

APPENDIX N.

Report of Committee on Enforcing Answers to Statistical Questions.

Your Committee are of opinion that the Synod has an unquestionable right to require an answer to all reasonable demands for such information as is necessary for the effectual carrying on of the operations of the Synod. At the same time we think that great prudence and forbearance should be observed in not pressing this right to any burdensome or inquisitorial extreme, and, since it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to frame any general scheme of questions which may not in some exceptional cases be open to the above objection, some means of relief should be provided for such cases.

As to the enforcing of these answers, we suppose that the only means contemplated would, in case of non-compliance, be the infliction of some penalty such as the forfeiture of the privileges of the Synod.

A precedent is furnished in the case of non-payment of the Assessment Dues, in which instance the Lay Representatives of the defaulting Parishes are not permitted to take their seats. We do not see any valid reason why the same rule should not apply to cases where necessary information is withheld from the Synod.

At the same time we think a distinction should be made between the answers which might be most properly required from the Clergy and from the Laity, and that the questions should be so distinguished in the printed form.

In the case of there being more than one Clergyman in the same Parish, the Rector or Incumbent should be held to be the responsible party.

We would recommend that the names of Clergymen not complying should be indicated in the printed Notice of the Meeting of Synod, and their cases might be referred to the Court on Contested Seats.

His Lordship should, we think, have the power of excusing non-compliance in cases which seem to him of an exceptional character.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

F. A. O'MEARA, LL.D., *Chairman.*

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