

son who shall bury or perform any funeral or religious service for the burial of any dead body, unless he has received a certificate under the hand of the Registrar of the division in which the death took place, according to the Schedule D to this Act annexed, that the particulars of such death have been duly registered, shall make a return of such death, according to Schedule C to this Act annexed, to the Registrar of the division in which the death took place within seven days after such burial," and again in Section 22 it is further provided that "If any clergyman or other person required by this Act to report deaths refuses or wilfully neglects so do so within the time named, such person shall, for each and every offense, forfeit and pay a sum not less than one dollar nor more than twenty dollars and costs";

"Whereas, from the above it is apparent that if any minister, elder, or private member of the church read the Scriptures or offer prayer at the funeral or burial of any dead body without having first ascertained that the death has been duly registered, or thereafter making returns for registration, he becomes an offender against the law, and liable to civil prosecutions and civil penalties; and,

"Whereas, the right of reading the Scriptures and offering prayer at any time and in any circumstances is a right which belongs to every Christian, and ought not to be interfered with, limited or restricted by any civil enactment;

"Whereas, also, such services as are observed by the church in connection with funerals are purely devotional exercises:

"Therefore resolved,

"I. That this Synod respectfully but firmly represent to the Government of Ontario their great dissatisfaction with the clauses of the Act above specified, and request that the Act be amended by the removal of the provisions which are regarded by this Synod as infringing upon the unquestioned right of Christian men;

"II. That a deputation consisting of the Moderator, Mr. Laing and the Clerk of Synod, with Mr. Charlton, M.P., be ap-