

NEWS FROM THE HOME FIELD.

DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

SPRINGHILL.—The Easter Meeting at "All Saints" Church was largely attended and of more than ordinary interest from the fact that the attendance at the Easter services conclusively proved the inadequacy of the seating capacity of the present Church, and the consequent necessity for a new building. The Rector's report showed sixty-one baptisms; 18 marriages, and 14 burials during the year. It stated that increased accommodation was imperative. The communicant list had increased fifty per cent. The great debt which saddled the church sixteen months ago was now entirely liquidated. The sum of \$1,600 had been raised for that purpose in that period. The Rector recommended the parishioners to lend their energies to the erection of an edifice worthy the glory of God and of the historic faith of the Church of England. The Churchwardens report showed receipts \$2,012.62; disbursements, \$1,444.24, leaving a balance of \$578.38 wherewith to liquidate a mortgage of \$600 due the first week in May. The church will then be entirely free from liability. The parishioners unanimously appointed a select committee to prepare preliminaries for the erection of a new church, and passed a resolution recommending the Rector to engage a *locum tenens*, while he personally solicited help from the Church at large towards the building fund. The following were appointed the building committee: R. G. Leckie, Managing Director of Mines; R. W. Leonard, Chief Engineer; and Messrs. Christopher Hargreaves, R. H. Langille and James Facey, the Rector being chairman. The election of officers for the ensuing year was a closely contested one in every department, and resulted as follows:

Churchwardens: A. H. Payne and J. F. Robinson. Vestry: R. W. Leonard, C. Hargreaves, J. Heighton, J. Booker, W. Young, A. Cook, W. Booth, F. Mountford, Alex. Durham, H. Shenton, J. Wallis and James Madison.

Vestry Clerk: T. H. Howard.

Delegates to Diocesan Synod: Capt. C. H. Bowen and James Facey. Substitutes: Alex. Clark and Wm. Sothorn.

[We rejoice at the progress the parish records indicate, and hope that when the Rector makes his personal canvass in the interests of a new church for the hard working miners that his efforts will be substantially recognized by all who are willing to further the work of the Master in important and growing centres.]

AMHERST.—Never were Lent and Good Friday observed in this parish by congregations so large as those that have met in Church during the Holy season that has just passed. Daily service was held, and on Good Friday there were four services with meditations, and in the evening a sermon upon the last seven sayings of our Blessed Lord from the cross. The offertory was for Foreign Missions.

On Easter day over one hundred persons received the Blessed Sacrament, and throughout the day the congregations were very large, and the services most hearty, the musical portion being exceedingly good; the anthem and chant were heartily rendered. Amongst the offerings for the day, were two altar lights, also a pair of candelabra and vases, and a most beautiful cross of choice hot house flowers for the table; a neatly worked and chaste chalice veil and bourse, and a handsome white stole.

The annual meeting for the election of officers, &c., on Easter Monday passed off most harmoniously and satisfactorily. The wardens appointed for the ensuing year are Bary D. Bent re-elected for the third year, and W. J. Moran, Representatives to Diocesan Synod: Judge Townshend and W. M. Fullerton. Sub-

stitutes: J. T. Smith and R. C. Fuller. R. C. Fuller, Vestry Clerk.

The ladies of the parish have organized a Sewing Guild, to meet every Wednesday at the vicarage for the purpose of raising funds to improve the interior of the Church.

RAWDON.—Owing to a snowstorm at the time of the Easter meeting the attendance was small. The proceedings, as usual in this parish, were very harmonious, and a considerable amount of business was transacted in a very satisfactory manner. The retiring wardens were renominated; but Mr. H. A. Smith, who has held office for several years, declining to serve, his brother A. B. Smith, Esq., was nominated in his place; and he and Mr. Joseph Maxon were unanimously elected; Mr. L. J. Wilson, of Halifax, lay secretary of the Synod, and Mr. M. Casey, of Rawdon, were elected as delegates to the Synod.

The wardens reported a deficit of a few dollars for the past year. The building committee, appointed at the last Easter meeting, reported the new rectory finished at a cost of \$1,300. Of this amount, \$813 are covered by subscriptions ranging over four years; \$156 were raised by means of a tea meeting held at Stanley last summer, and something over \$100 by a tea meeting at Rawdon. It is hoped that the balance will be met by the sale of a portion of the glebe. A vote of thanks was tendered to the retiring wardens and building committee.

