

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Dr. McMullen, from the committee appointed to prepare a reply to the communication from the Anglican Synod of the Diocese of Toronto, reported the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:—

That the Synod of Hamilton and London of the Presbyterian Church acknowledge receipt of the communication of the Anglican Synod of the Diocese of Toronto, in reference to Religious Instruction in the Public Schools of Ontario, and further, that this Synod, while holding very strongly the importance of the religious element in education, decline, in present circumstances, to take part in a public agitation on this question.

TRANSFERENCE OF CHURCHES.

Minutes of the Presbyteries of Paris and Hamilton were read, asking that Delhi, in the Presbytery of Hamilton, be transferred to the Presbytery of Paris, the congregations and Presbyteries being united in the desire of Delhi being united to Windham, to form one congregation. The Synod agreed to grant the transference asked, and to place Delhi under the care of the Presbytery of Paris.

Minutes of the Presbyteries of Maitland and Bruce were read, asking a transference of the congregation of North Kinloss, Riversdale and Enniskillen from the Presbytery of Bruce to the Presbytery of Maitland. Both Presbyteries having united in this application, and the congregation having petitioned for the transference, it was unanimously granted by the Synod, and the congregation of North Kinloss, Riversdale and Enniskillen placed under the care of the Maitland Presbytery.

REFERENCE OF CHATHAM PRESBYTERY.

Minutes of the Presbytery of Chatham were read to the effect that a call had been given to a congregation within their bounds, to a student who at the time was not licensed, this fact not being known to the presiding Minister. The Presbytery asked the Synod that, as there was no intentional violation of the law, the Synod condone and sustain the action of the Presbytery in all the circumstances of the case. This was agreed to.

AUGMENTATION FUND.

Mr. J. C. Tolmie presented the report of the Synod's Augmentation Committee for the past year, which, after discussion, was accepted, and the following recommendations of the committee adopted:—

1. That Presbyteries be instructed to send a deputation to each of those congregations which are markedly deficient in their contributions to this fund.
2. That Presbyteries, where it is possible, rearrange the fields so as to lessen the number of congregations now dependent on the fund.

The following were reappointed as the Synodical Augmentation Committee for the year: Hamilton Presbytery, Dr. Lyle; Paris, Mr. E. R. Hutt; London, Mr. Currie; Sarnia, Mr. McPherson; Chatham, Mr. Tolmie; Stratford, Mr. Duncan Stewart; Huron, Mr. Fletcher; Maitland, Mr. Robert Harrison; Bruce, Mr. John Johnston.

THE PSALMODY OF THE CHURCH.

Mr. W. J. Dey presented the following overture, which he desired the