

Harvey; Lake, Mr. H. E. Croasdale; Cedar Hill, Mr. Lidley Crease; Comox, Mr. Justice Drake; Saanich, Mr. J. J. Downey.

The following is the official list for the ensuing year: President, the Rt. Rev. Geo. Hills, D.D., Lord Bishop of Columbia; chancellor, Mr. Justice Drake; registrar, Mr. L. Crease; clerical secretary, Rev. G. W. Taylor; lay secretary, Mr. H. E. Croasdale; treasurer, Sir Joseph Trutch; auditors, Messrs. Rout Harvey, W. C. Ward.

His Lordship then delivered his charge and said: Since we met in October, 1889, three ordinations have been held, admitting the Rev. Frederic Lambert Stephenson to the priesthood, and Mr. John William Flinton and Mr. Ernest George Miller to the diaconate. In the same period two clergy have left the Diocese, viz.: The Rev. F. L. Stephenson and the Rev. J. C. Brenton. The following seven have been added to our list: The Rev. W. F. L. Paddon, Rev. F. G. Christmas, Rev. M. C. Browne, Rev. G. W. Taylor, Rev. W. D. Barber, Rev. J. W. Flinton and Rev. E. G. Miller.

Five new missions have been formed, namely, Salt Spring, now separated from Chemainus, being the electoral district of thirteen islands, excepting Kuper; S. Barnabas, Spring Ridge; S. Saviour's, Victoria West; North and South Cedar, with south part of Nanaimo; and the Wellingtons and Northfield collieries. The Islands mission of Salt Spring would, we had hoped, by this time have been provided for, but the clergyman who engaged to come was prevented at the last moment. The other four new missions are all most important, and their occupation by us a necessity if the Church of England is to do her proper part in making provision for the spreading tide of immigration. Our neglect of the two last has been a reproach. I have appealed to the S.P.G. for these and other neglected settlements and work in this Diocese, but hitherto in vain; still, I have hope of help from Churchmen in England towards the spiritual needs of their countrymen emigrating hither, who are unable, for some years at least, to contribute more than a small portion of the incomes of their ministers.

The Mission and Endowment Funds.—Much encouragement has been afforded by the assistance of the Clergy Endowment Fund. The arrears due to the clergy at our last meeting have been paid by it. We have been enabled to resume the work which had been dropped at Chemainus for lack of funds. Some grants to the clergy have been increased in view of the expensiveness of this colony. Confidence has been given to the recipients by the prospect of more punctual payments of their small stipends, and congregations, we trust, have been stimulated to do their part.

We must bear in mind that the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge promises £500 further for the Endowment Fund whenever we can meet that grant by £2,000 raised on our part.

Canada's Women's Auxiliary and Girls' Friendly Society.—We have been much favored by the visits this year of earnest and intelligent lady workers in Christian missions and of charity: A deputation from the Canadian Women's Auxiliary for Domestic, Diocesan and Foreign Missions was the first of these. Mrs. Cummings and Miss Paterson afforded not only valuable information as to the extensive work of their society, but left a deep impression that it is our duty and privilege here to co-operate with them in raising and distributing help to both the Home and Foreign Missions of the Church of England in the Dominion. That we shall soon see our Churchwomen here inaugurate such co-operation. The other visitor was the Hon. Mrs. Joyce, a lady widely known for her practical and unselfish benevolence. The object she carries out is the emigration of female servants. These are in the first place carefully selected and must all be of unexceptionally good character. Each party are then sent forth over ocean and rail attended by a trustworthy matron. They are commended to the watchful kindness of a committee of Churchwomen in the town or district to which they go, and also to the spiritual care of the clergy. This is the plan of the Girls' Friendly, which is a distinct Church of England Society. The British Female Emigration Society is of like nature, and both are operated with wonderful administrative ability by their kind and gifted president, the lady I have named. This labor of love on her part must be of great advantage to this province, and I heartily commend it to the clergy and laity and their families as a work we ought to take up, and to assist by co-operation and support.

