

FOUR SYNOD MEETINGS.

Two of our six Synods, those of our Maritime and Prairie Provinces, meet in the autumn, and the remaining four, three of them in Old Canada and one in British Columbia, meet in the spring. The latter four have had their annual gatherings during the past few weeks. Full reports have appeared in the local daily and weekly press. Repetition, beyond brief mention, would be needless and stale, and the figures and statistics of the Church as a whole, in which all our readers have an equal interest, will appear in next issue.

During the past few years the Synods in Old Canada have adopted the plan of making their meeting a combination of Court and Conference; the business to be transacted on the road between Presbytery and Assembly is small, and conference on some great theme makes the meetings more helpful.

The Synod of Hamilton and London, consisting of nine Presbyteries, was the earliest of the four, meeting in Brantford, April 24-27. Rev. Mungo Fraser, D.D., was chosen to succeed Rev. Finlay McCuaig as Moderator, and Rev. J. Ratcliffe as Clerk, in room of the late Dr. Cochrane.

The second day was given up to conference on high practical themes, seven in all, introduced by papers with discussion following, viz., "The Message of the Church to the Nation," by Rev. Dr. Thompson; "The Minister God's Messenger," by Rev. Dr. W. G. Jordan; and other subjects and writers, whose themes and names we have not.

The routine business of Synods, while varying little in itself, varies with the tastes and ability and diligence of different men in presenting their reports; different branches of work receiving attention in different Synods, according to the height and depth and breadth of their presentation. Dr. Robertson was there, and Home Missions, our great patriot scheme, did not suffer.

The Synod of Montreal and Ottawa, representing six Presbyteries, met in Knox Church, Cornwall, May 8-11, Rev. J. Hastie succeeding Rev. Geo. McArthur as Moderator.

Much that was good, both practical and devotional, filled its sessions. Papers and discussions on "Methods of Bible Study," by Dr. McNish; on "Worship," by Dr. James Ross; on "Preaching the Word," by Rev. A. H. Scott; by Dr. Kellock on Augmentation, and by Dr. Robertson on Home Missions in the North-West, varied the routine of work and made for pleasure and profit.

The Synod of Toronto and Kingston, made up of twelve Presbyteries, met in Knox Church, Toronto, May 8-10. From Gracey to Gilray in the chair required but a motion and vote.

The ubiquitous superintendent of Home Missions, Dr. Robertson, was there, too, heating the iron and striking when hot; Dr. Warden's figures, that always strike, with figures of speech that made them stick, set forth the needs of some of the smaller but important Schemes, as Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund; while Dr. Caven stood on a broken arch of the Lord's Day Act, not supinely sketching ruins, but urging vigorous rebuild.

In the far West, the Synod of British Columbia met in Calgary on the 3rd of May. Its five Presbyteries were represented in Synod by twenty-four settled pastors, five missionaries, and four elders. Rev. J. Knox Wright, as out-going Moderator, opened the Synod, and Rev. D. G. McQueen, as in-coming, closed it.

It is essentially a Home Mission Synod. In one of its Presbyteries, Kamloops, nine new preaching stations were opened during the past year.

If you would see the result of Home Missions, "Look around you." This Synod itself and the work it represents is a meet and not mute memorial of the trials, toils, and triumphs, of the brave and persevering western missionary. Grand dividends for our investments in Home Missions.

CHURCH NOTES AND NOTICES.

CALLS.

From Saltsprings, N.S., to Mr. A. H. Denoon. Accepted.

From Noel, N.S., to Mr. Wm. Forbes.

From Fenelon Falls and Somerville, Ont., to Mr. Horne.

From Burgoyne and Dunblane, to Mr. Moir.

From St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, to Dr. A. Black, of Birkenhead, England. Accepted.

From Oakville, Tor. Pres., to Mr. John McNair, of Waterloo.

From Knox Church, Listowel, to Mr. J. S. Hardie, of Ayr.

From Ailsa Craig and New Carlisle, to Mr. W. H. Geddes, of St. Catherines.

From St. John's Church, Chatham, N. B., to Mr. J. M. McLean, of Blakeney and Clayton.

From Latona, Owen Sd. Pres., to Mr. Wm. Graham, of Bayfield, Ont.

From Newport, N.S., to Mr. A. E. Sinclair.