

Mission Board Report.—Your board directs attention to the fact that the claim against the mission fund would have been reduced during the year by a larger amount if the charge for general expenses had not been greater than usual. They would recommend the synod to provide for the general expenses in some other way. Your board finds the amount placed at the credit of the divinity students' fund insufficient. The painfulness of refusing aid to worthy young men desirous of a college course in preparing for the ministry is an annual experience with your board. They would advise the synod to instruct the executive committee to apportion among the congregations a sum sufficient to provide an annual grant for two or three students at least. The annual grant to each student is \$120 per annum. Your board has accepted guarantees from Nanticoke for \$350, and from Cheapside for \$100 per annum. They recommend that the synod assessment, payable by each congregation, be increased by such an amount as will secure the payment of at least \$200 per annum to the widow of the late bishop of this diocese, and they advise that this payment commence from April 1, 1891. Up to March 21, \$239.74 has been received from clergymen for the widows' and orphans' fund, and \$59.50 for the aged and disabled ministers' fund.

Mr. Heaven moved in amendment, seconded by Rev. Mr. Fletcher, "That an annual collection be taken up in each parish of the diocese in aid of the widow of the late Bishop Fuller."

Rev. Mr. Forneret moved in amendment that the clause be struck out and that the amount be raised by a special assessment on each parish pro rata, and that delegates be not disenfranchised for failure to pay it.

Mr. Heaven asked to withdraw his amendment and said he would second Rev. Mr. Forneret's amendment.

The amendment was unanimously carried and the report was adopted.

Resolution of Condolence.—Dean Geddes, on behalf of the special committee, moved the following resolution, seconded by Archdeacon Dixon:

"That the diocese of Niagara in Synod assembled embrace this early opportunity of giving expression to the deep sorrow and regret with which in unison with our most gracious sovereign, Queen Victoria, and the entire population of the Dominion of Canada, they have received the announcement of the lamented death of that great man, Sir John Macdonald, the distinguished statesman who, for nearly half a century, has so ably guided the councils and administered the government of the old province of Canada and of this vast Dominion. They desire also to convey to the bereaved widow, who has so nobly sustained her husband in his arduous duties, their sincere condolence upon the irreparable loss she has sustained in this painful dispensation of Divine Providence."

Evening Session.—The bishop announced that the next question before the chair was the report of the committee on the revision of the constitution.

The adoption of the report was moved by E. Martin, Q.C., chancellor of the diocese, seconded by J. J. Mason, and it was decided to discuss the changes in the constitution clause by clause.

Committee on the Revision of the Constitution.—"The annexed draft shows in detail the changes which have been agreed upon. Some of these will require legislation to give them legal effect, and the committee recommends the synod to apply for such legislation at next sittings of the Ontario parliament. The canon affecting vacancies in parishes necessarily required much consideration; it was felt on the one hand desirable that the vacancies should be filled up as speedily as practicable, and that on the other hand ample time should be given to make all proper enquiries before submitting a name to the bishop. The period of four months given for this purpose may at first sight appear too long, but practically this period can be utilized for the purpose of informal consultation, if desired, between the bishop and the vestry, and if a name can thus be agreed on, a vestry meeting could then be regularly called without delay, the name of the clergyman thus informally agreed upon, approved of by the vestry, and then submitted regularly to the bishop, who could act immediately, so that no time need be lost and the vacancies promptly filled. So much time was necessarily occupied in performing the work embraced in the report that other matters of considerable importance have not been dealt with: these, however, do not, in the opinion of the committee, involve any matters of principle, but would merely tend to put in more orderly and formal shape matters connected with the financial affairs and management of the different trusts and funds under the management of the diocese, and can be dealt with either by the Synod itself, when the proposed changes are from time to time submitted for consideration, or perhaps the standing committee could refer them to a sub-committee for consideration and report."

The revision of the constitution was taken up clause by clause, and everything went merry as a marriage bell until Rev. T. Geoghegan propounded the apparently innocent query, What is a member of the Church of England?

Clause 3 was amended by striking out the words, "in the parish which he represents," referring to where a lay delegate shall communicate, by a vote of 42 to 30.

