

Morning prayers were read by the Rev. Robert McCosh, rector of Wingham, assisted by Rev. Bros. William Walsh and D. Cascaden, Deputy Grand Chaplains; the Rev. J. H. Moorehouse, Gorrie, and J. F. Parke, Blyth.

After which the following truly eloquent sermon was delivered by the Rev. Rural Dean Cooper, B.D., Grand Chaplain :

SERMON.

"But we desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest; for as concerning this sect, we know that everywhere it is spoken against."—Acts, 28th chapter, 22nd verse.

The sect referred to in our text was the infant Church of Christ; the language that of the Jews at Rome who were ignorant concerning it, and to some extent prejudiced by unfavourable reports of it. The context shows that they were not unwilling to hear what might be said in its defence, proving that they were in a commendable state of mind at the time. Willingness to hear both sides of a question and calmly consider a subject from more than one standpoint, and especially in the light of sincerity and truth, is a proof of true liberality of mind and honesty of purpose. In the 17th chapter of Acts the Jews at Berea are said to have been more noble than those at Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind and searched the Scriptures daily whether these things were so. Therefore many of them believed.

THE LOYAL ORANGE SOCIETY

in Canada is in a somewhat similar position before our countrymen. Its principles are to a large extent unknown; its good works underrated, and it is basely slandered by infidels, latitudinarians, Romanists and time-serving politicians—the latter being opposed to it either because they are disloyal to the Empire or anxious to catch the votes of Romanists and the support of the Romish Church. As St. Paul defended and explained the Christian religion, so in my own humble way do I purpose to defend the loyal Association to which we belong. In doing so let me remind you in the first place that

ORGANIZATION IS NECESSARY

to success in any undertaking, whether in attack or defence. We have examples of this in political, benevolent, temperance and missionary associations. No political party can hope to succeed without united and organic effort although it may be in the right, and many a political battle has been unsuccessful for want of it. Even for benevolent purposes it has been found necessary to organize, and we have well arranged associations in Canada who are known by different names but systematically working with the like end in view. In the same way there are missionary organizations that are attached to the Church, performing the part of feeders to it. Since their formation we have seen a wonderful increase in missionary effort throughout the world, enabling the Church to send the Gospel to every land. The Bible Society is notably one of these, combining in its organization members of almost all Protestant denominations, and sending forth the light of truth at home and abroad. The