The parish is to be congratulated upon the possession of such a comfortable and substantial rectory, and for the spirited manner in which the people, few in number, and mostly comparatively poor, have shouldered this extra burden.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

CHARLOTTETOWN.—*St. Peter's*.—In this parish a busy Lent was followed by a beautiful Easter. During the penitential season four courses of sermons and instructions were given, the former being on Penitence, Sunday mornings; and on the Human Soul, Sunday evenings; the latter upon the subject of Worship as relating to the Patriarchal Jewish, Christian and Heavenly Churches, on Wednesdays at evensong, and on Holy Communion on Fridays at evensong. In addition to this a course of instructions were delivered on Friday afternoons upon the Divine Art of Meditation.

On Good Friday matins was said at 10 a.m., followed by the Reproaches and Ante-Communion, the former being sung by priest and choir. From 12 to 3 p.m., meditations were given on the seven last words, a large number of persons availing themselves of the opportunity thus afforded them of offering their devotion to Jesus Crucified; evensong was said at 7.30 followed by a meditation on the Burial of our Lord. During Holy week the Holy Communion was celebrated daily at 7.45 a.m., except Good Friday, and evensong with meditation on the Passion at 7.30.

The Queen of Festivals was ushered in by glorious sunlight which was not obscured even for a moment during the day. The services were as follows:—First celebration of the Holy Communion at 8 a.m.; matins at 10.15; second celebration being a Missa Cantata, at 11; and evensong at 7 p.m. The number of Communicants on Easter Day was 110, 96 of which were at the first and the remainder at the second celebration of the Eucharist. The decorations were confined to the Sanctuary and Lectern and consisted mainly of flowers of which nearly all were devoted to the altar, which, with its ornaments and superb festal frontal, presented a very striking appearance whose beauty and devotional effectiveness were much enhanced by the seven lamps which hung before it. There was a long procession of choir, acolytes and priests with cross and banners before, at

Missa Cantata the processional hymn being "Come ye Faithful raise the strain." There were 220 persons present at this service.

At evensong the Church was crowded to the doors, the number present being about 400, many of whom were standing. The service was fully choral and as well as the missa cantata was excellently rendered by choir and organist. At the conclusion of the sermon the choir formed in procession headed by cross bearer, accompanied by banner bearers and followed by acolytes and priests, and wended their way singing "Come ye Faithful" down the south aisle up the centre aisle and onward to the altar around which they were grouped while singing a solemn *Te Deum*, after which all knelt to receive a blessing, and the beautiful service concluded.

The Chapel which is intended to be erected in connection with St. Peter's as a Memorial of the late Rev. G. M. Hodgson, its first priest incumbent, has not yet been begun in consequence of lack of funds, but as these have somewhat increased lately it is hoped that the new Bishop will lay the foundation stone on the 2nd of June next, during his primary visit to the Island. Remembering the fact that the late priest incumbent was a pioneer of Catholic doctrine and practice in the Canadian Church, and that humanly speaking, his early death was due in a large measure to his great and ardent zeal, it can scarcely be too much to ask, at the least, those of your numerous readers, who know him personally or by repute and intend to take a share in the movement which has been set on foot to perpetuate his memory that they will send in their contribution as soon as possible either to the Hon. F. H. Haviland, or the Rev. J. Simpson, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON

St. JOHN.—Holy Week and Easter Day was observed in the Mission Church of St. John Baptist with all that reverent regard and devotion for which the work of the zealous and self-denying Priest in charge is, at this precious season, especially notable. On Palm Sunday the altar and chancel were decorated with very handsome Eastern palms, of which also numbers were borne in the procession by the priest and choir. The palm branches were sent from London, England, the gift of a kind friend resident there. During the week (Good Friday excepted) there was a daily celebration at 7:30 a.m., and Evensong lectures on the events of each day, at 8 p.m. From 6 p.m. on Maunday Thursday to 9 p.m. Good Friday a watch was kept, for the seventh time, in this Church. As this appropriate and most solemnizing observance is not, so far as known to the writer of this notice, at all common in the Canadian Church, it may not be out of place, to say that it consists of continuous meditation in the sufferings of our Lord during the period named, and private devotions in the Church by the priest and volunteers from among the communicants. The whole time is divided into half hours, one or more of which is taken by each of the lay members of the watch, the priest superintending, and being present for as much of the time as possible. On this occasion sixteen men and sixteen women took part, men only taking the night hours; and the watch was not interrupted, except by the public services held in the Church. Other members of the congregation came in, at liberty, for such longer or shorter periods as they may be able or disposed to give. The observance is a most impressive and edifying one to those engaged in it, and tends more than almost anything else might do, to bring to the minds of the whole congregation the solemn season which the Church is keeping. On Good Friday, in addition to the regular services, the three hours devotion (12 to 3) is always kept at St. John Baptist's; and as this is the only