

The conference was preceded each morning by a celebration of the Holy Communion.

The business meeting opened on Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock, the Rev. J. A. Shaw being unanimously elected secretary.

A letter was read from Rev. G. Osborne Troop, accepting the invitation to preach the annual sermon, and a subsequent telegram expressing his inability to leave his parish on that day.

The Rev. C. O. Carson, rector of Stafford, was appointed to read his paper on "Christian Unity" at the evening service, instead of reading it at the afternoon meeting of the conference.

The Rural Dean then delivered his annual address, at the beginning of which he expressed the hope that "our experience of past years was such that we could say of these yearly conferences they were, under God, becoming a real agency for the advancement of His kingdom among them." Alluding to changes since the first conference in 1890, he said that the rector of Pembroke and himself were the only members of that conference yet remaining in the deanery, and that of all the clergy in the county, 11 years ago, he alone remained. There were then seven parishes or missions, there were now 11, and during these years there had been 29 changes in the ranks of the clergy. During the past year he had officially visited all the parishes and missions with two exceptions, and had canvassed four missions in connection with the clergyman's income. He felt able to say that the work of the Church in the deanery was being heartily undertaken, that none of the parishes were vacant, and that the condition of the work as a whole was such as to enable him to speak with much more encouragement and confidence than was the case two years ago.

On every side there were signs of increased life and greater zeal. He particularly congratulated the Churchmen of Stafford on their promotion to the rank of a self-supporting parish, thus releasing for use in other fields the annual grant heretofore received from the mission fund. Speaking of that fund he urged the conference to consider if it were possible to adopt some better mode of canvassing for the parochial collections, as the present system was certainly worn out. Vital interests were at stake and the income of the fund must be largely increased if the Church were to do any aggressive work. He begged the conference to "make a real effort to honestly grapple with this most important subject, and if possible work out a solution to be tested in our card collections next winter, for of all the questions that may come before us for discussion there is not one, I venture to say, fraught with greater consequences to the well-being of the Church in this deanery, than the question of increased support to the mission fund, the very back-bone of the Church's work in this great missionary district."

The address also dealt with questions of the assessment fund and Deanery Magazine. Referring to the canvass undertaken by the direction of the Archdeacon of Ottawa on behalf of the Ottawa Bishopric Endowment Fund, the Rural Dean said he had made an interim report to the Archdeacon and awaited instructions before proceeding further. "The country parishes," he said, "seem scarcely to appreciate the great importance of the question. At present there appears to be a lack of information, and I am inclined to the belief that perhaps we have been a little precipitate, and that the whole question should have been thoroughly agitated first. The appeal has come too suddenly and a great many were unprepared to appreciate its importance. The legislation of synod several years ago is quite unknown to nine-tenths of our parishioners, but let the necessity once be felt by our people, and I am confident there will be no lack of response. The present necessity for more bishops will need to be clearly demonstrated, and, when proven, there will yet remain the question of endowment or assessment as the source of income, for I can assure you I have found that our people have their views on these questions, and very clear and practical views they frequently are." Regarding the incomes of the clergy in this deanery the Rural Dean reported that in the seven parishes canvassed there had been an increase of fourteen hundred dollars, and it was encouraging to know that these hard-working clergymen were now in receipt of incomes considerably in advance of what was enjoyed by them two years ago. He thought this a sufficient proof of the practicability of the scheme sent up from this deanery to the synod last year. Concluding a very practical address the Rural Dean urged that the notice of motion respecting the division of the diocese be calmly and dispassionately discussed under a sense of the weighty responsibility resting upon them.

On the conference re-assembling at 2 p.m., the Rev. R. M. Quartermaine read a paper on "The better observance of the Ember Seasons," in the discussion of which the Rev. C. O. Carson and the Rev. R. Orr took part.

