

THE EPISCOPAL COUNCIL.

Work to be Done by the "General Convention at Baltimore in October.

The Question of Liturgical Revision and the Proposed New Hymnal.

On the first Wednesday in October a triennial Council of the Episcopal Church of the United States will be held at Baltimore, Md. The work of this Convention will be watched with keen interest by Churchmen all over the world, and more particularly by those living in the United States, who will be more directly affected by any changes to be made.

In the United States, numerically the Protestant Episcopal church is behind the Catholic, Methodist and Baptist bodies, but it is, in proportion, by far the wealthiest of all the religious organizations of that country, and is growing in membership and influence faster than any other of them. The chief of the Division of Religious Statistics of the forthcoming United States Census estimates the total church membership in that country at about 2,100,000, with property amounting to \$646,128,704. In round numbers, the Episcopal Church has 500,000 communicants and property amounting to \$73,000,000, or \$146 per capita. Before the Revolution the clergy received orders in England, after the Revolution certain American clergymen were consecrated Bishops by the English Church. The Church of England and the Protestant Episcopal Church are alike as constituting branches of the Anglican communion, and the eloquence of Phillips Brooks is as much at home in Westminster Abbey as in Trinity Church, Boston.

The triennial council, to be held in Baltimore in October, will be known as the General Convention of 1892. It will consist, as its predecessors consisted, of two houses, the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies. The concurrence of both houses is necessary to the validity of decisions governing and binding on the Church, but legislation may be originated in either one of them. Sixty-seven Bishops will constitute the "upper house," and the House of Deputies will be composed of four clergymen and four laymen, making the House of Deputies, which is known colloquially as the "lower house," to consist of 416 members. The venerable Bishop of Connecticut, the Right Rev. John Williams, D. D., LL. D., will preside in the House of Bishops, by seniority; and in his absence from any cause, the Rt. Rev. Henry A. Neely, D. D., Bishop of Maine, who was elected to the honor of presiding in the absence of the senior Bishop at the last Convention, held in New York in 1889. The Right Rev. George D. S. T. D., D. C. L., was elected to preside over the deliberations of the House of Deputies at the Conventions of 1886 and 1889, and it is expected that the Deputies will make him their Chairman at the coming Convention. His ability as a presiding officer is very remarkable, and he represents what is, in respect to its age, wealth and influence, the leading parish of the Church.

LITURGICAL REVISION.

A matter of great importance to church people, which will come up for final action at Baltimore, is liturgical revision. At the Convention of twelve years ago, acting upon a resolution moved by the Rev. William R. Huntington, S. T. D., LL. D., now rector of Grace Church, New York, a committee was appointed to report at the Convention of 1883 on liturgical changes deemed desirable to promote greater flexibility in the services of the Church. Their report was received and continued in discussion until the Convention of 1889, when it was approved and left to be passed upon by the Convention of this year. The proposed changes having been passed upon as thus provided, a standard prayerbook of the Church will be issued, it is hoped, promptly after the Convention, to the gratification of both ministers and people; and leaflets bound up with the "Standard Prayer-Book of 1789," to be used optionally during the recent years of transition, will be among the afflictions of the past. Changes are chiefly, as was Dr. Huntington's wish, in the direction of giving a greater degree of discretion to the minister in the conduct of public worship. Both morning and evening prayer are considerably shortened at the will of the clergyman. A few changes are being made in the new "Standard Prayer-Book" will more nearly resemble the "Book of Common Prayer" of the Church of England than that of 1789. The addition of a new feast, that of the Transfiguration, to the church calendar, its date August 6, is another notable change.

