

Home & Foreign Church News

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

LLEWELLYN JONES, D.D., BISHOP, ST. JOHNS.

Appeal from the Executive Committee of the Diocesan Synod of the Church in Newfoundland, on behalf of the poor clergy.—A most distressing calamity, affecting all our Church institutions and work, has fallen upon this diocese by the failure of its two only banks and of many of its principal business firms. Other failures are daily expected. The effect of this has been to paralyse for a time all branches of industry, and to throw a whole community from employment into a state of helplessness and inactivity, without the means of providing for a trying winter. The disaster affects all classes and creeds. Committees have been formed in various parts for the relief generally of the poor, of whom no really needy case so far has been disregarded. But the clergy are, from their position, the greatest sufferers, and particularly those of our Church, for whom no relief has yet been afforded. Before this unparalleled disaster the stipends of the clergy were barely sufficient to provide their families with the ordinary necessities of life. Their situation is now greatly aggravated, and though many are prepared to suffer like heroes, the case of some is desperate. I need not particularize, indeed it is not necessary; and this statement, made upon the authority of our Bishop and the Executive Committee of our Synod, will, I am sure, appeal with force to those of our Churchmen in the Dominion of Canada who are ever ready to extend to their brethren of the same "household of faith" that help which is needed in times of dire necessity, such as the one now pressing so hardly upon us.

Many of our clergy depend largely for their support upon the contributions of the people, made after the fishing voyage is cleared off. The failure of the banks took place on the 10th of December last. Up to that time only a very small proportion of the Church dues had been collected, and that in paper money of the defaulting banks, now almost valueless.

The prospect of collecting more is hopeless, and the clergy are now not only without means of paying their debts, but without money to pay current expenses.

The loss to the Church in money in the defaulting banks, as far as can be at present ascertained, is about \$10,000. Much of this was for the support of an asylum for widows and orphans. Some of the amount was allocated for stipends of the clergy for 1895. This additional loss emphasizes with no uncertainty the severe straits to which we are reduced.

No calamity of such magnitude has ever fallen upon this country or upon this ever-poor diocese. The fire of 1892, which destroyed the most valuable of our Church property in St. John's, was trivial by comparison.

In view of these appalling circumstances we are driven upon the necessity of appealing, nay, imploring our fellow-churchmen for help in this our time of need—help to meet present distress, and help to relieve us from very grave future embarrassments.

Any readers of the CANADIAN CHURCHMAN disposed to help in this matter are requested to send their contributions to Mr. N. W. Hoyle or Rev. Dr. Langtry, Toronto.

WILLIAM PILOT, D.D.

Examining Chaplain to the Bishop of Newfoundland.

QUEBEC.

ANDREW H. DUNN, D.D., BISHOP, QUEBEC.

Quebec.—School Commissioner.—John Hamilton, Esq., church warden of St. Matthew's, has just been appointed by the Provincial Government a School Commissioner for the city of Quebec, in place of W. G. Wurtele, Esq., deceased. The appointment is most popular, and well received by the citizens generally.

The Lord Bishop.—The Lord Bishop proposes, on the Thursdays during Lent, to give at 11 a.m. in his Domestic Chapel, Bishopsthorpe, the Esplanade, a series of "Instructions on the Faith," to which he will gladly welcome any Church people who may desire to attend.

ONTARIO.

J. T. LEWIS, D.D., LL.D., ARCHBISHOP OF ONT., KINGSTON.

OSNABRUCK AND MOULINETTE.—St. David's Church, Wales, was packed on Friday, Feb. 1st, on the occasion of its consecration by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Niagara. Standing room could not even be had and many had to go away disappointed. The ceremony of consecration began at 10.30 a.m. The Bishop, bearing his beautiful pastoral staff, attended by the Revs. Rural Dean Houston, Dr. Moun-

