

second copy of proposal and fully agree with the objects contemplated in the establishment of a House of Laymen for the Diocese of Toronto."

"That the opinion of the country laity would be favorable to the project I think there is little question."

"The position of the country missions particularly, and some of the parishes from whatever cause arising has become deplorable."

"Having regard to the financial condition of the Synod, improvement from extraneous sources must at best prove slow, and judging from the results of the last few years cannot in any degree be anticipated."

"To attain the desired end at least two conditions seem indispensable, viz., a radical change in the supervision and visitation of rural districts, in conjunction with the admission to holy orders of only such candidates, as, in addition to scholastic attainments, may afford reliable indications of the possession of a measure of energy which would conduce in a reasonable degree to success in a secular calling."

"There are, of course, other matters of great moment which should be legitimately considered by a House of Laymen, but may be well left to its collective wisdom rather than dealt with in the medium of correspondence."

5. "I am in receipt of your circular, etc. In reply I beg to suggest to yourself and your associates that it would be better to attend regularly the meetings of the Synod and insist thereupon the rights of the laity being respected, than to separate ourselves into a cave of adullam or lay caucus. But if your scheme was carried out, I should most strongly object to the Bishop being the presiding officer, for obvious reasons."

The Bishop is not the presiding officer. The House of Laymen elect their own presiding officer under the name of Chairman. The Bishop is President only of the Synod. (See remark on page 6).

"Could not your object be equally well attained by a fuller and more regular attendance at Synod?"

These two requirements are fully attained at present. The laity are numerous enough, but when in Synod with a few rare exceptions, they have no will of their own, arising from the fact that they have had no opportunity such as the clergy have had, of informing themselves on the subjects discussed, and are obliged to vote just as the clergy wish them to vote. They have no freedom or choice whatever owing to the want of previous instruction.