Second only in importance to the matter of liturgical revision will be the consideration of the report on the hymnal for the Church, approved by the General Convention of 1889. The hymnal of 1871, improved in 1874, has been in general use since that date, and it is by no means certain that the new book, prepared by a committee at the head of which is the Rt. Rev. William Crosswell Doane, D. D., LL. D., Bishop of Albany, will be authorized to supersede it. While there seems to be almost a certainty that the new Standard Prayer-book will be adopted by the Convention, the report of the Committee on the New Hymnal, which, in common with the report on the Liturgical Revision, is published in printed form, is provoking so much adverse criticism as may result in its being amended and final action postponed for the Convention of 1895. The complaint is that the committee has been too radical in its action. Their book leaves out 261 hymns contained in the present hymnal, which is a seriously radical innovation for so conservative a body as a Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church to make. It forms a far more comprehensive volume than the present hymnal, containing 673 hymns and thirty-two doxologies. Little fault is found, or can be found, with its literary quality, and whether or not the matter of providing a new hymnal for the Church will be postponed until the Convention of 1895, Bishop Doane and his fellow-committee-

men have compiled a volume which is exceedingly valuable as a treasury of devotional poetry, intended for use in public worship. Not a few of the clergy favor the adoption of the American hymn book of the most popular English hymn book, "Hymns Ancient and Modern," and possibly if the Convention should decide upon taking a radical course in giving the Church a new hymnal, which is quite unlikely to happen, the English book may have the preference over that of the Bishop Doane committee. Lively discussion certainly will follow the report on the proposed hymnal. The various schools of thought, which alike find home and loyalty within the broad inclosure of the Protestant Episcopal Church, will find opportunity of large discourse in its consideration.

CANONS OF ORDINATION.

It is probable that some action will be taken at the Baltimore Convention with regard to the "canons of ordination." The fact is a highly suggestive one, that not a few ministers of other religious bodies seek admission into the ministry of the Protestant Episcopal Church. At the General Convention held in New York in 1889, the House of Bishops made much amendment to the canons of ordination, which would reduce considerably the time of preparation for ordination of ministers from other bodies. No action was taken in the matter by the House of Deputies, but it is probable that the coming Convention will take the direction of facilitating the advent into the ministry of the Church of men who, by their experience as ministers in other bodies, are already partially, and, in some instances, fully qualified for almost immediate service.

Another subject of great importance to the future of the Church in this vast country, and which probably will be discussed in the Convention, is that of dividing the United States into provinces, each of these to consist of several dioceses. This is a very serious and great question, and one which involves geographical difficulty. New York State is included at the present time five dioceses, and these would be constituted one province without the geographical difficulty suggested; but obviously provincial boundaries could not be made coincident with State boundaries. Tiny Rhode Island could not be constituted a province, while New York could be. The provincial system would involve the abolition of the present practice of every diocese in the Church having a vote for or against the consecration of a Bishop elected by one of them, the vote of every diocese within the province then only being taken. Other great constitutional changes would be involved in the adoption of the provincial system. The necessity of a General Convention being held every twelve years having its Synodical authority, the province having its own provincial governing body of the Church, much work which comes under the present constitution, within the scope of its legislative authority. An intelligent view of the operations of the Church in the wide field of the United States leads inevitably to the conclusion that the adoption of the provincial system is among the coming constitutional changes of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and indications are not wanting that the Baltimore Convention will consider the question sufficiently at length to reach a decision.

Missionary Bishops—those who have charge of the work of the Church which is chiefly or altogether of a missionary character—are elected by the House of Bishops in Convention, and not by the people, as where the parochial system has been adopted. The House of Deputies, as a matter of course, adopts the action of the House of Bishops in this matter of electing or "setting off," as it is called, Missionary Bishops. More of these will be "set off" at the coming Convention, in all probability, and the aggressive work of the Church thereby strengthened. It is expected also that the House of Bishops will elect and the Convention will appoint a Bishop each for Japan and China.

Public interest in the Baltimore Convention of 1892 culminates in its being the governing body of the Anglican communion as represented in this country; and that communion which, in its unbroken continuity from apostolic times, its catholicity and its comprehensive liberality, presents promise of the reunion of Christendom. Six years ago the House of Bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church proposed as a basis for the union of English-speaking Christians four propositions, which, in 1888, were adopted with slight changes by about 150 Bishops of the Anglican communion assembled in conference at Lambeth, under the presidency of the Archbishop of Canterbury. These are: (1) The Holy Scriptures, the Old and New Testaments as they are revealed in God; (2) The Nicene Creed as the sufficient statement of the Christian faith; (3) the two sacraments, baptism and the supper of the Lord, ministered with the presence of the elements of institution and of the elements ordained by him; and (4) the historic episcopate locally adapted in the methods of its administration to the various needs of the nations and people called by God into the unity of his Church. The most cultivated men in the leading religious denominations of English-speaking countries find in these propositions at least some ground upon which they may all meet in common to look for and consider the means of co-operation instead of wasteful and unprofitable competition in religious work, and by these means to take the first step toward the organic unity of the universal Church.

