

Home & Foreign Church News

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

NOVA SCOTIA.

HALIFAX, Friday.—The Synod met to-day at 9 o'clock in St. Luke's cathedral with an imposing ceremony. Rev. Archdeacon Jones delivered the sermon, taking for his text, 1 Cor. xii. 26: "And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it, or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it." He said the church was the most important organization of the many effected. He deplored the laxity on the part of contributors towards the various funds—home missionary, King's college and superannuation. At the close of the archdeacon's sermon, which was a powerful one, the synod adjourned till 3 o'clock.

On reassembling, with Bishop Courtney presiding, the appointment of committees was taken up. The committee on credentials reported they were unable to suggest qualified delegates for appointment, as there were many parishes which had not yet paid their amount. By motion the committee were re-instructed and the appointment of committees ordered to lie on the table.

Some fifteen minutes were then taken up by delegates coming forward and paying their parish assessments, which at the last meeting they were unable to do.

The bishop's address, which occupied fully an hour and a half in delivery, was a powerful effort; the fine language throughout, and the terse, impressive logic showing wealth of thought and earnestness. He opened the address with a lengthy reference to his late illness and absence from the parish. An illness which he said at one time wore so ominous a complexion as to make him feel he was not far removed from death, but he said through the prayers of his many friends and the grace of the Almighty, he was there to-day, a fact for which he would never cease to offer thanks to God. He could not but mention the energetic way in which the onerous duties of the diocese were conducted during his absence by the dean, to whom he was under a deep and lasting obligation. He said at the last meeting of the synod he had made reference to a want long felt in the diocese, a church school for girls, and he now took the opportunity of thanking those who had so quickly and generously responded, as the school was established in January, 1891, and has since been a pronounced success, which he thought in a great measure was due to the able principal the school had been able to obtain. He said Miss MacLinn deserved all encomiums for her labors as principal. His lordship reviewed at length the position of the various church educational institutions, and dwelt on the urgent need there was in them for greater financial support, and trusted those who were able would perhaps before the close of this synod make known a willingness to assist those deserving institutions.

He called the attention of the synod to the diversity of service to be found in the churches, and although he would not say that diversity in this line was not better, still he thought that the uniformity was well enough, especially after the disposition of the same question not long ago in Canterbury. In the course of a definition on the relation of the Church to society and politics, his lordship said the hearts of all had been sickened and saddened by the charges which have been brought from time to time, some of which have been proved, and some yet have to be investigated, against some statesmen of both political parties in this Canada of ours. He read the report of the number of ordinations during the past two years, and also a report of the number confirmed during the same period. During the term of his episcopate, the average number confirmed was 1,065 per annum. There had been consecrated ten churches, three churchyards, one holy table, one chancel and one church addition.

A number of reports as contained in the fifteenth annual report of the diocesan boards, were received and adopted with but very little discussion, and the meeting adjourned at 6.30 p.m.

Saturday.—Opened in the usual form this morning. The committee on credentials submitted their report, which with few exceptions was adopted.

Rev. Mr. Haslam called the attention of the synod to the fact that the archdeanery of Halifax was over proportionately represented on the committees, which he said was unfair to some of the country archdeaneries, one of which (Lunenburg) being without representation. W. H. Wiswell and Thomas Brown were re-elected auditors and the very Reverend Dean was confirmed in the treasurer'ship.

A very satisfactory report was read from the superannuation fund committee, showing the total income of the fund to have been \$2,006.33, which the committee considered ample for all present demands, but insufficient to meet an increased call.

The report was accompanied by several recommendations,

The amendment to clause 10 of the constitution, extending the scope of the synod to assess the parishes, came up for confirmation. Under the proposed alteration, although unobtrusively worded, as several speakers remarked, the power of the synod to assess for its district purposes would be lost or impossible of effectment, and on the other hand the parishes under penalty of disfranchisement would have to submit to be taxed for any purpose.

