

members of the Synod were much pleased and touched with their reception.

Our Indian Mission Fund demands the most earnest consideration of the Synod. Some of the older missions have been taken up by the Home Mission Fund, but most of the others in the Province of Manitoba, since the reduction of the C. M. S. grant, come upon the Indian Mission Fund. The remaining Indian missions in this Diocese, most of which are in the Province of Ontario, are still supported by the C. M. S. That Society, in addition to the salary of Archdeacon Phair, and \$200 from the Finlayson bequest for this country, still gives a block grant of \$10,400. I am happy to inform the Synod that the Society has most kindly suspended any further reduction for two years, but I am informed that this has been done against the wishes of a large minority, and out of consideration for myself and my opinion. This is not very satisfactory. This period of two years is intended to give an opportunity for the organizing of the mission scheme of the Church in the Dominion, but what that will amount to is, from the circumstances that I have laid before you, doubtful—but we need not look into the future. The present position is sufficiently grave. The Indian Fund at the beginning of the last financial year had a credit balance of \$465. During the year there was at one time a heavy adverse balance. This has been reduced to \$211 by the effort in the East of Archdeacon Phair, for whose work we should be very grateful. Only casual sums can be expected till next Epiphany season, and before that there may be an adverse balance of \$1,500. How is this alarming deficiency to be met? It is only fair to the Executive committee that this should be considered. I have dwelt year by year during my whole Episcopate on the duty of our people to give to this Fund. No Christian Church should be satisfied unless it is making an effort for the extension of the Gospel outside of itself, and certainly for us, and indeed for the whole Church of Canada, the Heathen Indian and weak Christian Indian congregations have a first claim. God will be found richly to bless those, who make such efforts for the sake of Christ and precious souls—bless them, perhaps not in the gifts of this life, but at any rate in their spiritual peace and joy. I think we could do more for this fund. Many of the collections are small—far under what the Executive committee asked. Frequently the collections are only taken at one or two centres. It is a question whether, in view of the urgency for larger means for this fund, it would not be better not to tie the collection to the Epiphany season, though it comes in with especial fitness at that season. In that case Archdeacon Phair, personally or by a deputy, might advocate and explain the work in a number of parishes and missions. There is but little opportunity for this in the short season of Epiphany. I cannot leave this subject without expressing my sense of the bright promise of the future of missionary work that we have in the growth of the Churchwoman's Auxiliary to Missions. The Association met with a grave loss last year in the death of its able and devoted president, Mrs. Cowley, who had been brought up in a missionary atmosphere and was always given to good works in all directions. But the Association has made en-

couraging progress in the past year. It is taking root in many parishes. Every promise is thus given of the healthiest kind of mission interest, that which is spontaneous, and not simply dependent, on sympathy with addresses of imported speakers. It was pointed out at the annual meeting of C.M.S. Association Secretaries in January, that the marked progress in some parishes and districts was generally due to voluntary local workers.

During the year a hospital has been maintained at Denevor for the Indians, under a competent and experienced physician. This is a most useful and much-needed philanthropic work. I commend it to the support of the members of the Church.

The committee that was appointed to communicate with the Baptist Body, on the intrusion into our Indian missions, prepared a careful statement, which was placed before that body; but no reply has been received and the interference continues. It is lamentable, when there are so many bodies of Indians, still heathen, that this Christian Body should, instead of ministering to some heathen tribe, spend its abilities and means in disturbing our work and unsettling our converts. It will probably be desirable to publish the statement.

Since the last meeting of Synod an important arrangement has been agreed upon between the Dominion and Provincial Governments for the settlement of the School Question, and a measure has been passed for carrying that arrangement into effect. Many of us would be glad if there was the opportunity of imparting religious instruction, which the Church of England possesses in England in its Voluntary Schools; but it is useless to think of this in view of our limited means and sparse population. The General Synod, appreciating the condition of the country, passed resolutions affirming that it is essential both for the community and the children that there should be religious instruction in the primary schools; that a half an hour each school day, and, if possible, the first half hour, should be given to religious instruction; that reasonable arrangements should be made for such religious instruction being given by the clergy or their deputies to the children of their own Communion, or by the teacher in the case of Communions agreeable to this, that, where the above cannot be carried out, we shall rejoice at the introduction into the school "Course of Studies" of such religious instruction as shall include the teaching of (1) Selections from the Old and New Testaments, and (2) the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments.

The evident intention of the Act passed by our Legislature is to afford the means of religious instruction for the children of those who desire it, without interfering with the best secular instruction possible in the circumstances of the country. If the Government and School Trustees administer the Act in this spirit, there will be an opportunity for securing almost all that the General Synod desired, and that, I believe, in our circumstances is at all practicable with equal treatment for all religious bodies. But there are provisions in the Act which make it possible for the intention of the Act being frustrated, as, owing to the very small attendance