tain, S. G. Poole, M. G. Poole, G. S. Anderson, T. J. Stiles and R. J. Dumbrie, together with the rector, the Rev. R. W. Samwell, proceeded to the north-west door, where the rector read the petition for consecration. The Bishop acceding to the petition, proceeded with the service by saying the Collect, "Prevent us, oh Lord, in all our doings," etc., and then the clergy, preceded by the churchwardens, walked slowly up the nave to the chancel saying the 24th Psalm. At the request of the Bishop, the Rural Dean read the sentence of consecration, setting apart the building from all profane and common uses, dedicating it to Almighty God for the ministration of His Holy Word and Sacraments, and for public worship according to the rites and ceremonies of the Church of England, and no other; by the name of St. David. The Bishop having signed the sentence of consecration, concluded the ceremony by offering up the appropriate prayers contained in the authorized form. After the singing of hymn 395 (A. & M.), "O Word of God above," the communion office followed as far as the end of the Nicene Creed, the Bishop being the celebrant, and the Revs. S. G. Poole and Dr. Mountain, Epistoller and Gospeller. Then the rector presented the candidates, 64 in number, for confirmation. The Bishop welcomed the candidates, and delivered to them a most touching address, alluding to the double consecration which was taking place that day—the consecration of the material building to the worship of God, and the fresh consecration by the candidates of their lives to the service of their Lord and Master Jesus Christ. The Bishop's words made a deep impression upon the congregation, being full of wisdom and sympathy, and they will not soon be forgotten. At the close of the confirmation service, which was most impressive throughout, the communion service was resumed, and the newly-confirmed made their first communion, a large number of the congregation also receiving the Blessed Sacrament. In the evening, at 7.30, the Apostolic Rite of Confirmation was administered in Christ Church, Moulinette, to 51 persons. Previous to the confirmation, the Bishop administered the Sacrament of Holy Baptism to one of the candidates. The church was crowded, the aisles being filled with those who could not obtain seats. In addition to the Bishop and the rector, the Revs. Dr. Mountain, G. S. Anderson and M. G. Poole were present, and assisted in the service. The Bishop delivered a splendid address, showing how and when religion began in the soul, how it was continued, and what its fruits were. Of the 115 candidates confirmed during the day, 44 were males and 71 females, 10 of them belonging to the little congregation on Barnhart's Island. Unfortunately 9 candidates were prevented by sickness and other unavoidable causes from being present. Altogether it was a day whose impress upon the spiritual life will long remain. We sincerely regret the sickness which caused the absence of our own Bishop, but were very thankful that His Lordship of Niagara was able to come in His Grace's behalf. On Sunday, Feb. 3rd, the annual missionary services were held in each church in the parish, and on Monday afternoon in All Saints' Chapel, Barnhart's Island. Excellent addresses were given by the Rev. G. S. Anderson, rector of Morrisburg, to very large congregations. The collections on behalf of diocesan missions were as follows: St. David's, Wales, \$25.28; Christ Church, Moulinette, \$17.91; St. Peter's, Osnabruk Centre, \$5.89; Barnhart's Island, \$4.63. In addition to these, a collection was made in St. David's Sunday School, when \$21 was given by the scholars, making altogether \$74.71. This was slightly in advance of last year.

TORONTO.

ARTHUR SWEATMAN, D.D., BISHOP, TORONTO.

Extension of the Episcopate.—A conference of lay and clerical delegates from the Dioceses of Toronto, Huron, Niagara, and Algoma was held on Tuesday, February 12th, in the synod office, at which the principle of an increase of the Episcopate was endorsed, and two resolutions proposing a rearrangement of dioceses were referred to a sub-committee to report upon.

The question of an increase of the Episcopate has long been favourably regarded by the synod of the Diocese of Toronto, but the recent gathering might be said to have been an outcome of the action taken by the synod of the Diocese of Huron. The latter body, at their last meeting, adopted a report dealing with the subject, which was forwarded to the Toronto synod. They in turn appointed a committee to take the matter up, which committee sent out invitations to the other dioceses to attend a conference to be held in this city.

The Delegates Present.—In response to the invitation the following delegates were present:—

Diocese of Toronto—The Right Rev. Bishop Sweatman, Rural Dean Jones, Rev. Dr. Pearson, Rev. Dr. Mookridge, Rev. Dr. Langtry, Dr. Hodgins, Mr. Alfred Wilson, and Mr. J. A. Worrell, Q.C.