A New Cathedral.—I am sure you will not consider this occasion unsuitable for allusion to the proposal to erect a stone cathedral on the magnificent site close by where we are to-day, and which we hope will be of such proportions and beauty as to be an ornament and pride of the city of Victoria. The increase of population, the demand for additional accommodation, and the impossibility of sufficient enlargement of the present building, make plain and urgent the necessity for a new cathedral.

A General Synod.—At our diocesan synod of Oct., 1889, in reference to a conference proposed to be held at Winnipeg the present year, it was resolved:

"That this synod will welcome with satisfaction any well considered measures tending to promote closer communion of the dioceses of the Church of England in the Dominion of Canada, without impairing the autonomy of the diocesan and provincial synods."

The conference, at which this diocese was not represented, took place at Winnipeg, Aug. 15, 1890. It resulted in the adoption of the constitution of a General Synod to consist of all the Bishops of the Church of England in the Dominion of Canada and Newfoundland, and of delegates from the clergy and laity elected by the provincial and independent diocesan synods, to be superior to the provincial and other synods, not to exact coercive canons or resolutions, but "to have power to deal with all matters affecting in any way the general interests and well being of the Church within its jurisdiction." This same conference has decided that the general synod shall be called by the Senior Metropolitan, to meet at Toronto on the second Wednesday in Sept., 1893. There must be some mistake in this, as it can hardly be supposed that the delegates to Winnipeg were authorized to settle the whole business of a very novel experiment in the normal administration of our Holy Church, without first referring the results of their consultation to every diocese in the Dominion of Canada, that we may say whether we shall adopt a new system, or adhere to the universally recognized and well tried organization of diocesan and provincial synods, unfettered by any higher rule of synod or primate.

I observe the promoters of this movement appear to be under the impression that the Anglican Church of Canada is broken up into fragments, so much so that "unification," "corporate unity," "consolidation" is necessary. These expressions are surely misleading. The Church in Canada is just as much united as the Church in the British Isles. We have full intercommunion, the same apostolic ministry, sacraments, creeds, and book of common prayer. Our bishops and clergy can interchange pulpits, and our communicants and members be freely received from one part of the Dominion to the other. I will mention a few objections which appear to me to lie against the scheme for a general synod.

1. Even if such were practicable and desirable, we are not sufficiently numerous, strong or organized to attempt so radical an alteration. Our provincial system is not yet complete.

2. Inasmuch as the constitution and objects of the proposed higher synod are the same as belong to the provincial, by which all that is needed for the affairs of the Church can be done, the creation of a general synod is *superfluous and unnecessary*.

3. Doubtless higher synods than provincial there were and are, such as patriarchal, national, ecumenical, but these have not ordinarily been resorted to except in some great emergency, and such a necessity does not in our case exist.

4. Our Mother Church of England has not found such a higher system necessary.

5. Not only would a general synod as proposed be unnecessary, but it would tend to impair the influence of the provincial by treating of the matters usually and sufficiently dealt with by the latter. Several speakers at the Winnipeg Conference admitted that either this injury to the lower synods would happen, or that the influence of the general synod would be nullified.

6. To have one general synod for the whole Dominion would be inconvenient, on account of having to draw its members from distances of 2000 and 3000 miles, and of the great expense thus needlessly incurred, and the time taken in transacting or discussing business belonging to all sections of British America, whereas, under the provincial system, dioceses are grouped together as most convenient for their different localities.

7. A good deal has been said of a general synod, enabling the Church to speak with one voice on moral and religious questions, having greater power to influence governments and fostering the idea of unity; whereas governments in these days are not moved by ecclesiastical authority, but by public sentiment, which must be influenced not once in three or five years, but continually by sound teaching of the clergy and Christian example and conversation of faithful lay members of the Church, creating not one voice, but many voices, everywhere in furtherance of the pure, the good and the true.

8. An instance has been adduced favoring the proposed Synod of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church of the United States, attended by all bishops and selected clergy and laity every three years from all parts of the States, but the following resolution is a testimony that the system is inconvenient and needs amendment in the direction of provincial organization.

