

coming a menace to civilization, citing as an instance a young man who had been in Montreal but thirty-six hours and received from some unknown source an invitation to visit a questionable resort. He asked Mr. Rudge how he thought they secured his name. Mr. Rudge stated that in one community of thirty-two thousand people, with five thousand young men between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five, and twenty-one Protestant churches, seventy-six young men joined the church and two hundred and twenty-one were convicted of crime. He advocated treating the young men with attention and tact, not patronizing them, but showing an interest in their lives and then assigning to them work to do in the line of reaching others.

Diocesan Theological College.—The annual convocation was held last Monday evening, under the presidency of His Lordship Bishop Bond. The Rev. Principal Henderson, in presenting his annual report, made touching reference to the death of the late Mrs. Phillips, the Right Rev. Ashton Oxenden and Mr. John Duncan. In the matter of statistics, since the foundation of the college in 1873, a hundred and fourteen students had been admitted to study. Of these, fifty had been ordained, twenty-five are now serving in the diocese, and nine are working in the city, a fact which in itself testified to the relative qualifications of the men and the value of the work done by the institution. Four men have taken their "Testamur" and completed their course, and have been handed into the Bishop for further examination, and, if approved, for ordination. Thirty-one students have been connected with the college during the past year, a larger number than ever before entered at one time. They were divided as follows:—Graduates in arts, 3; undergraduates at McGill, 11; partial students in arts, 11; preparing for matriculation in arts, 6; resident in the college, 25; non-resident, 5. In conclusion the principal pointed out that the building was being tested to its utmost capacity, and that even if but half of the men who have already applied for admission next September should be approved and admitted, the problem would be what to do with them. The prizes were then distributed.

ONTARIO.

RENFREW DEANERY.—The third annual Rural-Deanal Conference of the clergy, churchwardens and lay delegates of the rural deanery of Renfrew was held in St. Paul's church, Cobden, on Thursday and Friday, April 21st and 22nd. The Holy Communion was celebrated at 10 a.m., the Rural Dean being celebrant, with the Rev. W. A. Read and the Rev. G. J. Low, Epistoler and Gospeller respectively. At 11 a.m. the conference formally opened. Present:—Rev. Rural Dean Bliss (chairman); Rev. A. H. Coleman, Arnprior; Rev. W. A. Read, Pembroke; Rev. J. P. Smitherman, Stafford; Rev. J. Arthur Shaw, Cobden; Rev. R. W. Samwell, Mattawa; Rev. C. T. Lewis, Calabogie, and Messrs. Warren and Cashmore of Cobden mission. The Rev. G. J. Low, of Almonte, in the rural deanery of Lanark, was also present, and received a hearty welcome. The Rev. C. T. Lewis was appointed secretary, and the press committee of last year was re-appointed. The Rural Dean then delivered his annual address, the opening sentences of which referred in very feeling terms to the illness and consequent absence from the diocese of the bishop, and unsparingly condemned the anonymous scribbling in the secular press by which it was sought to give publicity to very unfair and untrue statements affecting the bishop and the diocese. "Forty years," he said, "has he given to the Church in this diocese, thirty of which as its first chief pastor. His administrative powers have left an indelible mark for good on the Church in this diocese. Its foundations have been laid true and deep. Look back over thirty-five years and on every hand you will find ample evidence to verify these words. And now, when age, and sorrow, and sickness have begun to leave their mark, and our bishop is forced to seek prolonged rest and change, his absence is deemed a fitting opportunity to be taken advantage of by those whom shame compels to hide their personality under a *nom de plume*. Let us show our condemnation of such unworthy acts by the increased warmth with which we shall extend to our bishop a hearty welcome on his return, with restored health, to his diocese." The Rural Dean then alluded in fitting terms to the episcopal visitation of the deanery by the Bishop of Niagara, which resulted in the confirmation of three hundred and three candidates, and the consecration of two churches and one burial ground, expressing great satisfaction that his Lordship's subsequent report to the commissary on the state of the Church in the deanery was highly encouraging. Alluding to the duties of his office, as now defined by episcopal and synodical action, the Rural Dean reported that all parishes and missions in the deanery had been officially visited during the past year, and that in several he had, by request, made a house to house canvass, with a view to increasing the local contributions towards the priest's income, the result

