

Home & Foreign Church News

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

MONTREAL.

MONTREAL. The sixth annual meeting of the Women's Auxiliary was opened by a celebration of the Holy Communion in Christ Church Cathedral at 11.30 a.m., on Thursday, 18th February, the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, Celebrant, assisted by the rector. The Bishop gave a short address to the Convention on Christian love. The subsequent sessions were held in the Synod Hall.

The first business meeting was opened at 2.30, His Lordship the Bishop of Montreal in the chair. After the roll call of delegates, Mrs. Albert Holden, the President, read the President's address. After welcoming the delegates from the city and country branches and speaking of the diocesan officers and the secretary and treasurer, she called upon each individual member to increased effort on behalf of the work of the Auxiliary. She then proceeded:—

"I think we may fairly assume that this organization, although still in its infancy, is making good progress, for while it is true we are only able to report the addition of two new branches, still we can truthfully say our work has grown and expanded. Any careful observer can see there is an addition in membership as well as an advance in our financial statement, which is more encouraging than any heretofore presented, and I might add that the statement of the diocesan treasurer does not nearly cover all the money sent out by the Montreal Auxiliary. Some branches preferring to send their donations direct to the object for which given, neither passing the funds through our diocesan treasurer's books, nor reporting through her, it is a difficult problem to form a just estimate of the financial work of this society. A new departure has been made by some of our branches during the past year, viz., the non-valuation of their bales or boxes. These branches, and rightly too, consider that the labour bestowed upon work should be given freely and without price. Consequently, only the money value of goods purchased is reported. Therefore, the Dorcas account may not be so flourishing as last year, but certainly it will be more satisfactory. Although we have gained and merited confidence where once was mistrust; have made supporters out of opponents, and have ever striven to confine our work to its legitimate sphere, still we are not satisfied with a fair measure of success. There are yet hundreds of Churchwomen who have not joined us, who, in fact, do not belong to any missionary society. We would like to enroll them as members, live members, living epistles to be read of all men, who are ready to spend and be spent in the service of the Lord. This brings me to the 'unused forces' in our Church. I refer to the young. How many of our young people are growing up, if not in ignorance, at least with very dense ideas of a true missionary spirit. They know their elders belong to some society, but as far as they are concerned there has been no special interest awakened in them. If we would but consider that these very girls and boys will, in the near future, be asked to fill our places, I am sure we would clearly see it is our duty to educate them up to their privileges and responsibilities, so that when the call to work comes to them they will, in a measure, be prepared for it. I would earnestly urge every branch to have its junior society; regulate it as you like, call it by what name you please, but let it be missionary, and you will find it a great power for good. Having worked with and among the young for many years, I fully appreciate what a factor they can and do become in spiritual work. They not only derive benefit themselves, but in the majority of cases benefit those among whom they live, so the result is three-fold, the teacher, the child, and the home circle each becoming a participant. We need our sympathies enlarged, a broader, deeper love for mankind, a fuller comprehension of His great love who gave Himself that all who believe may be saved."

The Secretary, Miss McCord, in her annual report, told of one new branch at Quyon, making the total number of branches now in existence, 37. The Treasurer, Mrs. H. Evans, reported the receipts of the year as being \$1,042.76, the disbursements amounting to \$990.82, leaving a balance in hand of \$51.94.

The election of officers was then proceeded with, His Lordship the Bishop, who elects the President, renaming Mrs. A. Holden. His Lordship made a short speech, congratulating the society upon its President, its work and the way in which it had been done. The election resulted as follows:—President, Mrs. A. Holden; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Everett; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Houghton; Treasurer, Mrs. R. Lindsay; Executive Committee, Mrs. Carmichael, Mrs. Norton, Mrs. R. Lindsay, Mrs. E. Judge, Mrs. F. Cole, Mrs. W. J. Buchanan, Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. H. J. Evans and Miss McCord. Delegates to triennial meeting, Mrs. Henderson and Miss McCord. Mrs. Mills described the work of the

little girls' twenty-minute society, in a short, interesting paper.