Judge Ritchie said he thought the power proposed to be vested in the synod was a very extensive one, and one that if used would operate very unfairly towards the laymen, who would become responsible for the payment of assessments for mission or any other purpose by their respective parishes, the non-payment of which might be due to neglect of the clergy.

Rev. Mr. Ancient said he would vote against the amendment, for one reason, that it would have a tendency to check large attendance of the laity. He thought the pecuniary condition of many parishes was such that they would be unable to pay any large assessment, in event of which by the sweeping nature of the amendment they would be disfranchised, and that he considered an injustice under the circumstances.

F. W. Tremaine said the amendment would defeat its own end, as the parishes could not be coerced.

Archdeacon Smith said he would be happy to support an alteration not embodying the objectionable features of the amendment under discussion for confirmation. Calls for question were made, and the motion was put and lost, not receiving one assenting voice.

A proposed change allowing retirement of clergymen before attaining the age 70 was discontinued by the executive committee, to whom it was referred. A motion declining to confirm the change was made by Canon Partridge, in speaking to which the Rev. Mr. Johnson said he thought it was due to the clergy that they should be permitted to come under the superannuation benefits at the age of 65. Dr. Philip, in a very decided tone, said the clergy shouldn't be superannuated at a younger age than seventy, provided not physically or mentally incapacitated.

Rev. Mr. Ancient agreed with the doctor that as a rule the clergy were able to do their work to the age of seventy. The motion by Dr. Partridge, on behalf of the executive committee, not to adopt the proposed change, was carried with one dissentient.

A resolution introduced by Rev. F. H. Almon to increase the pension to widows of deceased clergymen was next declared open for discussion. The rev. gentleman in moving the resolution, made an eloquent, feeling speech, in conclusion of which he said he trusted that at the next synod the agreeable announcement would be made that the miserable pittance of one hundred dollars had been increased to two, and the widows put beyond absolute indigency.

Dr. Philip declared he agreed heartily with the remarks of the mover, and said in his opinion the fault lay with the clergy in not energetically pushing the collections for the widows and orphans' fund.

A motion that when the synod adjourns the adjournment will be till 10 a.m., Monday, was put and carried, and Dr. Almon's motion taken up again and discussed for some time longer, all the speakers coinciding the advisability of adoption, which was done unanimously.

A motion tabled by Canon Brock, confirming to the Bishop of Algoma the yearly contribution from this diocese, was introduced by Canon Partridge in the absence of Canon Brock, who believed in not only continuing but in increasing the contribution. This latter expression elicited an amendment, which carried, making the yearly amount to be paid the Bishop of Algoma four hundred dollars instead of three, as heretofore, and the motion passed as thus amended.

The time of the synod previous to adjournment was occupied with deliberating on the advisability of constituting a committee whose special object would be the establishment of an insurance fund to protect clergymen, by payment of small premiums, against loss by fire without indemnification.

The resolution was rejected by a tie on the lay side, although a plurality was obtained among the clerics. The constitution requiring a concurrent majority vote of the bishop—who favored the proposition—clergy and laity for any resolution to become the will of the synod.

MONDAY.—After synod was opened in the usual form, several reports were read and adopted. The report on education was referred back to the committee to be amended, to give information concerning other church schools in the Diocese.

Rev. Mr. Haslam introduced a motion making the tenure of a rural dean five years instead of life, but the rural deans to be eligible for re-election.

Afternoon Session.—The memorial of the rural deans, being the order of the day, was read for debate by the clerical secretary immediately after opening of afternoon meeting. On motion the memorial was ordered to be taken up clause by clause.

Canon Partridge said that under the Jewish dispensation a tenth was the offering of obligation, the remainder of volition. He said just in proportion as the profundity was grasped of that principle of the new Testament, "freely give," would the Church of Christ prosper. He believed that were people to have their contributions published, many there would be who would be ashamed of their own niggardliness. His hearers should go back to their parishes as missionaries with a determination to inculcate the principles propounded by Christ, and adopted by the synod, as the true basis of giving.