being, in every instance, highly encouraging. He proclaimed his readiness at all times to endeavour to fulfil the duties in accordance with the definition of them now published in the Book of Canons. Referring to the recent resolution of the Mission Board, and the need that existed for largely increased offerings, the Rural Dean said that it was a cause for very deep regret that the collections at the annual missionary meetings had not increased to the extent that might reasonably have been expected. While there had been considerable increase in seven missions or parishes, the very marked decrease in one instance left the total amount at about the same as last year, and it was being remarked that the poorer districts in which the Church had begun work only in recent years were now contributing larger offerings at our annual meetings than were obtained in the older and more wealthy sections of the deanery, as will be seen from the following figures, which represent the collections at the meetings held last fall: Mattawa, \$36.70; Pembroke, \$30.45; Petawawa, \$26.45; Beachburg, \$21.31; Combermere, \$15.65; Eganville, \$15.25; Stafford, \$10.56; Cobden, \$10.09; Calabogie, \$6.83; Arnprior, \$6.06; Renfrew, meetings yet to be held, but the card collections, generally made subsequent to the meetings, have already been reported and show a large advance on last year. He counselled greater exertions on the part of all concerned to raise our offerings to a higher level in view of the great responsibility of the diocese in connection with its missionary work, and regretted he was unable at present to recommend any reduction in the amount now appropriated by the mission board to this deanery. Alluding to his official canvass of the New Calabogie Mission, the Rural Dean instanced the case of one parishioner who "in his desire to see the ministrations of the Church duly supported, is not afraid to give \$25 per year towards the income of his priest, and another in the same mission gives \$15 per year." Then, after mentioning two missions in the deanery which ought to be self-supporting, one of which is widely known for such illiberal treatment of its clergyman that it generally falls vacant every twelve months, the Rural Dean said, "Is it any wonder, then, that the mission board is at last beginning to chafe under the constant drain upon its resources in order that many well-off farmers may keep their money securely pocketed, or locked up in mortgages, promissory notes, or bank stocks?" Referring to the numerous "special collections" ordered to be taken up in every parish and mission, the Rural Dean, while admitting that the subject had been so frequently discussed in synod as to have become almost threadbare, nevertheless suggested that some relief from these incessant notices be devised, whereby a longer interval would be allowed between the collections. He did not desire to be understood as underrating their necessity or importance, but their unequal distribution over the twelve months led to unnecessary friction. "In the season of Lent, just passed, we had circulars, post cards, placards, pamphlets, and press reminders, and no less than three special collections demanded, while at the same time the parochial card collectors were going about from house to house, their movements accelerated and their entreaties the more imploring in consequence of the warning note published in the CANADIAN CHURCHMAN a few weeks ago, anent the critical condition of the mission fund. . . . I do not think that any other collection should be ordered during the period in which the parochial collections for the mission fund are being called for from house to house. One fund or the other must suffer, perhaps both." Again the Rural Dean brought forward the question of the circulation of Church literature, expressing his conviction "that we are deplorably negligent in not taking some steps to provide our people, in a regular and systematic manner, with sound Church reading." He alluded to the recommendations made by a committee of Synod in the direction of establishing a *Diocesan Magazine*, and expressed regret that the project appeared to hang fire. It would have been to the interest of the Church in this diocese, he thought, had the Synod committed itself to support such a magazine, and then, through a responsible committee or otherwise, to have proceeded, in the ordinary way of business, to publish a specimen number and canvass the diocese for annual subscribers. A properly gotten up publication, recognised as the official organ of the diocese, would readily obtain a very large circulation. He also made suggestions in regard to the deanery being canvassed for the CANADIAN CHURCHMAN. The Rural Dean then passed on to a review of the question brought forward in his former paper on "*Our ill-paid Missionaries*," and concluded a very practical address by reading the resolutions which are to be submitted to Synod in connection with the scheme outlined in the paper above referred to. His concluding words on this subject are well worthy careful perusal, "The readiness with which subscriptions were increased in the missions so far canvassed has convinced me that the proposed scheme is a move in the right direction, and I am now confident that its general application throughout the diocese will

