

Dr. Hodgins read an extract from the *Algoma Missionary News*, in favour of a division of the diocese, and asked whether the utterances of that paper had any force at all in dealing with the question. Those utterances were distinct, and he might say influenced the Toronto committee in deciding to invite the Toronto clergy.

Dean Llwyd—The utterances are those of the editor.

Dr. Hodgins—We regarded it in that light.

Dean Llwyd—The paper is published as the official organ of the diocese, but for its utterances the editor is responsible, and no one else, because, as I have said, we have not met or discussed the question publicly. Our next meeting will be held in May, when we expect the Bishop back.

The Bishop of Toronto said he had received a letter from the Bishop of Algoma, in which he alluded to the question, but it was a private communication. The Bishop of Algoma had his own views on the subject.

*Views of Other Delegates.*—Rev. Dr. Langtry alluded to the discussions that had taken place in the Provincial Synod in relation to the increase of the Episcopate. A resolution was unanimously adopted by the Lower House affirming the desirability of such a course, and if he was not mistaken, the Lower House went so far as to commit themselves to an expression of opinion aiming at an increase of certainly four new dioceses. He believed it was that action of the Lower House that had kept the question before the Church, and had led to the discussions which had resulted in the present conference. He was persuaded that in reaching the conclusions they did, the Lower House were influenced by the conviction that the Church was not making that progress in aggressive work that it should make. The Church would not be able to make much progress except she were in the position of an army, with her officers at the head to direct her movements, and he thought the present feeling was, some of the dioceses were of such an extent that it was not practicable for the Bishop to be in the front of every movement in his diocese, as they would like to see him.

Rev. Alfred Brown pointed out that in the Province of Ontario they had territory five times the extent of that of New York State. Looking at the map they could see that of recent years there had been very little advance as far as an increase of the Episcopate was concerned. He was afraid the increase of the Episcopate had not kept pace with the opening up of the territory. The last census returns revealed a very sad fact. According to those, whilst the Roman Catholics increased 13 per cent., the Methodists 10 per cent., and the Presbyterians 8 per cent., the historic Church of England had increased but 5 per cent. in this province. Some of the clergy were of opinion an increase of the Episcopate would largely remedy the lack of progress, which they all lamented. Rev. Mr. Brown concluded by moving:

"That in the opinion of this conference it is desirable that there should be an increase of the Episcopate in the Province of Ontario."

The motion was seconded by Rev. Dr. Mockridge.

*A Voice from Niagara.*—Mr. E. Martin, Q.C., would not care to vote one way or the other upon the resolution, seeing that, so far as he knew, no proposition had ever come before the Diocese of Niagara. He supposed in a general way it was desirable there should be an increase of the Episcopate, but whether it was practicable to do so at the present time, looking at the geographical aspect of the question, was more than he could at the moment say. He did not feel that he had any right to bind his diocese by any vote.

Mr. Charles Jenkins remarked that the spirit of the Lower House of the Provincial Synod was that the Church's machinery required extension, and that this should be done in a proper way by increasing the number of personal agencies at work, commencing with the Episcopate. He did not attach too much importance to the statistics of the census, but, no doubt, they afforded some sort of indication as to the progress that had been made. In regard to the position of the Church of England amongst the Protestant communities, there was a constant tendency to go off into sects, and, to his mind, to keep that centrifugal tendency in its proper place was the office of the Bishop. Had it been possible to have had more Bishops in times past, he was convinced that a great many of the dissensions and schisms that had arisen would have been spared the Church. In regard to the future, he thought it necessary that the Church should be properly manned in all respects. Under the Episcopal system supervision and oversight were required, and the very large extent of country their Bishops had to cover, with the great demands upon their time for every department of Church work, to his mind made it absolutely imperative the appointment of another Bishop in the western part of the Province should be made as soon as it could possibly be effected.

