

ence. In detail the Bishop spoke of the work coming under his special care. He suggested the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Synod by the making of a determined effort to place the general purposes fund on a safe and permanent basis. It was with pleasure that he recorded an increase in general church finances over \$5,000 ahead of last year. It was regrettable, however, that the clergy fund had been reduced during the year.

The report of the committee on the State of the Church was very full and shows us what is still lacking to make the work of the church in the Diocese more fruitful.

The report showed progress throughout the Diocese in every department of the church's finances over the previous year except in the stipends of the clergy. There was an increase in the number of baptisms. The finances are better in many ways, but in other points the work sadly needs energetic devotion.

N. B.—Look at what is said of our own Deanery:

Wellington Deanery shows an increase of 8 Sunday school teachers, \$464 for parochial objects and \$1,240 insurance on church buildings; but a decrease of 33 church families, 216 in church population, 11 baptisms, 36 confirmees, 265 communicants, 314 Sunday school pupils, \$42 for extra parochial objects, \$1,497 in stipends, \$1,066 in total collections and \$1,200 in parsonage insurance. There are no Sunday schools at Alma, Reading, Bowling Green, Moorefield, Drayton and Farewell. 23 congregations of 1,114 church families contributed \$6,642 to stipends, being an average of \$280 for each congregation, or \$5.80 per family. The debts in this Deanery amount to \$15,905.

The Bishop in his address noted the decrease in Sunday school pupils and in church attendance. He was disposed to follow the Bishop of Toronto, in attributing it to Sunday bicycling, and this is no doubt partially true. But may there not be another reason, this we believe to be found in the increased

number of societies, which demand time and are helping to destroy, in large measure, the influence of the home. Family life is interfered with by the claims of societies, parish organizations, social gatherings, fraternal societies, etc., which take up so many evenings, that there is no time or strength for the true home life. This state of affairs is becoming a serious danger to the young and the old fashioned home life seems to be passing away. It will be a sad day for all when Home ceases to be the centre of family life.

In summing up the committee further states:

We have in the diocese 6,647 church families, 10,659 confirmed persons and 8,739 actual communicants. From this we gather that there are 1,920 persons in the Diocese who were confirmed but are not now communicants. Some of the clergy report that they do not know the full number of confirmed persons in their congregations, so that the full number of lapsed communicants is not yet before us. The question naturally comes into our minds are 8,739 communicants a fair proportion of the 10,659 confirmed persons.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL WORK.

Your Committee feel deeply impressed with the great importance of Sunday school work. They believe it is a work which in these days the church cannot afford to neglect. In many parishes there are stations where Sunday schools ought to be working, but lack of teachers and other reasons render it difficult to establish them. In scattered missions the keeping up and perfecting this department of church work is a matter of great difficulty, but difficult as it is, some provision should be made for training the young in the principles of the church. No congregation can afford to neglect the work of the Sunday school since so much of her future growth and support depends upon it. If our Sunday schools and their senior classes were so arranged as to lead up to the preparation for confirmation, the clergy would seldom be without candidates for that Apostolic rite.

(Concluded next month).