produce results highly beneficial to missionaries and to their work, while, at the same time, we may possibly be surprised at the comparatively immaterial increase that will be called for in the expenditure of the mission fund. If in four missions in one deanery a visit from the Rural Dean, and a house to house canvass of the parishioners, has invariably resulted in largely increasing the contributions towards clerical support, and if, in only one of the four missions canvassed (and that certainly an exceptional instance, being the new mission of Calabogie), the result will necessitate an application for increased grant, by what process of reasoning can any one argue against a trial of the same method of increasing stipends in every mission in the diocese? Or, again, if a Rural Dean can, unaided, succeed in the measure indicated in the report on the missions so visited by him in this deanery, how much greater may be the success attending his efforts when his visit is preceded by a stirring pastoral letter from the Bishop, such as alluded to in the scheme proposed? I think it a highly satisfactory statement to make, that in four missions in this deanery the contributions to clerical stipend are now, by reason of the application of the method above referred to, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four dollars, as compared with one thousand one hundred and forty-nine dollars, previously contributed, an increase of seven hundred and fifteen dollars. What better testimony to the practicability of the scheme do we require?" After adjournment for dinner the conference resumed its deliberations at 2 p.m., with a discussion on the Rural Dean's address, in which all the clergy took part.

The following resolution was then proposed by the Rev. W. A. Read, seconded by the Rev. J. P. Smitherman, and carried unanimously, "That this conference, recognizing the urgent necessity of Synodical action for the enforcement of the resolution of Synod with respect to the payment of priests and deacons in this diocese, cordially endorses the scheme drawn up with that object by the Rev. Rural Dean Bliss; and hereby expresses the sincere hope that the resolution embodied therein, submitted to the approval of this conference, and to appear in the list of motions in the Synod circular, will receive favourable consideration at the forthcoming Synod." It was further unanimously resolved "That the Rev. A. H. Coleman and the Rev. R. W. Samwell be appointed a committee to draw up a circular to be issued to the missionaries of the diocese, with a view to securing concerted action on their part for the carrying into effect of the Rev. Rural Dean Bliss' scheme at the forthcoming Synod, and that the draft of the circular be submitted for the approval of this conference before its adjournment." The subject of the special canonical collections and their frequent occurrence without sufficiently long intervals between, was discussed, but the conference failed to devise any means whereby the state of affairs could be remedied. The Rev. J. A. Shaw raised the question as to the possibility of the deanery establishing and circulating a magazine of its own. The subject was very fully discussed, and received the warm and enthusiastic support of all the clergy present, they being unanimous in their desire for some systematic circulation of sound Church literature, suitable to our rural population. It was finally resolved, on motion of Rev. W. A. Read, seconded by Rev. C. T. Lewis, "That the Rev. R. W. Samwell and the Rev. J. A. Shaw be appointed to take necessary steps for the preparation and issue of the first number of a *Deanery Magazine*." Subsequently some of the details were discussed, and the Rev. R. W. Samwell was appointed editor and business manager, with the Rev. J. A. Shaw as associate editor, full power being given them to proceed with the publication in accordance with the plan outlined by the Rev. Mr. Samwell.

The Rev. Geo. J. Low (Almonte) then read a most instructive paper, entitled "The Anglican Church in Canada, ideal, actual, possible," in the discussion of which all the clergy took part. Several points in connection with the scheme for the confederation of the Church in Canada were brought forward, considerable discussion ensuing. The Rev. Mr. Low was requested by the conference, on motion of Rev. R. W. Samwell, seconded by Rev. J. A. Shaw, to submit his paper to the editor of the *Montreal Daily Star*, with a request for its publication in that journal. A paper was then read by the Rev. W. A. Read (Pembroke) on "Christ the only Head of the Church," after discussing which the conference adjourned.

Evensong was said at 7.30 p.m., there being a fair congregation. The incumbent read the prayers and the Rev. C. T. Lewis the lesson, the Rev. G. J. Low preaching a sermon appropriate to the Easter season. Next morning the Holy Communion was again celebrated (7.30) and the conference opened at 10 o'clock. Communications were read from Rev. W. Quartermaine, Rev. J. Robinson and Rev. H. L. Charlton, explaining cause of their absence. The first order of business was the presentation of reports from parishes on the state of the Church, and these were handed to the press committee for use in preparing their report for publication. From these returns the following particulars are culled respecting the Church in