Reports then followed from the several parishes and missions, each one indicating a healthy state of parish life. The following tabulated statement, prepared therefrom, will be interesting to members of

the Church throughout the deanery, as illustrating the condition of the Church in several important particulars:

	No. of Stations.	No. of Churches.	Value.	Population.	Communicants.	No. of Services.	Revenue.	M. F. collections.
			\$				\$	\$
Arnprior . . .	2	1	4800	400	90	189	1471 00	43 88
Beachburg . .	3	1	4000	250	50			65 17
Calabogie . .	4	2	2500	130	23	111		49 89
Cobden . . .	3	2	4025	220	94	165	682 58	75 29
Combermere								
Eganville . .	3	1	4000	443		132	640 00	39 96
(9 months)								
Mattawa . . .	6	4	6800	227	68	320	386 38	
Pembroke . .	1	1	8200	455	185	170	2000 00	185 88
Petawawa . .	6	4	5955	313	128	368	500 98	
Renfrew . . .	2	2	4700	207	101	168	697 12	
Stafford . . .	3	3	5235	500	200	126	643 00	95 76

The reports showed that the mission fund collections for the year had materially increased in Beachburg, Calabogie, Cobden, Pembroke and Stafford, while there had been a decrease in Arnprior and Eganville. Combermere and Mattawa had not yet sent returns. Renfrew reported probably an increase, and Petawawa from returns so far had a slight increase, with one outstation to send in collections. The increase in Pembroke parish was about thirty-five per cent., in Stafford about sixty per cent., and in Calabogie one hundred per cent. The total collections would not, however, yield the fifty per cent. asked for by the mission board. The missions of Calabogie, Mattawa and Petawawa each reported a new church built during the past year. The following parishes reported that the increased amounts signed for clergyman's stipend during the canvass last year had been largely paid: Arnprior, Calabogie, Cobden, Eganville, Petawawa and Stafford.

In the discussion of the Rural Dean's address all the clergy and two or three lay delegates took part. The Rev. J. A. Shaw suggested that a canvass of the deanery be made by the Rural Dean before next winter on behalf of the mission fund.

It was, after discussion, finally moved by Mr. J. R. Warren, lay delegate of Cobden, seconded by Mr. Henry Thomas Hawkins, churchwarden of St. Stephen's, Stafford, and carried, "That the Rural Dean make a thorough canvass of the deanery on behalf of the mission fund, similar to the one he made last year for the increase of the clergymen's stipends."

The Rural Dean in putting the motion said he had a plan in this connection to lay before synod, but was deterred by a feeling that he had better not propose any other scheme for a while in view of the feeling shown by some members of the synod in connection with the proposals emanating from this deanery last year, on the subject of our "Ill-paid Missionaries." But the success of that scheme in this deanery was now its best recommendation. His proposal regarding the mission fund was simply this. Let the diocese be canvassed for three or five years subscriptions to the fund, the canvasser and the parish clergyman together visiting each family and enlisting their promises and stated support. Let the list be left in each parish, and in February or March, when parochial collections were to be made, the collectors, instead of having a blank card handed them, would have the card with names of all subscribers and amount to be collected from each. Those who had not signed anything would also be called upon by the collectors. This to continue year after year. It did not interfere with our present missionary meetings or other collections. It simply gave the collectors a basis to work on; the canvasser having worked up the interest of the people and got their promises, all the collectors had to do was to call for the amount. It would, he felt, work just as successfully as the canvass for the clergyman's stipend.

The lay delegates present expressed themselves favourable to the plan and agreed that it was a promising proposal. It was then decided to adopt the resolution and test the scheme in the deanery.

The question of the division of the diocese, and the necessity of the Church in Canada having an increase in her episcopate, next occupied the attention of the Conference, and judging from the interest manifested and the wide range taken by the discussion, it is a live question in the minds of many members of the Church. The Revs. J. A. Shaw, C. O. Carson, W. M. Quartermaine, W. A. Read, R. Orr, the Rural Dean, and Mr. W. A. Hunter, lay delegate of Pembroke parish, took part in the discussion, which occupied the greater part of the afternoon session. The whole trend of the debate was against the principle of large endowments. It was contended that they were a barrier to activity, and that where we had no large endowments we had most life, allowance being made for exceptional circumstances. It was pointed out that to make the increase in the epis-

