

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

The Bishop's Able Address—Sussex and Rev. Mr. Little's Case.

Union of Synod and Diocesan Church Society Approved.

To Meet Next Year in Moncton—Rev. Mr. deSoyres' Generous Gift.

WOODSTOCK, July 3.—The Diocesan Church society met at 2.30 o'clock with a large attendance of members, Bishop Kingdon in the chair.

On motion of Archbishop Briggs, seconded by Canon Ketchum, Lieut. Gov. Fraser was elected vice-president of the society. His honor highly thanked the bishop, the mover, seconded and the members for their kindly words and complimentary vote.

Rev. W. O. Raymond read his annual report, which was as follows: The Church society, during the fifty-eight years of its existence, has hitherto held its anniversary meetings either at St. John or Fredericton.

For several years after its organization in 1836 the society—then known as "the Church Society of the Archdiocese of New Brunswick"—always held its anniversary meetings in Fredericton. This was, however, the day of small things with the society.

The formation of the Diocese of Fredericton and the arrival of Bishop Medley in 1854, were marked by a marked increase in the support accorded to the society. The city of St. John and a number of influential parishes that hitherto displayed but little interest, now for the first time gave substantial aid; and, as a consequence, the income increased from \$1,000 to nearly \$4,000 in a single year.

The society having secured recognition at the hands of the diocese at large entered upon a new stage of existence and a larger sphere of usefulness as the Diocesan Church Society of New Brunswick. Certain modifications were made in its rules, one of which provided that the anniversary meetings should henceforth be held alternately at Fredericton and St. John.

After adhering to this usage for nearly fifty years the society this year ventures on a new departure, and is about to hold its anniversary meeting in the town of Woodstock. This step, though regarded by the laity in the light of an experiment, it is hoped may not be without its attendant advantages. The present session of the general committee is of special interest and importance in view of the anticipated decision on the important question of the union of the Diocesan Church society and the Diocesan Synod.

A former secretary of the S. P. G. has stated "the organization of the Church society in New Brunswick is memorable as the first systematic attempt in a British colony for the more full and efficient support of its own church."

In a young country such as ours the history of this society embraces a period sufficiently extended to warrant the use of the word "venerable" in referring to it. In view of the honorable record of the society, which all will admit has proved a very valuable handmaid in the extension of the work of the church in this province, it is a question whether it shall now lose its corporate existence and be merged in another corporate body, or whether it will continue to exist as a distinct body, and as such, to be a source of strength and support to the church in this province.

The record of the society for the past twelve months has, as usual, had its bright side and its dark side, its encouragements and discouragements. Among the brighter features may be mentioned the fact that the returns for the year ending 1st January show an increase of nearly 500 communicants as compared with the returns of the previous year. The number confirmed during the same period was an increase of 242, and there has also been an increase in the number of baptisms. This, in view of the fact that several missions have been vacant, is a most encouraging result.

St. Andrew's—Canon Ketchum reported subscription in excess of last year, and the clergy in general. The amount of the offertory collections has also increased during the past year, and although the sum total of contributions reported for all churches purposes shows a considerable falling off, this may in part be owing to the prevailing financial depression, but your secretary is inclined to believe that the contributions are more complete and satisfactory of some of the returns and would strongly urge upon the clergy the duty of making their annual returns as complete and accurate as possible.

The society is to be congratulated upon the healthy state of its finances but not upon the reasons for the same.

The report of the treasurer will show that whilst there is a small balance on hand, the sum total expended in missionary grants for the year ending first June last was less by \$2,554.78 than the amount expended in the previous year. The lessened expenditure clearly is due to vacant missions. The policy of saving money by closing missions is not to be persisted in without great loss to the church. Possibly a saving of a small amount may be realized by the re-arrangement of some of the older missions, but the only real remedy for vacant missions would seem to lie in strenuous effort on the part of the self-supporting parishes to increase their contributions to the home mission fund. And here it is that one of the most discouraging features of the past year comes in, namely, that the contributions from the self-supporting parishes in aid of their weaker brethren in the rural districts, so far from showing an increase, show a falling off of about \$800 as compared with the previous year. It is earnestly to be wished that there may be a marked advance the present year.

The society has lost during the year two of its oldest and most faithful members, the late Henry William Frith and the late Charles Henry Fairweather. Mr. Frith had for forty-eight years been a member of the society and for thirty-five years had been an attendant at its meetings, and a most indefatigable worker on its various committees. From 1859 to 1879 he was the society's honored and respected treasurer, and on his retirement from that office was elected one of the society's vice-presidents.

The late Mr. Fairweather was a member of the society since the year 1845 and a life member since 1858. He was elected one of the auditors in 1859 and held the position until his death. In the course of the general meeting held in this mission the amount required was reduced to \$248.

