

SESSIONS OF DIOCESAN SYNOD HELD YESTERDAY

Reports of Many Committees Were Received—Salary Increases Recommended—H. A. Porter Appointed Provincial Organizer to Take Charge of Campaign in August—Address by Anglican Missionary to Japan.

A discussion marked by intense seriousness and deep feeling occurred at yesterday morning's session of the Anglican synod arising from the report of the standing committee on Bishop Richardson's charge and in particular a section of the report expressing agreement with the pronouncement on the matter of Christian unity.

Rev. G. A. Kuhring started the discussion with a frank statement that while yielding fullest respect to the bishop, he could not agree with him in the matter of the exchange of pulpits with clergymen of other denominations and pressed for greater liberty in this matter. Rev. R. F. McKim took the same stand, saying that the pronouncement had inspired disappointment and distrust among their brethren of other denominations. Dr. W. S. Carter also hoped that the clergy of the Anglican church would be able to take a more active part in the movement towards unity than this interpretation might admit.

His Lordship explained that he had expressed his own convictions on a matter of church law which he could not change. His pronouncement had been not against authorized exchanges when circumstances showed them desirable, but against free and general exchanges of pulpits without regard to the church rules. He was content that nothing in his charge would work injury to the cause of union.

The difficulty finally was solved by the adoption of an amended preamble which did not commit the synod to agreement with the bishop's interpretation of the rules.

The business session continued in the afternoon and last evening the delegates, with their hosts and hostesses were the guests of Sir Douglas and Lady Hazen at their home. The general sessions will continue today, and Friday is left open for unfinished business.

When the session began, the secretary reported that the delegates registered included sixty-two clergy and sixty-eight laymen. Never before, he said, had there been more laymen than clergy present, the previous record being forty-four.

The report of the standing committee on the bishop's charge was presented by Canon Neales as follows:

resign his commission in order that he might preach the gospel anywhere. (Hear, hear). He wanted the spirit of liberty as wide as possible, and he did not think a majority of Presbyterians in this synod could be found to condemn him for preaching elsewhere, and he was sure the provincial synod of Canada would support him. He spoke of the effect of such a stand on the men returning from the war, where they had learned a practical co-operation among the clergy of all denominations, and asked how they would be impressed by an attitude such as this. When men were going into battle he had not refused them the Sacrament, because they were not members of his denomination. He appealed to the common sense of the church and referred to many precedents as existing.

Mr. Kuhring's remarks were greeted with hearty applause. Bishop Richardson said that he recognized that there was a difference of opinion on this subject but he felt it his duty to make his own position clear. He had not expected the synod to meet on this question of the charge and he felt it would be better if this section should be allowed to stand.

Canon Neales said he did not think any one in the synod would oppose the recommendations of the committee. He thought all were in hearty accord on the pronouncement on Christian unity and he thought all would support it, and the one point regarding caution and short cuts should be carefully considered. They were not pronouncing upon the validity of ordination in other churches but the church had hedged about the ministry with certain rules and he felt they should not be disregarded.

The bishop said he had no desire for a vote which would be regarded as a reflection on certain members of the synod or a disagreement with his stand. It was a matter of opinion on which the church had not pronounced finally.

Rev. Mr. McKim.

Rev. R. F. McKim said that the terms of the charge had caused dissatisfaction and aroused a feeling of suspicion among these brethren in other churches. He could have withheld all his heart that certain sections could have gone a little further. He solemnly believed that they were in the last days, that Jesus Christ was coming again and coming soon, and that He had been grieved by His followers contending among themselves who should be the greatest. He made an eloquent plea, marked with deep feeling, for closer unity leading towards a final absolute reunion. He said the church was losing its opportunity because of lack of unity. He was glad that he had followed what had been done by some of the greatest men of the church. He quoted the stand of Hensley Henson, who gave

to each clergyman the right to preach where he felt called. He hoped there would be some way to correct the impression which had gone forth.

Dr. W. S. Carter said all agreed with the bishop on the principle of Christian unity but they wanted a clearer understanding on the subject of the participation of the clergy in the union movement. He hoped that the clergy of the church would be able to take their part in this great movement.

Canon Armstrong moved in amendment to the report that the section should read as follows: "In the matter of church unity we rejoice heartily in the spirit of unity abroad in the land and in every effort to that end and we recommend (as in original section)."

Statement by Bishop.

His Lordship said his charge represented his convictions arrived at after twenty years of thought on the subject. It said exactly what he meant. He was making no restrictions, he was merely expressing his judgment on the subject. They had a right to disagree; they could challenge his logic or his judgment, but they could not expect him to say anything not based on his convictions.

There rested on the bishop the responsibility of deciding when the rules should be departed from; he was ready to do so when he decided that the circumstances demanded it. He had not referred to authorized exchange of pulpits, but only to the free and general interchange without permission. He yielded to none in his desire for Christian unity. When the church was prepared to deal with that law of the church he was fully prepared to accept the ruling made. He did not believe that the words of his charge would do a bit of harm. He believed that the first step towards union was a frank recognition of the difficulties in the way. He challenged anyone to point to anything in the

charge which showed lack of respect for the separated brethren; his emphasis had been on the shortcomings of his own church. The amendment was put and adopted and the report was adopted as a whole.