copate dependent on the raising of a large endowment of fifty thousand dollars, was to delay the Church undertaking solemn duties entrusted to her by her divine head, and that it argued a sad condition of the Church in this country when her bishops were content to see her suffer and retrograde, rather than they should yield the point contended for and consent to the consecration of more bishops without an endowment. The Church in the United States was making marked progress, but it did not stipulate for an endowment as a necessary antecedent to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in consecration of a bishop. The ordinary mind found it hard to reconcile with the generally received idea of the episcopate the combined action of that body in refusing any increase to their number until a stipulated endowment fund was first deposited in the bank. It was felt that the bishops presented a very unfavourable contrast to their priests, and that it was not an edifying spectacle to see the chief pastors contending for so much while hundreds of their priests were valiantly labouring and living on so little. The speakers did not for a moment contend for an underpaid episcopate. All expressed the desire to see the bishops well supported in the matter of income, but that support must come as a result of faithful labours. The Church was in sad need of more episcopal supervision, but it was not desirable to fetter the bishops, as might be the case were large endowments granted by the laity. It was thought that a partial endowment of twenty thousand dollars would be ample, and that the remainder of a liberal income should be made up by assessment of parishes. There would then be an incentive to work which would result in a little more activity, to the great benefit of the Church, particularly in rural districts which now saw a bishop once in three or four years, and then for only an hour or two. He came and went like a dream, and the parish hardly realized his presence before he was off again. It was also contended that in a conference such as this there was liberty to express one's conscientious convictions, which was not always the case at the larger diocesan gathering, and that their votes were a trust. They would one day have to account for the use they made of this "talent," and that while it is thoroughly believed that the extension of the episcopate is essential to the extension of the Church, it was also felt that the bishops could have done more to recommend episcopacy and thus induce people to desire more of it. The Church in this country, it was felt, was humiliated at the spectacle presented last year in Montreal, when the house of bishops resisted the proposals of the house comprising priests and laity from all over Canada, that the episcopate be largely extended in lines quite independent of an endowment fund. The several speakers, clerical and lay, were very earnest, and several of the speeches would have reflected credit in a much larger assembly. They spoke as men who felt they had a trust to guard, and a duty to discharge, and it was unanimously agreed that whatever be the resolution arrived at, it must express their conscientious convictions, and they agreed to support such a resolution in the Synod of the diocese. There were two or three resolutions proposed. Finally it was resolved, on motion of Mr. W. A. Hunter, seconded by Rev. J. A. Shaw, "That in the opinion of this conference of clergy and laity of Renfrew Deanery, the Synod of the diocese should apply to the house of bishops for permission to elect a Bishop of Ottawa on the guarantee of the new diocese that his income will be made up by assessment, in so far as that may be necessary to augment the income received from endowment; and that this conference requests the Rural Dean to bring the foregoing resolution before Synod as a notice of motion."

The meeting adjourned at 6 p. m.

Divine service was held in Holy Trinity Church at 7.30. The clergy, robed in cassock, surplice, and white stole, proceeded from the rectory through the street to the western church entrance, the processional hymn starting as they passed within the church doors. Prayers were said by the Rector and the Rural Dean, the lessons being read by the Rev. R. Orr and the Rev. J. A. Shaw. In the absence of the special preacher (Rev. G. Osborne Troop), the Rector of Stafford, Rev. C. O. Carson, in conformity with arrangement made at the afternoon meeting of the conference, read a paper on "Christian Unity."

On Thursday morning, after the previous day's minutes had been read and confirmed, there was a discussion on the paper of Rev. C. O. Carson, read at the previous evening service. The discussion was carried on by Mr. W. A. Hunter, the Revs. R. Orr, Jas. Empringham, W. A. Read, and W. M. Quartermaine. The report of Pembroke parish was presented and read by Rev. W. A. Read. The last paper was that by the Rev. R. Orr, his subject being "Some faults peculiar to clergymen." The two chief points dealt with in the paper were "Self-conceit" and "Timidity." The Revs. W. A. Read, C. O. Carson, and W. M. Quartermaine discussed the paper, the reading of which caused considerable amusement. The last name speaker suggested as a

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