

A CHURCH CABINET IN COUNCIL

Momentous Meeting of Home Mission Committee—Progressive Policy to be Prosecuted

The annual meeting of the Home Mission committee was begun in Toronto on the 19th of March and was of unusual interest. The representatives of this synod were Rev. W. L. Clay B.A., of Victoria, convenor of the synods H. M. C. and Rev. Geo. A. Wilson B.A., Superintendent. The honorary convenor and the convenor of the Assembly's committee, Rev. E. D. McLaren, and Dr. Grant are also members of this Synod.

If the General Assembly can be likened to the Parliament of Canada, then the H. M. C. is the Executive.

No church in Canada has a Home Mission Committee so keenly alive to the rapidly-developing conditions of the country, nor coping more adequately with these nor more ready to change its methods to meet new demands than the Presbyterian church.

The great constitutional change came last year when the membership was changed from Presbyterian representation in the east and synodical representation in the west, to synodical representation throughout the whole western section of the church. This gave the west a much larger representation and this year almost fifty per cent. of the actual attendance was west of old Ontario.

The meeting lasted four days, with three sessions each day, the most of the time was spent discussing matters of administration and policy. Each phase of mission work from Quebec to the Pacific received adequate consideration.

Among the items which received the

committee's endorsement were the following:

(1) A substantial increase in the salaries of students and ordained missionaries.

(2) The amalgamation of all the building funds of the church with the proposal to increase these to \$500,000.

(3) The unification of all missionary work carried on in Canada, to be under the control of one committee.

(4) A more adequate supervision of all mission work by the appointment of a larger number of Superintendents.

(5) The placing of the responsibility of bearing the cost of operating mission fields either upon the fields themselves or upon the committee, thus relieving students of this burden.

(6) The establishment of a publicity bureau thus securing the circulation of H. M. intelligence throughout the church.

(7) To prosecute more vigorously the work in the cities, both in the centres and in the suburbs.

(8) The adoption of a more aggressive policy to meet the needs of the lumbermen in New Ontario and the Pacific province.

The one regrettable feature of the meeting was the announcement made by the Church Treasurer that whereas the expenditure during the past year had been \$254,000, the receipts had been only \$209,000, necessitating a heavy drain upon the reserve fund in order to meet the liabilities of the year.

One hundred new fields were opened and the cost of operating these, together with the increase in salaries, will require a revenue of \$325,000 for the current year.

The policy adopted was a progressive