Diocese of Huron—The Right Rev. Bishop Bald-

win, Dean Innes, Rev. Canon Young, Rev. Alfred Brown, Rural Dean Downey, Mr. Chas. Jenkins, Judge Ermatinger, Mr. Matthew Wilson, Q.C., Mr. A. H. Dymond, and Mr. Jas. Woods.

Diocese of Niagara—Venerable Archdeacon Dixon and Mr. E. Martin, Q.C.

Diocese of Algoma—Rural Dean Llwyd, Rural Dean Chowne, and Rev. Jas. Boydell.

His Lordship the Bishop of Toronto occupied the chair, and Rev. Dr. Pearson acted as secretary.

Huron's Position.—The Bishop of Huron stated the position of his diocese upon the matter. It was felt necessary to open up negotiations with the Diocese of Toronto, because the opinion prevailed that they could not make a second diocese out of that of Huron. Their synod was not wedded to any particular scheme, but they desired to work loyally, as members of the same Church, for the object in view. His own diocese was excessively large, comprising, as it did, 13 counties, and one township in the County of Dufferin. These formed a pretty large area, and, perhaps, while Huron remained as at present, it was impossible for the work to be done as thoroughly as if there were more Episcopal supervision. But while admitting this, they were not going to part with the counties now comprised in Huron until some more excellent method could be found than the plan which existed to-day. In the Synod of Huron they were all united and determined to work harmoniously. Whenever it could be shown that any advantage would accrue to the Church as a whole by any division of the diocese, they would be the first not only to acknowledge that fact, but to act upon it.

Rev. Canon Young observed that the question to consider was whether there should be an increase of the Episcopate, and whether the time was opportune. Then they would come to the question of a consideration of the means. The Diocese of Huron had pronounced in favour of the principle, but had not gone farther than an expression of opinion that in the general interests of the diocese some limitation or diminution of area be effected if practicable. The opinion of members of the committee appointed to consider the question was that, for the purposes of discussion, it would be better to disregard diocesan boundaries as at present existing, and ascertain what would be an ideal division, if the principle that a change was necessary was affirmed. Then it was thought, in working out the plan, an attempt should be made to come as near the ideal arrangement as financial and other considerations would permit.

The Attitude of Niagara.—Venerable Archdeacon Dixon was not aware that there had been discussion of the matter in the Diocese of Niagara. That diocese was very small in comparison with the others, and the question of having it enlarged had not been impressed upon them. They would be well pleased to take in a county or two, but they did not want any cut off. The Diocese of Niagara was very peculiarly situated, extending from Guelph to Hamilton, the headquarters of the diocese, and beyond the Diocese of Huron, and Galt, and the County of Brant.

The Position of Algoma.—Dean Llwyd explained that the Diocese of Algoma had not had the opportunity of meeting since the invitation to the conference was sent out. He had written to the Bishop, who was absent from the country, in regard to the matter, but sufficient time had not elapsed for the receipt of a reply. Their Triennial Council was to meet in May next, but there was nothing on the agenda in relation to this matter. They were present in response to the invitation, and were most desirous of listening to the discussion, and taking back with them the feeling of the conference in relation to the rearrangement of territory and the increase of the Episcopate. By its Standing Committee the Diocese of Algoma had not very long ago expressed the feeling that the most essential thing to be done within its own limits was the formation of a synod. At present they were in the peculiar position of having no synod and no legal status whatever. The resolutions of the Triennial Council were morally binding, but had not the effect of canons. The Bishop being absent, and not having revealed his wishes to the clergy, they had not authority to act in the matter. It was possible to divide the diocese, taking the French River as a boundary. In the eastern part there were the rural deaneries of Muskoka, Parry Sound, and Nipissing. If the district was cut in two, the western portion might very effectively be made a missionary diocese, and it would then have within its limits the two small centres of Port Arthur and Sault Ste. Marie. In the event of a division being made, a very desirable way of providing for the eastern half might be by adding a portion of the County of Simcoe. He wished it understood, however, that the Algoma delegates had no authority to suggest anything in the name of the diocese. Algoma could make no movement on account of the exhausted condition of its exchequer. They had no funds to extend their work, but he thought if the diocese was made smaller there would be a greater capacity for development.

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