

TWELFTH SEDERUNT.

At the same place at 8 o'clock p. m., the Synod of B. C. met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted with praise, reading the Scriptures and prayer by Mr. T. H. Rogers at the request of the Moderator.

The minutes of the Eleventh Sederunt were read and approved.

Mr. J. W. McMillan on behalf of the Committee appointed to examine the communication of Mr. J. F. Dean, reported as follows :—

On examination of the documents submitted to them they found—

1. That Mr. Dean had complained to the Presbytery of Victoria, of language used against himself by the Rev. D. A. McRae, in the pulpit of St. Andrew's Church, Nanaimo, which he, the complainant, regarded as unwarranted and unbecoming.

2. That the Presbytery had referred this complaint to a Committee to report upon.

3. That the Committee having examined the papers in the case, and having heard Mr. Dean and Mr. McRae, had recommended that the complaint be dismissed and Mr. Dean held morally responsible for the injury done Mr. McRae by the criticisms that have appeared from time to time in the *Free Press* newspaper.

4. That the Presbytery had adopted the recommendation of its Committee and dismissed the complaint.

5. That Mr. Dean had not appealed from this finding of the Presbytery until several weeks after the finding had been arrived at.

The Committee decided that it would be advisable to allow Mr. Dean to appear before them and state his grounds of complaint. After hearing both the complainant and Mr. McRae, the following decision was unanimously agreed to :—

While emphasizing the importance of keeping the pulpit as free as possible from all personal references, the Committee cannot refrain from expressing their sympathy with Mr. McRae in the unfavorable criticism to which he had been subjected for a considerable time, before he preached the sermon complained of, and their unimpaired confidence in the purity of the motives by which he has been actuated in his arduous, and successful labors in the City of Nanaimo. They therefore recommend that the Synod take no further action in this matter.

It was moved by the Clerk, and seconded by Mr. J. C. Herdman that the report be received and adopted.

The motion was passed unanimously.

The Moderator called for the report on Sabbath Schools which was presented by Mr. J. W. McMillan, when it was moved by Mr. James Buch-