The rules were suspended, on the entry of Bishop Williams of Quebec to permit of a vote of thanks for his sermon of the previous evening, moved by Canon Armstrong, to which Bishop Williams replied.

King's College. Canon Smithers presented the report of the Governors of King's College. It was stated that the advance movement had resulted in subscriptions of \$92,100 up to Dec. 31, 1918, and \$36,000 had been paid in. The diocese of Fredericton was asked to confer the degree of D. C. L. upon the Archbishop of Chatham, and M. G. Teed, Canon Smithers added that since the beginning of the year a bequest of \$15,000 had been received from the estate of Lady Haliburton, but not £15,000 as at first announced.

School for Girls. R. W. Hewson presented the report of the trustees of the church school for girls, Windsor, N. S., reporting the continued and growing success of the pupils. Financially the school was in twenty day boarders and twenty by healthy condition, the debt having been wiped out.

Sunday Schools. The report of the standing committee on Sunday schools was submitted by Rev. W. P. Dunham. The committee reviewed the work of the year and recommended that it was desirable that the Sunday school be reorganized as a department of the general church work and that the responsibility of financing the Sunday school be accepted by each parochial corporation.

Rev. G. W. Fisher suggested the establishment in this diocese of a branch of the church lantern exchange.

Rev. F. W. M. Bacon suggested that the schools might be improved by inducing more public school teachers to aid.

Dr. Carter said that the majority of teachers aided in the Sunday schools already. One denomination now gave religious instruction in the schools after hours and he thought they might undertake something of the same nature. The school houses might be used for any worthy public purpose and he thought that no trustee board would refuse permission.

Rev. R. A. Hiltz, general secretary of the Sunday school commission, announced that plans were being prepared for branches of the lantern slide exchange in each diocese and he thought that there would be no difficulty in placing one in New Brunswick. He would take up the matter. Mr. Hiltz then took up the report of the commission, printed copies of which had been distributed, and referred to some of the outstanding features and told of the work which was being carried on by the commission.

The synod adjourned until 2:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

Afternoon Session.

The report of the standing committee on Sunday Schools was read by Rev. W. P. Dunham, secretary, and adopted. This report, while covering the activities of the committee during the past term, also embraces the reports of the Home Department, the Primary and Post Roll, the Chatham Deacons' S. S. Association, the Fredericton Deacons' S. S. Association, St. Andrew's Deacons' S. S. Association, the St. John Deacons' Association, Woodstock Deacons' Association, Superintendent of the Missionary Department, report of the Teacher Training Department for 1918 and a summary of Sunday School statistics for the past year.

The report of the Committee on Constitution and Canons, was read by the Rev. Canon Smithers. This report takes in the amendment to the "Church of England Act, 1912," passed at the last sitting of the Provincial Legislature. Regarding the change in time for the annual meeting of parishioners, the committee recommended that the following be adopted: "A meeting of persons entitled in each parish to mission to vote in the election of churchwardens, and vestrymen shall be held upon the first Monday in January, or within five days thereafter, or upon Easter Monday in each year." This recommendation was later amended by changing the time to a fixed date, Easter Monday.

The report of the Committee on Statistics and the State of the Church, requesting that returns be made in more legible form and more promptly, was read by Canon Smithers, and adopted.

The Rev. W. H. Sampson read the report of the Social Service Council. Mrs. J. H. McAvity, Mrs. R. Hooper and Miss Alice Walker are also on the committee, being the first women to act on such a body in the history of the Fredericton Synod. It was suggested that a deaconess be appointed for meeting and befriending young girls coming to St. John as strangers.

The report of the Corresponding Committee of the Colonial and Continental Church Society, covering student help for the summer months was read by the Rev. W. H. Sampson and adopted.

Mrs. Foster read the report of the Women's Auxiliary to the M.S.C.C. and the Diocesan Missions, showing that five senior branches have been organized since the last annual meeting.

The Rev. W. H. Sampson read the report on the Maritime Home for Girls, requesting that the Home be given the consideration of the church people of the diocese and well worthy of their support.

On motion of Rev. G. A. Kuhring, it was approved that the Synod take advantage of the option of a share in the Maritime Home for Girls, following the information contained in a letter read from the Rev. Mr. Shearer, uniting with the Nova Scotia diocese in the matter, the financial matters being referred to the Social Service Council.

(Continued on page 5)

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THE WEATHER

Toronto, Ont., April 30.—The weather today has been rainy and cool with strong winds in the Maritime provinces, and fair and mild in other parts of the Dominion. Rain continues in Newfoundland.

	Min.	Max.
Prince Rupert	28	44
Victoria	40	54
Vancouver	40	62
Kamloops	38	72
Calgary	28	69
Edmonton	30	60
Medicine Hat	32	66
Winnipeg	33	58
Port Arthur	23	50
Perry Sound	38	58
London	33	61
Toronto	36	54
Montreal	40	54
Quebec	34	54
St. John	34	42
Halifax	36	38

Forecast for Maritime—Fresh or light winds, clearing and a little colder.

Northern New England—Cloudy Thursday; probably showers; moderate variable winds.

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