German Military Movements.

BRUSSEL, Sept. 26.—The Alsatian manoeuvres which were abandoned on account of the outbreak of the Franco-German war, the plan made out for this fall's movements. The specimen battalion recruited from all the German regiments and quartered in Potsdam, was dispersed when "Berliner" in its march toward the Rhine, but as the danger is past orders have been sent out that it reassemble.

General Roberts' Mission.

ST. PETERSBURG, Sept. 26.—The Novosti publishes an article in regard to the mission headed by General Roberts to the Amur of Afghanistan. The Novosti says the mission is calculated to lead to the absorption of Afghanistan by Great Britain, which is to be done by the route to the Indian Ocean, and it is creating a much greater motive for the Anglo-Russian war than the Pamirs matter.

NEWS OF THE PROVINCE.

Floods Near New Westminster Interfere With the Train Service.

Importers at Pilot Bay in Trouble With the Customs—The Mining Room.

(Special to the Colonist.)

WESTMINSTER. Heavy rains have raised the water in the Coquitlam river to such a height that it has overflowed its banks at places, and now threatens the destruction of the railway bridge at Westminster Junction. Several supports of the structure have been carried away and trains cannot cross until the water subsides and allows the repairs to be made. The Whatcom Express was cancelled this morning, but the through passengers went out, the in-coming and out-going trains exchanging passengers, the latter crossing the bridge on foot.

Many people have made arrangements to take in the Victoria fair, but the continued bad weather will reduce the crowd. The shipments of canned salmon East by rail have been very heavy of late, a carload going out for almost every day.

NANAIMO. (NANAIMO, Sept. 26.—Rev. R. J. Adamson, of Alberni, and Captain Dillon, of Northfield, have been appointed Provincial Deputy Grand Worthy Patriarchs for the Province of British Columbia; they are both members of the Victoria lodge. Two popular wedding came off in this city on Saturday. The first was that of J. Mitchell to Miss E. Manning, by Rev. Mr. Tooley. After the ceremony the wedding party left for Victoria, where the honeymoon will be spent. A case was married privately to Miss Jenny Jones, by Rev. Dr. Good, and J. Cameron to Miss M. Grant, by Rev. McKee.

Every night during the past week complaints have been made to the police of an individual who has taken a fancy to attack lone females as they are on their way home.

At St. Paul's church on Sunday Rev. Canon Good preached a "Harvest Thanksgiving sermon," and in honor of the occasion the church was beautifully decorated with flowers and bunting. The voice of the province within the province then only being taken. Other great constitutional changes would be involved in the adoption of the provincial system. The necessity of a General Convention being held every twelve years having its Synodical authority, the province having its own provincial governing body of the Church, much work which comes under the present constitution, within the scope of its legislative authority. An intelligent view of the operations of the Church in the wide field of the United States leads inevitably to the conclusion that the adoption of the provincial system is among the coming constitutional changes of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and indications are not wanting that the Baltimore Convention will consider the question sufficiently at length to reach a decision.

Arrived—s.s. Costa Rica and s.s. Grand-hotel.

Sailed—bark Wilma from San Francisco.

DUNCAN'S, Sept. 26.—J. H. Gordon shot a panther at Cowichan lake, on Wednesday last. He saw two of the animals playing in feline fashion on the beach of the lake when he opened the door of his house, and put an end to their gambols.

Walter F. Barton and wife left, on Saturday last, on an extended hunting trip to the Mainland, in search of mountain sheep and big game. The North Cowichan Municipal Council met at the Agricultural Hall, Duncan, on Saturday last, the Rev. W. Drinkwater, and Councillors W. H. Lomas, J. N. Evans, T. A. Macdonald, and others were present. The business transacted was of the usual financial and routine nature.

