bade him go forth and make terms with the colonies, where under heaven is the power to make Canada or Australia or any other colony enter into an agreement that is not for its own ultimate advantage? What possible evil can come of a proposal to gather together representative statesmen of the Empire that they may sit down and review their commercial relations, if happily a basis of trade more satisfactorily to each and all may be found? Such an effort might be fruitless, but when its issue has to be passed upon by the parliaments of the people entrusted, it surely cannot be dangerous. Yet some stalwart citizens of Britain seem to think that if the will of Mr. Chamberlain prevailed they would be at the mercy of the colonies, and some intelligent Canadians appear to believe that such a mandate would force upon them something that they do not care to accept. Whatever may be the outcome of the agitation, one thing is certain, neither party will enter a compact because of undue pressure, but because it appeals to the reason and patriotism of the people affected.

The recent session of Parliament at Ottawa was enlivened by many incidents that strongly appealed to the public mind. Many acts of useful legislation were put upon the statute book, chief among which was the completion of the great national railway agreement. Men may differ as to the methods of the Government, but no one seems to deny the usefulness of such a highway. The vigorous investigation that was instituted in regard to the employment of American engineers on the Grand Trunk Pacific in preference to our own qualified men, has set the country thinking, and we imagine that before the completion of this great undertaking is accomplished, we will be possessed of many eminent Canadian engineers who would otherwise have remained in obscurity. The working of the new Militia Act can only be judged in the light of experience, but, if we mistake not, the people of this country will approve of the summoning of Parliament within fifteen days after it is deemed necessary to call out our soldiers to defend this country, or to send them to the defence of some other part of the Empire. The delay is not long, and it is better to have the authority in the hands of the people's representatives, than in the hands of the Cabinet. In the case of the first contingent for South Africa, the people were overwhelmingly in favour of sending it, while the Government seemed to waver, but time might bring about just the opposite condition of affairs.

SCOTLAND.

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