At the close of the meeting the ladies adjourned to the room below to partake of refreshments, and to enjoy a social hour.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19.—*Reports of the City and Country Branches.*—To-day's session opened at 10.30 a.m. The Synod Hall was wellfilled, the branch associations being well represented by delegates. His Lordship the Bishop opened the meeting with prayer, after which the old missionary hymn was sung heartily. The main business was the reading of the reports of the branch societies of the city, which were very satisfactory. Christ Church Cathedral reported a great deal of work done, particularly for the Indians. Money, clothes and many useful articles had been sent to the Right Rev. Dr. Sullivan, Bishop of Algoma, for distribution in his work. St. George's Auxiliary had done good work in visiting the sick in the hospitals. Nor did they go empty-handed, for books and other gifts were bestowed upon the grateful sufferers. This branch had received \$249.50, \$240.21 of which had been spent in foreign and home missionary work. St. Martin's and St. Stephen's were heard from next. St. Stephen's reported their total receipts to be \$205.55. Trinity had received \$140. Twenty-eight dollars of this had been spent in various kinds of missionary work. St. Thomas' had no written report, but the delegate said they had just reorganized with eighteen members, and were looking forward to doing more work for the Master. St. John the Evangelist had received from membership fees and other sources, \$155.45. All Saints' had collected \$16.50; St. Mathias and St. Luke's churches were next heard from. St. Luke's reported \$17.94. Grace Church receipts were \$62.68. The boy's branch of the Woman's Auxiliary, under the leadership of Mrs. Niven, reported a great deal of work done. From these reports some idea could be gained of the faithful earnest work which had been carried on through the year. Many busy fingers must have worked hard in the making of the hundreds of articles of clothing sent out from time to time by the branches. Great comfort has been given to many hearts by the timely appearance of food, clothes or money when it was sorely needed. The Indians had been remembered by many of the branches. The Bishop of Algoma had received much help in his work, and the Wahshakada Home had been greatly benefited by the generous donations received from the Woman's Auxiliary.

Letters of greeting were read from the branches at Niagara, Quebec, London (and Huron) and Ottawa.

A vote of thanks was given to the Hospitality Committee for their careful and thoughtful decoration of the Synod Hall. The vote was passed unanimously. Bishop Bond remarked that he thought they deserved it.

A paper prepared by Miss McMullin, entitled "The Outlook," made a pleasant break in the business.

The reports of country branches were next read. Aylmer, Cowansville, Clarenceville, Noyan, Dunham, Grenville, Havelock, Hamilton, Huntingdon, Papineauville, Onslow (the new branch), Shawville, Sorel, St. Andrews, St. Lambert, St. Johns, Waterloo, West Farnham, were the places heard from. Almost without exception these were enthusiastic, and told of hearty work and a future of bright promise.

2.30 P.M.—The Secretary of the Dorcas Societies reported for that department of the work. A large number of bales of books, clothing, useful and fancy articles and toys had been sent to the different domestic missions requiring help of the kind. The juvenile branch, reported for by Mrs. Henderson, had also sent clothing, &c., to the needy parishes. Mrs. Evans read a most interesting report for the *Letter Leaflet*. When they first subscribed to the *Leaflet* in April last they were rather afraid they were taking a hazardous risk, but the Treasurer's report, as well as her own, proved it to be a great success. It was very valuable to the branches, particularly because it contained news not to be obtained elsewhere, and the expense was such a trifle that almost anyone could afford to take it, the subscription being only fifteen cents a year for one copy. The subscriptions amount now to 300. Something over \$48 had been received by her for the *Leaflet* fund; of this \$42.35 had been spent.

For the Needy Parishes.—A warm discussion was held as to the best method of providing for all the needy objects. As the country branches always prefer to work for those fields which they know most, the home missionaries who visited the country parts and interested the people, were helped by several of the branches, while others remained uncared for, who were, perhaps, in quite as much need. Mrs. Evans made an earnest appeal to the ladies to establish a printing fund. The printing expenses often fell very heavily upon the society. Until last year this was paid from the undesignated fund and last year some ladies contributed specially for this object; \$10 was raised in this way, but as the expenses amounted to over \$55, the deficit had to be supplied from the undesignated fund. As the expenses are

getting heavier with each new branch, there is the increasing need for a special fund.

