

DIOCESE OF ALGOMA.

At the special session of the synod of the Ecclesiastical province of Canada, held on November 11th, 12th and 13th, in Toronto, for the purpose of electing a bishop for the missionary diocese of Algoma, the retiring bishop, Dr. Sullivan, presented a statement concerning the working of the diocese during the period which has elapsed since the last meeting of the provincial synod.

Speaking of the clergy, he says:—

Our staff of clergy has now reached, as regards numbers and efficiency, the highest point ever yet attained in the history of the diocese. Thirty-two mission fields are served by as many ordained missionaries, while three others are occupied by catechists. Of the former, four are deacons admitted to Holy Orders on St. Barnabas' Day, two deacons being on the same occasion, advanced to the priesthood.

His account of the churches is minute and deeply interesting.

"The number of complete churches in the diocese is 77, including 36 erected previous to my episcopate. Of these 4 are of stone, 4 of brick, 5 of hewn logs, and 64 frame buildings. Of the 36 erected previous to 1882, the majority were unfinished and unfurnished wooden shells, owing to the scarcity of funds at that date. These have been completed, and in most cases supplied with the essentials for divine worship. Fonts, communion vessels and linen are still lacking in not a few. Others of these original churches have been entirely rebuilt; while in two or three instances the material has been removed and utilized in the erection of buildings at more desirable centres.

With the exception of three or four, all our churches are paid for, owing to the adoption early in my administration of a rule not to build unless the necessary funds were either in hand or within measurable distance, the relaxation of this rule being allowed only where insistence on its observance would have been prejudicial to the interests of the church.

Among the most recent additions to the list of our churches has been a very substantial brick edifice erected in Bracebridge, costing \$3,000, of which no less than \$800 was provided through the exertions of the local branch of the Woman's Auxillary, while upwards of \$1,000 additional was contributed by the congregation generally, a balance of \$800 being assumed by three or four of their number. The church stands on a most desirable site, worth \$300, donated by A. Mahaffy, Esq.

At Huntsville, a very solid and thoroughly ecclesiastical stone church has taken the place of the unsightly mission hall destroyed in the conflagration which almost totally swept the village away two years since. Here, also, the incumbent (Venerable Archdeacon Llwyd) was ably seconded by his flock—men, women and children combining their efforts, which were characterized by not a little self-sacrifice.

The new brick church at North Bay (Rev. Rural Dean Young) was an absolute necessity owing to the rapid

growth of the town and the utter insufficiency of the accommodation provided in the original wooden structure. Here, also, the church population, largely composed of railway employees, contributed generously towards the cost of the enterprise.

At Sault Ste. Marie, St. Luke's Pro-Cathedral has been practically rebuilt by the removal of the east and west gables and the addition of transepts and a chancel at a cost of \$2,600, of which \$1,000 was contributed by the congregation and \$1,000 raised through the personal exertions of the incumbent (Rev. Rural Dean Renison), the balance being provided from other sources. My last official act in the diocese was its consecration on the morning of St. Luke's Day.

The church at Dunchurch (Mr. T. J. Hay, catechist) is still incomplete; but vigorous and self-denying efforts are being made to render it available for divine service. Both catechist and people need and deserve encouragement.

Through the kindness of English friends, many of them visitors at Mentone, provision has been made to the extent of about \$1,400 for the erection, with local assistance of two churches, in a district 120 miles in length, on the Algoma branch of the C. P. R., in which the Church of England had not hitherto succeeded in securing any place of worship for her children. This extensive mission is under the charge of the Rev. W. M. Seaborne and his assistant, Rev. S. H. Morgan, of St. Bed's College, England.

PARSONAGES

have multiplied relatively, as rapidly and satisfactorily as our churches, no less than five and twenty of our missions being supplied with these necessary auxiliaries to effective mission work, as against six in 1882, while two more are contemplated in the spring.

The mission house at Garden River was accidentally burnt down last winter, during my absence, and, unfortunately uninsured, the mission being vacant at the time. The Indians are, however, busy at the work of restoration, under the direction of the Rev. R. Atkinson, formerly of the Diocese of Ontario, their contribution taking the form of voluntary labor, all that remains in their power, owing to the destruction by fire of the local lumber mill, and the consequent dearth of employment.

Parsonages are still urgently needed at Manitowaning, Little Current, Gore Bay (Manitoulin Island), Powassan, Novar and Sudbury. At the latter point, the missionary and his wife occupy what is to serve as the kitchen of the completed building. At Halleybury, (Lake Temiscamingue, the mission aided so generously by the Toronto W. A.) the people are building a hut, 16 feet square, for the catechist, by voluntary labor, the future occupant supplying the material. To this spacious mansion Mr. Hickland shortly hopes to bring a wife and seven children from England. At Oliver, the incumbent (Rev. Rural Dean Kirby), with his wife and four children are quartered in a small farmhouse 20

feet long by 10 feet wide, containing three rooms with a wooden lean to as a kitchen, pending the erection of a parsonage in the spring on the church lot close by. \$500 are already in hand for this purpose. All these are building projects which I have no hesitation in commending most warmly to the sympathies of the comfortably housed laity of the Church."

Many other portions of His Lordship's statement were well worthy of republication, had space been available; what we have given will show the wonderful progress that is being made in regard to the organization and working of the diocese of Algoma.

The twenty-first annual report of the Shingwauk and Wawanosk Homes, in the missionary diocese of Algoma, has just been issued, and gives many interesting details of the progress of the educational work carried on by the Homes amongst the children in the far Northwest. The bishop of Algoma, earnestly commends this Indian educational work to all the friends and supporters of his missionary diocese, whether in England or America. "It sorely needs," the bishop says, "as it surely deserves, the prayers and substantial sympathies of all who believe in the Gospel of Christ and its ability to civilize and Christianize even those who are most ignorant and superstitious. At the outset it was a feature of faith and hope, abundantly vindicated by its past history. Failure at the expiration of a quarter of a century would be a standing rebuke and reproach to our common Christianity. I appeal to all who have aided us in the past—clergy, laity, Woman's Auxillary, Sunday school superintendents, teachers and scholars—to continue, and, if possible, increase, the help they have already given us. It is assuredly a 'work of God,' and His honor and glory forbid that it should be 'overthrown.'"

Mr. G. L. King, the Principal, has a satisfactory report to present, and in viewing the work of the past year says it is gratifying to be able to record that it is one of progress. "All our plans and hopes for its advancement," he remarks, "have not been realized, but much has been accomplished, and there is much indeed for which to be grateful." During the period the Homes have been established no less than 540 Indian children have shared the advantages which they confer. Within the Homes at the present time sixty-two children are being maintained and educated, trained and fitted for various occupations in life. With no endowment, but founded on faith, the work has been carried on, largely dependent on voluntary contributions, and with a liberal share of trials and discouragements to contend with; but bravely surmounting all obstacles and difficulties, these Indian Homes have now, by God's blessing, attained their majority. Besides general housework, cooking, baking, laundry work, etc., four "trades" are taught in the Homes—carpentry, tailoring, shoemaking and farming, and the results during the past year have