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## Ecclesiastical Intelligence.

### CANADA.

#### DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

##### MEETING OF SYNOD.

After the service in the Cathedral and the delivery of the Bishop's charge, to which we alluded briefly last week, the Synod assembled for business in St. George's School-house. The Bishop was supported on his right by the Ven. Archdeacon Bethune, and on his left by the Rev. H. J. Grasett. The clergy and laity occupied opposite sides of the room.

The Rev. H. J. GRASSETT opened the proceedings with prayer.

The Rev. Dr. Lett was re-appointed clerical secretary, and Dr. Borell lay secretary. Mr. J. W. Brent was appointed treasurer, and Mr. C. J. Campbell and Mr. W. J. Westmacott auditors.

The Ven. Archdeacon BETHUNE read the report of a committee proposing some alterations in the canons and constitution of the Synod.

The Rev. Dr. BEAVEN, on behalf of the Committee of Canons, reported that it was deemed inadvisable to bring forward, in view of the meeting of a Provincial Synod, any recommendations for an alteration of the canons.

The Rev. Dr. BEAVEN, on behalf of the Committee on Psalms and Hymns, reported that inquiries had been made, with a view of ascertaining whether the Book of Psalms and Hymns, recommended last Synod, could be published by subscription, for the inspection of the members of the Synod. As that could not be done, the book was copied and submitted to the several Bishops of Canada. His Lordship the Bishop of Huron reported that he had adopted a Collection of Psalms and Hymns used in England. The other Bishops thought the matter should be deferred until a meeting of the Provincial Synod. In that opinion the Committee concurred.

The Synod adjourned shortly before seven o'clock.

##### SECOND DAY.

The Synod met at the School-house attached to St. George's Church at ten o'clock. After some routine business, Archdeacon Bethune brought up the report of the committee on the Sustentation Fund. Since the meeting in June last, the Sustentation Fund Committee has held four meetings. Twenty clergymen are now assisted out of the fund. There is a balance of £33 from the expenditure of 1859. The whole available sum has not yet been collected and the charges upon the fund are £750. The committee propose supplying the deficiency out of the amount of collections for the purpose during the ensuing season of Advent. They have full belief that this Board should be amalgamated with the Committee of Missions of the Church Society. It is hoped, in conclusion, that £50 instead of £37 10s., will be paid in future to clergymen.

Col. O'BRIEN moved, seconded by the Rev. T. B. READ, That in all cases where the annual income of the incumbent of any rectory, church, mission or parish, derived from the endowment of the same, or from any emolument the said incumbent may enjoy for services in the church, shall exceed a certain sum, the surplus shall be paid over in trust to the Church Society of the Diocese, for the purpose of being applied to the increase of income of other clergymen, or of establishing other churches, as may be hereafter decided upon.

After some discussion, the motion was referred to the Committee on Endowments.

The Rev. Dr. PATTON read a report on the Building of Parsonages. Several amendments were suggested, and the report given in with a notice of motion for its adoption.

The Hon. J. H. CAMERON brought up the report of the Committee on Canons for adoption. Its great object was to be the creation of a court of appeal, at which cases that came before this court might be sent to a higher court. At present there was no such court, and the only mode of settling such cases was by sending them for decision to the higher courts in England. The Canon was confirmed.

The Rev. Dr. PATTON moved that a measure be presented to the Legislature for the incorporation of the Synod.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. Dr. LEWIS. As an additional argument for the incorporation of the Synod, he said that at the time the Reserves were commuted it was a special understanding among many clergymen that the common fund would be, some day

or other, entrusted to the direction of the Synod. At the same time he was far from finding fault with the management of the Church Society.

The Hon. J. H. CAMERON submitted an amendment, that the resolution first named be referred to a committee of nine members to consider whether some measure cannot be adopted under the constitution of the Synod and the Church Society which shall provide for the harmonious working of the two bodies instead of an appeal to the Legislature, and if such measure cannot be adopted to apply for an Act of incorporation if they shall deem it necessary.

J. W. GAMBLE, Esq., seconded the amendment, which was carried unanimously.

The Rev. R. V. ROGERS moved the adoption of a report on the observance of the Sabbath, which after some discussion as to the wording, was adopted.

The Rev. Dr. PATTON read the report of the Committee on the Endowment of Parishes, appointed in conformity with a motion of the Rev. W. S. Darling at last Synod, when it was resolved to refer the question back, with directions to consider whether the objects which they seek to attain may not be better accomplished by making their proposed contributions to a general fund.

The Hon. J. H. CAMERON then moved, seconded by Dr. BOVELL, for the appointment of delegates for the Provincial Synod.

The following were elected:—

*Clerical Delegates*:—The Ven. Archdeacon Bethune, Rev. J. T. Lewis, L.L.D.; Rev. George Whitaker, M.A.; Rev. James Beaven, D.D.; Rev. J. G. Goddes, M.A.; Rev. T. B. Fuller, D.C.L.; Rev. H. Patton, D.C.L.; Rev. S. Givens; Rev. A. Palmer, M.A.; Rev. J. Shortt, D.D.; Rev. Stephen Lett, L.L.D.; Rev. E. Denroche, M.A.

*Lay Delegates*.—Hon. G. W. Allan, Hon. J. H. Cameron, Hon. P. B. DeBlaquiere, Hon. James Patton, Dr. Bovell, A. B. Simpson, G. S. Boulton, Col. O'Brien, D. B. O. Ford, S. R. Harman, T. O. Street, and J. W. Gamble, Esquires.

The Rev. W. S. DARLING referred to the report of the committee, with the clause which had been added recommending the endowment of parishes. He was favorable to the general principle of endowments, but objected to the extension of them to local purposes. Instead of stimulating the localities to greater zeal in the cause of religion, he found that where they existed the people were found to be most careless of Gospel ordinances.

Archdeacon BETHUNE then brought up the amended report of the Committee on the By-laws, and the Constitution of the Synod. Some discussion took place on the second section referring to the election of Lay representatives, which says:—"The Lay representatives shall be male communicants of at least one year's standing of the full age of twenty-one years. They shall be elected annually at the Easter meetings, held by each minister having a separate cure of souls, or at any meeting specially called by him for that purpose; and all laymen within the cure, of 21 years of age or upwards, who shall have declared themselves in writing, in a book provided for such purpose by the parish, to be members of the United Church of England and Ireland, and to belong to no other religious denomination, shall have the right of voting at the election."

The Hon. J. H. CAMERON, moved to add the following:—

"That any Lay representative elected for more than one Parish shall give notice ten days before the meeting of Synod to the Secretary of the Synod, and the Secretary shall within a week of the meeting of Synod give notice to the Parish which he has declined to represent, for the purpose of giving it an opportunity of electing another delegate in the room of the one who declined."

The Hon. Mr. BOULTON seconded the resolution, which was carried.

The fourth section was referred to a select committee.

The eighth section enacts that "the Synod shall meet annually, the time and place of meeting being appointed by the Bishop, who shall adjourn, prorogue, or dissolve the Synod, as may appear most for the welfare of the Diocese."

The ninth section contains the prayer to be used throughout the Diocese, before and during the session of Synod.

In the rest there is no important change proposed, except in that relating to the election of Bishops, for which a special committee had been appointed. The chairman, (the Rev. G. Whitaker,) reported,—That, in consideration of the acknowledged and serious evils in their opinion inseparably connected with the present mode of electing Bishops, and also with a desire to conform our practice