After two or three other unimportant changes had been disposed of, the Synod adjourned.

Wednesday.—The Synod resumed this morning with a better attendance of lay delegates.

The first business taken up was the election of twelve clerical and twelve lay delegates to the Provincial Synod—six of each being alternates to act only in case the others cannot go. The following scrutineers were appointed: For the clerical vote, Rev. A. Bonny, Rev. J. Morton, C. Moss; for the lay vote, Rev. P. W. Smith, C. A. Wastell, C. E. Bourne. The election resulted in the choice of the following:

Clerical delegates—Revs. W. R. Clarke, Canon Houston, Archdeacon Dixon, Canon Bull, E. P. Crawford, Dean Geddes, Canon Sutherland, E. M. Bland, Canon Curran, Rural Dean Forneret, Rural Dean Belt, Canon Belt. Substitutes—Revs. W. J. Armitage, Canon Worrell, R. Kerr, Canon Read, C. E. Whitcombe, P. L. Spencer.

Lay delegates—J. J. Mason, Geo. Elliott, W. F. Burton, H. Roberts, Lieut.-Col. Murray, Wm. Bell, J. M. Bussell, Alex. Gaviller, Archdale Wilson, Hugh James, R. Stanley, C. A. F. Ball. Substitutes—Adam Brown, K. Martin, E. A. Gaviller, W. Y. Pettit, Dr. Ridley, A. H. Pettit.

A Memorial Service.—A suspension of the rules was granted while Rev. J. J. Morton moved, seconded by Rev. Canon Worrell:

"That this Synod adjourn between twelve and one o'clock to-morrow out of respect for the memory of our late premier, Sir John Macdonald, whose funeral occurs at that hour, and that the Synod proceed in a body to the cathedral, there to take part in a memorial service to be arranged by the Bishop."

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Court of Discipline.—The election of the court of discipline was next proceeded with. The bishop appoints seven members and the clergy elect seven, with two substitutes. The bishop appointed: Archdeacon McMurray, Canon Read, Rural Dean McKenzie, Canon Sutherland, Canon Belt, Rev. P. L. Spencer, Canon Bull. The clergy elected Revs. Canon Houston, W. R. Clark, E. M. Bland, Archdeacon Dixon, E. P. Crawford, Canon Curran, Dean Geddes.

Appointment of Committees.—The following standing committees were appointed:

Executive Committee—Archdeacon Dixon, B.A., Canon Read, D.D., Rural Dean Gribble, Rev. A. Henderson, Canon Worrell, Canon Bull, Messrs. Adam Brown, W. F. Burton, A. H. Pettit, E. Kenrick, A. G. Heaven and C. E. Bourne.

Special trusts—Dean Geddes, Canon Houston, Rural Dean Mellish, Revs. W. R. Clark, C. R. Lee, E. M. Bland, Messrs. George Elliot, J. Holmes, W. A. H. Duff, Dr. Ridley and J. H. Land.

Mission board—Archdeacon McMurray, Rural Dean McKenzie, Canon Sutherland, Rural Dean Belt, Revs. Joseph Fennel, P. L. Spencer, Messrs. R. B. Nelles, A. T. Pettit, J. J. Mason, M. Young, C. Halson and T. J. Wheeler.

This morning Rev. C. E. Howitt, Stony Creek, read to the Synod a letter from Rev. J. G. Waller, late of Bartonville, a young missionary from this diocese who is now doing missionary work in Japan, not far from Tokio. He is getting on very successfully and asked \$120 to aid in the extension of the work, which will be granted.

A resolution of regret and condolence was passed on the death of the late Bishop Knight, of Milwaukee, and will be forwarded to the Synod of that diocese.

The usual greeting was sent to the bishop and members of Toronto Synod, on motion of Canon Belt, seconded by Canon Bull.

Revision of the Constitution.—The discussion of the revision of the constitution was resumed on a clause to appoint a standing committee composed of eighteen clergymen and eighteen laymen, who shall be elected annually by the synod, twelve of each order being elected by the members and six of each appointed by the bishop. This committee is intended to perform all the duties formerly transacted by the executive and special trust committees and the mission board. The chairman shall be elected by the committee and have a deliberative vote only. Ten members to form a quorum.