Rev. Dr. Filleul endorsed the remarks of Canon Partridge in their entirety. Were the synod to adopt this motion he had no doubt that money, the medium of dissemination of the gospel, would flow in steadily from small rills, it was true, but so many and so constant, that it would be a river that would fill the depleted treasury.

Rev. Mr. Ball feared that if proportionate and systematic giving were made the rule of the synod, it would militate against liberal contributions to one or other or a number of funds. Under the present system the people in his parish were enthusiastic in their endeavor to meet the calls on them. He did not ask them to give a tenth, as that would soon drop to nothing from many, but he always advised giving a fiftieth, and by that means those who previously gave little or nothing before, now give a respectable amount, and those who before gave liberally do so yet. He said there was not now one unworthy offering placed on God's altar, and it was a source of pride to him and his people that aid has not now to be solicited outside, a condition which, he thought, could not exist together with the proposed system of collection.

Rev. Mr. Ancient coincided with the idea contained in the second clause of the memorial, and would suggest in composing the deputations that it would be well to have a layman appointed, and then the whole responsibility of begging would not devolve on the clergy. The clause passed.

There was a considerable discussion on the clause in reference to the failing resources of King's College.

The original motion passed unanimously.

The following were elected candidates to the Provincial synod.

Clerical.—Canon Partridge, Archdeacon of Nova Scotia, Archdeacon of P. E. Island, Dean of Nova Scotia, Canon Brock, Rev. W. J. Ancient, Prof. Vroom, Rev. E. Harris, Rev. S. Gibbons, Rev. J. Simpson, Rev. F. I. Draper.

Lay.—Judge Townsend, W. C. Silver, H. Y. Hind, J. G. Foster, N. W. White, C. S. Harrington, Thomas Brown, Judge Ritchie, C. C. Blackadar, R. W. Tremaine, B. D. Bent, H. J. Cundall.

The fourth clause of the rural dean's memorial was adopted, and the synod adjourned.

TUESDAY.—The synod opened at 10 o'clock. The report of the Temperance Society Committee showed a satisfactory report of the work accomplished during the past two years. The proposed alterations of the rules and regulations of the Quebec scheme were introduced by Canon Partridge, taken up clause by clause, and a discussion continued until 1 o'clock, when the synod adjourned for lunch.

AFTERNOON SESSION.—A considerable discussion ensued on the report from the committee of the Episcopal See. Mr. H. Y. Hind was then elected lay representative to the governorship of King's College. The education report was then taken up.

Archdeacon Jones, in speaking of the girls' school, said it was beautiful to see with what delight the girls studied, and it was wonderful how such a school as Edgell had been established. The degree of proficiency attained was a high one and common to all the pupils. Professor Hind could testify to the high standard of Edgell as an educational institution. He knew that at various times licensed teachers had applied at Edgell for a chance to increase their abilities. He said the ratio of the number of English church teachers in Halifax to the population of the city is as 1 to 7. At the present time there are 84 pupils in the school and applications enough are received to fill up its complement—one hundred—allowed us by the capacity of the institution. It is a question of dollars and cents with the continued advance of the school, within the next month. He expected he would be under the painful necessity of having to turn from the doors—for want of room—those whose patronage the proudest colleges might seek for without loss of dignity.

The report after considerable discussion was thrown out. At the evening session the synod resolved itself into a Board of Home Missions, to hear and consider all parochial grievances, or any other matters affecting individual parishes. The synod then took up the scheme for the consolidation of the Church of England in British North America; which was introduced by the Rev. Canon Partridge, who dilated on the scheme and lucidly presented it in its most pleasing aspect. In moving its adoption he expressed an earnest hope that the synod would not reject what he believed would prove beneficial to the whole Church.