Mr. Matthew Wilson was sorry he could not support the resolution in its present form. It spoke of

increase of the Episcopate in Ontario when all the delegates of the Ontario dioceses were not present, and it seemed to him, in that case, they might as well lay down the principle of an extension of the Episcopate in British North America. He had prepared a resolution that would not confine the conference to any particular way or means in rendering more effectual the work of the Church throughout the dioceses that were represented. His resolution, which Judge Ermatinger was prepared to second, read as follows:

"That, in the opinion of the delegates present from the various dioceses of Toronto, Huron, Niagara and Algoma, it is desirable that some alteration should be made in the boundaries of one or more of these dioceses, whereby the territory of at least the larger should be reduced, and the Episcopate should be increased or extended or made more effectual."

Dr. Hodgins showed that the traditional views of the diocese had always been in favour of an extension of the Episcopate. It was found that wherever there was a Bishop, there also was a centre of Church power and influence. Under the circumstances, as a member of the old Diocese of Toronto, he felt perfectly safe in voting for the resolution. Matters of detail might be settled afterwards. The question was, Were they prepared to endorse a principle that would lead to the growth of the Church? A statement made at the last General Conference of the Methodist Church was that since the last ten years the natural increase in membership was nearly 100 per cent. As Churchmen they ought to look at these things, and do all they could to help the Church forward. He had received a letter from Rev. Dr. Mountain, rector of the Mountain Family Memorial Church, of Cornwall, stating that he had provided the means for creating a new diocese, to be known as the Diocese of Cornwall, and pointing out, from his own experiences, the necessity for an increase of Episcopal authority.

Rural Dean Jones pointed out that the conference had not met to commit any of the dioceses to any particular scheme, and a motion declaring that the increase of the Episcopate was desirable would not have that effect. It only amounted to an assertion that the growth and prosperity of the Church might be expected to increase with the growth of the Episcopate. If the conviction prevailed that it was not desirable to have more Bishops, the whole thing would fall to the ground. The trouble had been to find Bishops who were willing to have their territory curtailed for the benefit of the Church. (Laughter.)

After some further discussion, Rev. Mr. Brown announced his willingness to withdraw his own motion in favour of Mr. Wilson's. The resolution of the latter gentleman was then put, and carried unanimously.

The Bishop of Toronto then read some extracts from the private letter received by him from the Bishop of Algoma, which seemed to indicate that he was not in sympathy with a division of his diocese.

*Rearrangement of Dioceses.*—Discussion then took place as to the best method of accomplishing the desired increase.

Judge Ermatinger moved the resolution, seconded by Rev. Alfred Brown:

That the area of the several dioceses here represented be rearranged, and a new diocese formed, as follows, viz.: Toronto Diocese—To consist of Northumberland, Peterboro, Durham, Haliburton, Victoria, Ontario, York, Peel, Toronto.

Huron—To consist of Essex, Elgin, Huron, Kent, Lambton, Middlesex, Oxford, Perth.

Niagara—To consist of Halton, Wellington, South Waterloo, Brant, Wentworth, Haldimand, Norfolk, Welland, Lincoln.

New diocese—Parry Sound, Muskoka, Simcoe, North Wellington, Grey, Bruce.

It was moved by Rev. Dr. Langtry, seconded by Rev. Dr. Mockridge:

That this conference recommends the formation of a western diocese, consisting of the Counties of Grey and Bruce and the whole district of Algoma, including the Island of Manitoulin and all the territory west of the French River.

And, secondly, an eastern diocese, comprising the Counties of Northumberland, Durham, Peterboro, Victoria and Haliburton, and the districts of Muskoka, Parry Sound and Nipissing.

Mr. Martin advised the conference to carefully consider the question of where the funds were to be obtained in creating new bishoprics. Niagara received no portion of the original Endowment Fund, and yet they were called upon to contribute to Algoma a very much larger proportion, having regard to their funds, than he thought was furnished by any of the other dioceses contributing. That was giving great dissatisfaction in his diocese, and sooner or later the sum contributed by them would be chopped altogether, or very materially reduced.

The Bishop of Toronto pointed out the effect of the proposed rearrangement in regard to his own diocese, and said he would bitterly grieve to lose Port Hope and its school out of his own diocese.