New York, October 5, 1889.—General Convention—"The Bishop of Central New York offered the following resolution, which was adopted: 'Re-

solved, the House of Deputies concurring, that a committee consisting of five members of this House, including the presiding bishop, with five clerical members and five lay members of the House of Deputies, be appointed to consider and report to the convention of 1893: (1) whether a territorial division of the whole Church in the United States and the territories is expedient; (2) by what changes in the constitution and canons of the Church a system of provincial legislation and discipline could be established, and (3) on what general plan such a division might be effected.'"

Still, closer union may well be fostered by us, and may be accomplished by extending throughout the Church of the whole Dominion institutions in which all may have a common interest, and also by joint committees from time to time upon subjects on which united and similar action may be desirable. It might be well for each diocesan and provincial synod to have a standing committee on mutual relations, with a view to a practical closer action of the Anglican Communion in British America.

Upon the conclusion of His Lordship's address, the synod adjourned until 2:30 p.m.

On reassembling, the first business considered after routine was the reception of reports:

The Executive Committee.—The executive committee reports that grants of £1,000 from the S. P. C. K. and of £300 from the S. P. G., to the clergy endowment fund having been paid, the Bishop handed over to the incorporated Synod the balance of the fund on the 6th May, 1890, and transferred to the Synod the securities and mortgages thereof.

A conference on the union of the Anglican Church in B. N. A. was held in Winnipeg in August, but the representatives from this diocese were unable to be present.

Rev. Arthur Beanlands moved "That the following gentlemen be appointed representatives in conference for the formation of a provincial Synod, and that they be also representatives for this diocese in such provincial Synod if formed: Ven. Archdeacon Scriven, Rev. A. Beanlands, A. B. Good, G. W. Taylor, W. H. Barber, J. A. Leakey, Justices Crease and Drake, Major Dupont, Sir Joseph Trutch, Messrs. E. Baynes Reed and H. E. Croasdale."—Carried.

Ven. Archdeacon Scriven moved: "That this Synod, while sympathizing with the desire to draw together in closer union the various branches of the Anglican Church in British North America, is unable at present to agree in the scheme for the formation of a general Synod."

As far as Major Dupont understood the question, it appeared that this Synod alone had control over Church matters in this diocese. He asked whether there was any authority in England which interfered with the action of the Synod here?

His Lordship—We pledge ourselves and our constitution to act in accord with the principles of the Church of England.

Major Dupont, continuing, said it is very desirable that some attempt should be made towards affiliation with the Church generally; that there should be a general Synod which should have some control over the action of the Synods, so that there might be no possibility of a lapse of the doctrines of the Church of England, or any eccentricity cause a change in the prayer book from the principles of the Church of England. At present we are entirely alone, and apart from the good to be derived by the control of a general Synod, it would do the Church good to have the benefit of the best intellectual ability of the Church. Another very desirable change which the speaker was in favor of, was that instead of looking and deferring to the Archbishop of Canterbury in important matters, we should look to our esteemed Metropolitan as the court of appeal.

His Lordship again pointed to the fact that the Church's constitution here prevented its departing from the principles of the Church of England.

The motion was put and carried.

His Lordship named the following committee to prepare an address to the Archbishop of Canterbury as president of the S. P. G., with reference to its grant to this diocese: The Bishop, Ven. Archdeacon Scriven, Sir Joseph Trutch and Major Dupont.

The committee of advice on the Bishopric estate is composed of Mr. Justice Crease, Major Dupont, Sir Joseph Trutch, Messrs. W. C. Ward, P. O'Reilly and T. R. Smith.

Ven. Archdeacon Scriven moved, "That this Synod desires to express its thankfulness that an opportunity has been found of supplying the ministrations of the Church to the inmates of the Jubilee Hospital, and invites the co-operation of Church members in the much needed work of supplying similar ministrations to the inmates of the provincial jail."—Carried.

Rev. Mr. Taylor moved for an annual missionary meeting, to be held in every parish and missionary station in the diocese during the autumn, and a collection taken thereat in behalf of the diocesan mission fund; also a parochial collection for the same object, the proceeds to be handed the treasurer of the mission board on or before the 25th of April.