The following resolutions were passed:—

Moved by Mrs. Driscoll, seconded by Mrs. Troop:—

"Resolved,—That we order a perfect publication of the Diocesan Dorcas Society Secretary, as to the needs of the domestic mission fields, and that a list be thus obtained, printed and sent to each branch secretary."

Moved by Mrs. Evans, seconded by Mrs. A. Smith:

"Resolved,—That our cordial thanks be tendered to Mrs. Ritchie, of Toronto, for her kind services in despatching the *Montreal Leaflet* direct from the office of publication, thereby affecting a saving of time and expense to the Auxiliary."

Moved by Mrs. Lindsay and seconded by Miss McCord:

"Resolved,—That the Auxiliary continue the grant of two hundred dollars (\$200) for the salary of a lady teacher at the Washakada Home, for three years more."

The meeting closed with the Doxology and Benediction.

The *Missionary Meeting*.—There was a large gathering at the closing session of the Auxiliary in the Synod Hall last Friday evening. Bishop Bond presided and addresses were delivered by the Rev. L. N. Tucker and Bishop Sullivan, of Algoma.

At the close of the opening exercises the Rev. Mr. Tucker read the Secretary's report, which has been printed before. He supplemented it by a strong plea for the Auxiliary, founded as it was on Christian principle. He urged its claims for sympathy and support, and said its influence for good was as widespread as that of the Church itself and as far-reaching as the wants of man. Its members are following in the footsteps of the best women of the early Church and of the disciples during the lifetime of our Saviour. Its work in no way interfered with that of the Church, but brought again into play the work of women in the primitive Church, which had been allowed to falter and disappear of late days. Special attention was drawn to the necessity of special work among the juveniles in order that they might be trained up to systematic Church work.

Dr. Davidson next read the Treasurer's statement, which showed that the total receipts for the year were \$1,042.76, and the disbursements \$990.82. His remarks were brief. He was strongly in sympathy with the Auxiliary and its work, and, while much had already been accomplished, much more remained to be done. He hoped the several branches would co-operate together and thus strengthen each other's hands.

The Bishop of Algoma, who followed, outlined the history of the birth of the Women's Auxiliary during the session of the Provincial Synod held in Ottawa five or six years ago, and already over two hundred branches have been formed, a most gratifying growth surely. An old Roman proverb tells us that "good things are hard." That is true. It is easier to slide down hill than to walk up, and thus movements for good are ever slow. Every Church woman should belong to the Auxiliary, for to the Church and the Gospel she owed a debt of simple and downright gratitude for the position she occupied to-day, socially and domestically. Compare the position of the Christian women of to-day with that of their sisters in the zenana in China and in the islands of the South Sea. Comment was unnecessary. The change was brought about in the birth of Christ. Then she was man's slave, now she stands beside him in the proud position of counsellor and friend. Then it was considered not fit to drink of the cup of knowledge—"better that a thousand women should perish than that one man should not see the light." Now she is the peer of man and the temples of knowledge are as free to her as to the sterner sex, and all owing to the Gospel of Christ, which has operated as a lever in lifting her up from her old degradation. She is not, therefore, doing what Christ or duty expects of her unless she joins the Auxiliary.

His Lordship then testified to his personal gratitude to the Auxiliary for the assistance it had given him in his own diocese; for its benefactions and for the bales of clothing, &c., received, but for which many of his people would have shivered the winter through. In his diocese, three out of every four farms were mortgaged, taxes were high, the land unproductive, and multitudes if able to raise sufficient money would leave the district as early as possible. Mission work to be successful must be systematic, and should follow on the natural law of sequence, which gives preferential claims to home, then to domestic and then to foreign missions. To begin in one's own diocese is the great thing, then to extend out assistance to domestic work. None need go beyond the confines of our country to learn of heroic Christians, where are to be found such noble men as Bishop Reeves, Dr. Bompas and others labouring in seclusion in the North-West, thousands of miles from the civilized world. He closed by giving a history of the modes of operation and the general principles in which the diocese was administered.