Mr. Elliott moved an amendment that the quorum be fourteen, but the motion was lost on a division and the clause was adopted.

The next clause was one of the most important changes in the constitution, taking the appointment of clergy out of the hands of the bishop and putting it virtually in the hands of the people. Formerly the bishop chose the incumbent after merely asking

the opinion of the people. The clause was as follows:

"When any vacancy shall occur in any rectory or parish, except a parish receiving aid from the mission fund, a meeting of the vestry shall be called for the purpose of nominating to the bishop a clergyman to fill the vacancy. A copy of the resolution containing the name of the person nominated shall immediately be forwarded to the bishop, and if the clergyman so nominated be licensed by the bishop, he shall be inducted into the rectory or parish; but if the bishop do not grant the license to the nominee, then the vestry shall have the right to make further nominations, but the nomination of any clergyman to the bishop shall not confer any right or interest whatever in the nominee. The bishop shall, within two months after receiving notice of nomination, as aforesaid, decide whether he will license the nominee, and if he shall not license the nominee, he shall notify the vestry to that effect by letter addressed to the chairman and secretary of the meeting who certified to the previous nomination, and the vestry shall thereupon proceed to call another vestry meeting and make a fresh nomination. If no nomination be made to the bishop for four months after the happening of the vacancy, then the bishop shall have the right to fill the vacancy."

After a lengthy discussion the vote was then taken by orders on the motion and resulted as follows: Lay vote—Nays 11, yeas 24. Clerical vote—Nays 28, yeas 20.

The clause was accordingly defeated.

Evening Session.—The discussion of the revision of the constitution was resumed and rushed through with alacrity.

Clause 28 was amended by striking out the words: "All proceedings of committee shall be submitted to the bishop and shall not have effect until approved of by him." No objection was made to the change.

The consideration, clause by clause, of the canon was then proceeded with, and it was carried without opposition in a few minutes. The canon includes rules governing both free and pew churches, and also concerning the formation of new congregations, defines the duties of churchwardens and vestries more clearly; permits a churchwarden to resign, compels him to do so under certain circumstances, and deals with the appointment of a successor. Before being qualified to vote at a vestry meeting the members must make this declaration:

"I, _____, am a member of the Church of England and of no other religious body, and have habitually attended public worship in _____ church for the space of six months previous to this meeting, and have contributed not less than \$2 during the year towards said church's support."

Application will have to be made to the local legislature to amend the act before the canon becomes law, and this will be done at the next session.

Thursday.—A tiresome debate was taken up this morning on the trust fund accounts.

The report as presented yesterday was carried, with the following amendment:

Moved by Dean Geddes, seconded by Rev. W. R. Clark, M. A., "That after the present surplus be further analyzed the committee be directed to distribute it, having due regard for the claims of those now on the funds as well as those who are immediate expectants."

It being noon the synod adjourned to attend the memorial service in memory of the late premier, Sir John Macdonald.

Evening Session.—Rural Dean Gribble and Rev. A. Henderson were elected substitute members on the court of discipline.

The ladies of Christ Church Cathedral supplied breakfast for the delegates in a building opposite the school house.

The meeting of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew was not very largely attended by the clerical delegates, but a pleasant hour was spent in informal discussion by those present.

Owing to the fact that Mr. Pangman, of Dundas, is leaving the diocese, the bishop substituted the name of W. F. Burk on the special trust committee and replaced Mr. Burton by W. Ellis in the executive committee.

The synod adjourned for lack of quorum.

Friday.—Canon Belt introduced the report of the Sunday school committee, which was adopted. Rev. T. Geoghegan presented the report of the committee on prison reform, which was adopted.

Parish Registers and Books.—Rural Dean McKenzie introduced the above report. It stated that the present registers are very defective and recommended a new form compiled by the Bishop of Toronto, containing a history of each parish, 480 records of church families, etc., summary statistics and a copious alphabetical index. In regard to the preachers' books the committee reported that in most of the parishes no register of service is kept. It is recommended that the book compiled by the Bishop of Toronto be used.

The report was adopted.