Bale Verte—The grant of \$500 has been continued to this mission and paid to the Rev. V. E. Harris, rector of Amherst, he undertaking to provide fortnightly Sunday services at Fort Elgin, Bale Verte and Tidnish, and fortnightly Sunday services at the same places by a deacon. The parishes have in the past contributed \$200 to the society and the parishes in Nova Scotia and the Board of Home Missions of Nova Scotia each pay \$100 towards the stipend.

The foregoing reports submitted by the

missionaries suffice to show that good and faithful work has been accomplished in many an arduous field. Some of the society's missionaries have labored with patience for many years in the same mission field. The society would gladly see additions to their ranks from the young men of this province, and records with a feeling akin to shame the fact that, up to the present year, a period of five successive years has elapsed without a single New Brunswicker entering the ministry of the Church of England within the bounds of his native province. We rejoice to know that there is a prospect of the removal of this stigma in the immediate future.

The society cannot but feel, whilst gratefully acknowledging all that has been done, that the work has been but scanty compared with the opportunity. The words are as true today as when they were first written: "Before this society a work is set forth which will call into action the best energies and the self-denying zeal of every member of the church; a work worthy of the greatest self-sacrifice; a work which may be aided by the smallest gift, and furnished by the smallest prayer; the bishop during his recent visit to England, the society has agreed not to make a reduction of £150 for 1895. At the same time the standing committee of the venerable society state distinctly that the society must prepare for the gradual extinction of the grant.

The estimate of income and expenditure for next year, with the returns and minutes of business of last year, accompany this report.

Geo. A. Schofield, Secretary, Woodstock, July 3, 1894.

Estimate of Income and Expenditure, 1894-95.

EXPENDITURE. Contingencies..... \$900 00 S P G pensions..... 488 00 Salaries..... 1,300 00 Grants to lay readers..... 175 00

INCOME. Balance on hand May 1, 1894..... \$13 00 S P G 1893..... 4,109 00

Required from self-supporting missions..... \$5,818 00

SELF-SUPPORTING MISSIONS. The following shows what is required in each self-supporting parish in 1894, and what was paid in 1893:

Required Paid 1894. 1893. Burton..... \$40 189 30

St. John (Trinity)..... 1,000 810 100

St. Mary's..... 200 150 50

St. Paul's..... 100 75 25

St. Stephen, Christ church..... 50 35 15

Westmorland..... 25 15 10

The following schedule shows what is expected from each aided parish in 1894, what the proposed grant is to be, and what the value of the glebe is, if any. The grant and glebe columns added in each case give the stipend of the parish for the year:

Contribution to D.S.G. Glebe. \$70 \$30 1847 Veris..... 205 500 00

1848 Veris..... 205 500 00

1849 Veris..... 205 500 00

1850 Veris..... 205 500 00

1851 Veris..... 205 500 00

1852 Veris..... 205 500 00

1853 Veris..... 205 500 00

1854 Veris..... 205 500 00

1855 Veris..... 205 500 00

1856 Veris..... 205 500 00

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1864 Veris..... 205 500 00

1865 Veris..... 205 500 00

1866 Veris..... 205 500 00

1867 Veris..... 205 500 00

1868 Veris..... 205 500 00

1869 Veris..... 205 500 00

1870 Veris..... 205 500 00

1871 Veris..... 205 500 00

1872 Veris..... 205 500 00

The treasurer's balance sheet is as follows: 1894-95. Sovill trust income..... \$ 67 18 Investments account..... 72,639 88

General purposes..... 1,180 18

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Bishop Kingdon assured Mr. McMillan that when the schedule came up it would be referred back to see how the wishes of the people of Prince William could be met.

Rev. H. Montgomery brought up his complaint that the grant of sixty dollars ordered last year to the mission of Ludlow had not been paid by the treasurer.

Rev. Mr. Raymond explained that the grant was passed in 1846, but three years later it was transferred to the church at Ludlow; therefore the treasurer takes the grant that he cannot pay it again.

Gen. A. Schofield suggested the treasurer's action; but, recognizing the peculiar way in which the people of Ludlow had been misled, he would vote for a new grant of sixty dollars to the mission.

Rev. Mr. Montgomery accepted the suggestion, and having stated that sixty dollars would complete the church, the society resolved last year's resolution, and voted the sum annexed.

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The collection was in aid of domestic and foreign missions.

About fifty clergy and thirty-five lay delegates were present today.

Archdeacon Briggs today appeared in public wearing the full street dress of an English archdeacon.

WOODSTOCK, July 4.—The twenty-fifth session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton opened this morning in Parish Hall, Bishop Kingdon presiding.

The weather is glorious, but rather warm. The attendance of both orders is large.

Rev. H. H. Barber, rector of the Church of Good Shepherd, Houlton, Maine, was introduced by Canon Neales, welcomed by the bishop, and given a seat on the floor.

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