

"The Canadian Church Union"

ANNUAL REPORT

It is with great satisfaction that the "Canadian Church Union" is now enabled to make this its first Annual Report, as the success and support that it has met with has far exceeded the expectations of its promoters since its first organization in the City of London, Ont., in January, 1887.

The first jubilee meeting was held in London, on April 21st, when full discussion and consideration of the following objects of the Union were ably advocated, and pledges of support given by the various influential speakers of both clergy and laity present.

The objects of the Union are mainly to invite Laymen to take a greater interest in the work of the Church, and they briefly include the following:

To unite the various Dioceses of the Church of England in Canada, so as to form *one* Canadian branch of the One, Catholic and Apostolic Church;

To sustain and strengthen the Church, to aid the Bishops and Clergy in maintaining and enforcing her Doctrine and Discipline;

To maintain the Prayer-book of the Church of England in its integrity;

To disseminate information as to the Scriptural origin and general history of the Church;

To promote meetings of the members of the Church for the discussion of matters pertaining to her interests and extension;

To form a bond of union for all lay workers; to aid and foster a desire for Christian Unity.

The experience of the past has fully demonstrated that an organization such as the "Canadian Church Union" is a necessity in the interests of the Church, as hitherto there has been no bond of union between lay workers in all parts of our Dominion. All organizations have been Diocesan, Parochial and Local, thus engendering a spirit of congregationalism instead of a broad and liberal support of the Church at large.

The first object of the Union is embraced in two resolutions passed at the last Provincial Synod of Canada, based upon Clause 6 of the Declaration of the first Provincial Synod, viz.: "To promote the further consolidation and united action of the whole of the Dioceses of British North America." With a view of bringing this vital question before the various Diocesan Synods in all parts of the Dominion, the "Canadian Church Union" issued a circular suggesting that, as the Provincial Synod had by its resolutions approved of uniting the Church in Canada, Diocesan Synods should endorse their action by appointing committees to consider the whole subject, and thus aid the Provincial Synod Committee in arriving at the mind of the Church.

It is most gratifying to the "Canadian Church Union" to find that their suggestion has been favorably received by many of the Dioceses, and acted on by the Provincial Synod of Rupert's Land, and the Dioceses of Toronto, Ont., and Niagara; British Columbia and Qu'Appelle have also endorsed the movement. During the Synods of this year, resolutions to the same effect will be introduced in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Huron. In the Dioceses that have already taken action these Committees have met and reported to their respective Synods, which have fully endorsed the desirability of such Union. The Toronto Synod at its recent meeting fully adopted the report of their Committee, which suggested many questions of detail, and what is very important, invited the co-operation of other Synods. It is also gratifying that the Church Press are advocating the question, the "Evangelical" and the "Dominion Churchman" having recently ably taken the subject up. These movements most surely demonstrate that the church mind of the Dominion is fully awakened to the importance of the great and vital question of a united branch of the Anglican Church in British North America, extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific, under one General Council or Synod.

The great consideration of the C. C. U. now is, how can the united step be taken to bring about a conference with the scattered parts of the Church in the Dominion; suggestions have been made tending to this object, and proposing such with the Provincial Synod Committee, but a question was raised how far the original resolutions of the Provincial Synod embraced such a conference; could such be effected it would materially aid the Provincial Synod Committee in reporting the mind of the Church at large on this great question.

The Provincial Synod Meeting of 1889 will be a memorable one for the future of the Church in this Dominion. The "Canadian Church Union" is strongly advocating that the outlying parts of the Church send deputations to the Synod of this Ecclesiastical Province, thus endorsing their respective actions in furtherance of the Union of the Church, which would do much for the cause.

This Association is gradually but surely extending its influence, having obtained members in many of the Dioceses and parts of the Dominion, with prospects of the formation of Branches or Executive Committees in several. The most successful one already established is in Victoria, British Columbia, with a large membership holding its regular monthly meetings, and reports most satisfactorily the good being effected in the interest of church work.

In furtherance of Article 4, of the Constitution, "To disseminate information as to the scriptural origin and general history of the Church," valuable work has been done by introducing a series of lectures on Church History, prepared by the S.P.C.K. of England, illustrated by Magic Lantern Views of events of the various periods of our history with Cathedrals and other objects of interest. Marked success has attended the many lectures already delivered. The Executive Committee are devising a plan whereby these lectures can be given in parishes desiring them; many applications have already been received. The knowledge of the history of the Anglican Branch of the Catholic Church is essential, if we desire to retain the youth of the Church within her fold.

The following Executive Officers were elected at the Annual Meeting of the Union, viz.:

DR. SIPPI, PRESIDENT, London.

CHAS. JENKINS, VICE-PRESIDENT, Petrollea.

R. H. ARCHER, TREASURER, London.

W. J. IMLACH, SECRETARY, London.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

E. BAYNES REED, ESQ., SEC.-TREASURER, Huron.

E. DE DA HOOKE, ESQ.

ISA. DANKS, ESQ.

DR. JONES, ESQ.

HERBERT McBETH, ESQ.

E. R. BAINES, ESQ.

And the following Vice-Presidents nominated for the respective Dioceses:

J. H. INNES, ESQ.	Esquimalt	British Columbia.
REV. W. J. ANCIENT	Rawdon	Nova Scotia.
VENERABLE BEDFORD JONES		Archdeacon of Kingston, Ont.
GEORGE ELLIOTT, ESQ.	Guelph	Niagara.
REV. M. FOTHERGIL	Quebec	Quebec.
REV. LEO. A. HOYT	Andover	New Brunswick.
REV. J. D. CAYLEY	Toronto	Toronto.
J. H. LINGS, ESQ.	London	Huron.

Copies of the Constitution and any information regarding the Union may be obtained of the Secretary, W. J. IMLACH, London, Ont., or of any member of the Executive Committees.