The consecration of the church and cemetery at Chemalun river will take place on Friday, September 26. The Lord Bishop of the diocese and several clergy are expected to be present. Divine service and the ceremony of consecration to commence at 11 o'clock a.m. Trains will put down passengers opposite the church, and take them up in the afternoon. Should the day be fine, it will be a pleasant and interesting opportunity to those who may take an interest in church matters.

OKANAGAN MISSION. (From the Vernon News.)

The Okanagan Sawmill Co., whose mill was destroyed by fire a short time ago, are making arrangements to rebuild.

Fires have been doing a great deal of damage on the west side of the lake. The church at Kootenay Lake, owned by Rev. Mr. Somerville, of Glasgow, was the event of last week.

This week we have a number of American excursionists, hunters, etc., who are having a good time. With them are also four smart negro waiters.

Charles Mair has opened out in his new store at Kelowna.

Recent visitors of the law have not yet had the effect of doing away with the practice of giving liquor to the Indians.

PILOT BAY. Kootenay Lake, Sept. 22.—Mr. Joshua Davies left Spokane on Sunday last. Mr. Franklin Farrell, accompanied by Dr. Hendry, left on Monday.

The great want in this recreational country is a newspaper conducted by a large-minded and enterprising journalist; the tendency with the local "prints" being to discuss narrow and exclusive interests that are of little earthly value in the development of the country. A recent reference to Mr. Joshua Davies (a man to whom the district owes more than to any other individual for his share in the original exploitation of the West Kootenay country), is in these terms: "J. P. Davies is having a look at the ranches in the neighborhood." This is regarded here as flippant and disrespectful, and evincing a considerable amount of gross ignorance.

The Davies-Sayward timber limits on the Goat River have now been surveyed by Messrs. Perry, Gray & Davis, who start this week for the Duncan River on the same business there.

Daniel J. Cain, of Edmonds, Seattle, is absent, leaving, it is said, debts estimated at \$2,500. He was in partnership with J. H. Cain, in a company that supplied five miles of logs to the Davies-Sayward Company. He was also employed as sawyer at that company's mill at high wages.

The Smelter Company have appointed Mr.

Jenks as metallurgist on their works; he is an expert of the first rank and receives a very high rate of remuneration.

Dr. Hendry will shortly go to Victoria in connection with the deeds of transfer to the Smelter Co. of the lands donated to them by the Davies-Sayward Co.

The steamer Galena, the Smelter Co.'s boat, has ceased running for the season; she has done very well indeed, and can run again when needed. She has always been a favorite, as she ran upon a pretty close time schedule, and because in the early days when she was the only passenger boat on the lake, she dealt liberally with prospectors, and charged rates which might easily have been doubled. The Ainsworth, a faster boat, will probably take the place which she has vacated.

The minotaur gales are now in full blast, and the lake gets wild enough to stop off any small craft.

Considerable flutten amongst importers from the States is visible everywhere in the early in the spring, and development work will be rushed, a large number of men being employed. A Boston capitalist recently made Mr. Blackburn an offer of \$100,000 for a group of his Washington claims.

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P. Sabiston, of the Commercial hotel, is lying dangerously ill of pneumonia.

Tinto, a son of Joseph Taylor, was kicked by a mule this afternoon, and though severely injured will recover.

David Edwards and Dan McGillivray left a few days ago for the North in their sleep. St. Patrick. Neither of the men being an expert angler, they were caught in a storm last Friday and driven ashore on Sangeter Island. All their provisions were lost with the exception of one tin of salmon and part of a loaf of bread, which they had to suffice on until Sunday morning.

After remaining on the Island from Saturday until yesterday morning they made a raft and attempted to cross to twelve miles north-east of Trout lake. One of the men, who was a very good swimmer, was measured 26 feet in width, with four feet of solid galena, and was traced for over 3,000 feet. Like most of the Lardeau men, these Indians are of immense size and strength, carrying 445 lbs. and 210 lbs. silver per ton. The other ledge is 14 feet in width, with three feet of solid mineral, carrying over \$28 in gold and \$88 in silver to the ton.

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