

Columbia were never able to attend a meeting of the western committees though the committees once met at Banff in the Rocky Mountains. The difficulty in the way of the meeting of our committees from the great distances of the members from each other has so far proved insuperable. But as the meeting of committees during the interval between two meetings of the general synod is very desirable and may be very important it seems advisable that a special committee be appointed to report at this meeting of the general synod as to the best way of overcoming this difficulty.

I excepted from my remarks the mission work of the church. The western committee on the subject at its meeting in June, 1894 in Banff, acting upon a report of a sub-committee appointed at its previous meeting in January, 1894, drew up a scheme for the organization work. This was fully considered by the eastern committee at the time of the meeting of provincial synod to the province of Canada in September, 1895. The modified scheme adopted by the eastern committee received the careful attention of the western committee at the meeting in January, 1896, and its views on it were forwarded to the eastern committee. The joint committee of both divisions met on September 1, and will report to the general synod. It would be out of place for me to say anything on these proposals. I would only wish to emphasise the vital importance to the church of our adopting measures that will enable our people to have a full understanding and realization of the needs, responsibilities and duties of the church, and that by bringing the efforts of the church into touch with our people will most freely receive their confidence and support. The strength of the church and the loyalty of its members are ever wonderfully bound up with self-denial and self-sacrifice for it on their part.

The action of the Ven. S. P. G. to which I have already referred, will no doubt receive our most earnest attention. It is a society to which all our dioceses who are receiving settlers are infinitely indebted. In fact, but for the munificent aid of the society the Church of England in Canada would to-day have been small indeed. But neither the Dominion of Canada nor the Church of England in the Dominion are yet in that unified condition that they can with accuracy and reality be spoken of as the resolution of the society implies. There is no doubt one government and one parliament for the Dominion and one General Synod of the Church, but practically our Dominion consists of various jurisdictions each with its own feelings and interests and the church is a consolidation of dioceses each with its own individual funds, aims and effects. Even if churchmen in Canada have the ability to do what the society expects those who are acquainted with the real condition of things must feel that it will take a considerable time to bring out the ability. Looking at the wealth of England one would say that the possibilities of funds for mission work are immeasurable, but none know better than the committee of the S. P. G. how hard it is to secure even a very trifling proportion of that wealth for the work of God. But after all we cannot but feel that if the committee of the S. P. G. were to investigate the ability of the Canadian church it would find that the needs over the whole country in every diocese are so great as to give for some time, little, I am inclined to say no, hope of the church being able to grapple with the pressing needs of the young settlements in the Northwest as the society has been able to do.

But the S. P. G. is not alone in its policy of withdrawal of the help to mission work in Canada. The Church Missionary society has at great cost done a most unselfish and noble work among the Indians and Eskimos of this country. But for various reasons this society has introduced a policy of gradual withdrawal. It is as yet in operation only in three dioceses. It is quite impossible for these Northwestern dioceses to carry on what is thus being laid upon them, unless assistance is given from without, the work must suffer.

For myself I do not in the least question the principles or the obligations pressed on our attention by the committees of these two great societies of the church. I only question their just and wise application in our circumstances and I think it would be most advisable that the societies should before taking this action send out representatives, in whom they have confidence, with sufficient time at their disposal to investigate all the circumstances.

I am conscious that, as primate, I have in the past three years, not been able to do anything but by correspondence. I have felt the position somewhat indefinite and should like to know more distinctly what the church meant by the office or name, but I may say, that, even if the duties had been more definite, the pressure of urgent work in my own diocese would have limited the possibility of my doing more.

And now, again commending our deliberations to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I direct the Lower House to elect their prolocutor. I find, however, that no provision is as yet made in the rules of order for a provisional chairman. Under these circumstances following the precedent of the last General Synod and the usage of the metropolitan in the Provincial Synod of Rupert's Land, and I believe also of Canada, I would name as the temporary chairman the prolocutor of the Lower House in the last General Synod, the Very Rev. "The Dean of Montreal.

#### THE RECEPTION.

During the past year the Hotel Manitoba has been the scene of many large gatherings, but none of these approached the reception of Thursday evening, in point of representation of all sorts and conditions of men. The members of the Church of England in the city are naturally so proud of the honor that has been conferred on them by the General Synod of the Church of England in Canada meeting here, that they turned out en masse to welcome their visitors. Few cities in the Dominion can boast of such a suitable place for a large gathering of this kind as the Hotel Manitoba; Thursday evening the suite of rooms on the second floor, apportioned for the gathering were fully required. A little before 8 p.m. His Grace the Lord Primate of all Canada, accompanied by a select reception committee, took up his position in the drawing room to await his guests. From that hour up to 10 p.m. there was one incessant stream of visitors, who paid their respects to His Grace and then passed on to greet their friends and acquaintances. The humble representative of the press, elbowing his way through the throng, could not help ruminating on the tremendous change that had taken place in church matters since the second Bishop of the vast Diocese of Rupert's Land arrived on the banks of the Red River and found no more clergy in the district, whose western boundary is the snow-capped Rockies, than can now be counted in the fourth part of the Province of Manitoba. The development has been extraordinary. The gathering of Thursday evening would