*Referred to a Sub-Committee.*—After some further discussion, the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Rev. Canon Young:

"This conference does not now proceed to vote upon either of the propositions now before us, but refers them both to a sub-committee, consisting of Rev. Dr. Langtry, Dr. Hodgins, Venerable Archdeacon Dixon, Mr. E. Martin, Q.C., Mr. Matthew Wilson, Q.C., Rev. Canon Young and Rural Dean Llwyd."

The motion was carried unanimously.

Dr. Hodgins gave the substance of the letter he had received from the Rev. Dr. Mountain, stating that he had made provision in his will for the creation of a new diocese in the eastern part of the Province. It was referred to the sub-committee to deal with the propositions.

The conference then adjourned.—*Mail and Empire.*

## HURON.

MAURICE S. BALDWIN, D.D., BISHOP, LONDON.

ST. THOMAS.—*Lecture by the Lord Bishop of Huron, on Egypt and the Holy Land.*—Your correspondent had the pleasure of attending a delightful lecture on the above subject on Monday evening, the 4th inst., at Trinity school-house, in aid of the funds of the W.A.M.A. The proceedings began by singing the "Church's One Foundation," and a few appropriate prayers, after which the Rev. Canon Hill, M.A., the rector and chairman, in a few felicitous remarks, introduced His Lordship to the audience, which by this time had filled the spacious school-room, stating that, but for the sake of the courteous formality, he felt it scarcely necessary to introduce the Right Reverend lecturer to a people among whom he had been so long and affectionately known both as pastor and Bishop. As His Lordship came forward he was received with enthusiasm. His lecture, which is here only summarized, lasted two hours and maintained throughout an unflagging interest which at frequent intervals was duly manifested. It consisted of his experience and impressions during his visit to Egypt and Palestine a couple of years ago, and contained a good deal of historical and archaeological information. Many passages of the lecture were much brightened by His Lordship's humorous and graphic descriptions of the manners and customs of the people he met, and of the odd situations in which he at times found himself. As so excellent a lecture deserves something more than mere "summary justice," the writer, in deference to the demands on your space, proposes to give, by instalments, the copious notes he took down, to the CANADIAN CHURCHMAN, for the benefit of your many interested readers in this diocese who may not have the pleasure of hearing the lecture in all its animated fullness from the lips of their Bishop.

His Lordship, in introducing his subject, referred to the great importance of taking into consideration and studying the historic past of Italy, Egypt and Palestine, because of its evidential value in strengthening the grasp with which the intellect of the Christian holds the "Faith once for all delivered to the Saints," and its great effect in animating and sustaining, through Divine grace, the faith and hope of the human heart. To the thoughtful Christian the noted places, the great events connected therewith—the history of peoples and nations, betraying in a remarkable manner, here and there, to our minds, the hand of Divine Providence, are not only of interest, but deeply absorbing, affecting powerfully the spiritual life. Notably may be instanced such as are connected with Israel and made known through the Holy Bible to the whole world, whose history is also illustrated and illuminated by the many side lights of secular story.

His Lordship began the account of his extended tour at Naples. He set sail, or rather took passage, on a steamer from the Bay of Naples on a bright February afternoon in 1893 for the City of Alexandria, in Egypt. As the vessel receded from the ancient and famous Neapolitan capital, with its marble edifices, great Vesuvius and the picturesque mainland, Ischia and the Island of Caprae, and the whole beautiful Bay of Naples, he was filled with admiration and wonder at the magnificence of the scene. Passing on he observed those dangerous and noteworthy spots in the Sicilian straits, Scylla and Charybdis, famous in proverb and fable, and he viewed the coasts and vine clad mountains of Sicily. Though the temperature was hot and the atmosphere and sky serene, and the air balmy on the mainland of Italy, the country was afflicted with pestilential malaria and unhealthy, so much so that an Italian had said, "See the Bay of Naples and die;" but an unkind physician had said it was "a difficult matter to see it and not die." As one moves out into the Mediterranean, he finds that the climate changes. Here the weather becomes much colder and very disagreeable, and the sea was exceedingly rough, reminding the lecturer of the experiences of St. Paul at Melita, now the Island of Malta. The roughness of the weather retarded the vessel so much that it took from Tuesday until Saturday to reach the Port