

Grouping of Churches

Owing to changed conditions locally, and also shrinkage of income, the Mission Board of British Columbia deems it in the interest of economy and efficiency to regroup some of the weaker churches in Greater Vancouver. In common with other denominations many promising causes were started in rapidly growing communities. The insatiable demands of the military situation, coupled with the industrial depression, have resulted in a serious exodus from these communities and their respective churches, so that the latter find it increasingly difficult to finance their work. A committee of the Board recently met with representatives of the churches interested and the outlook is hopeful for a wise and helpful solution of the problem.

Anglican

[By Archdeacon Heathcote]

The General Synod and the Athanasian Creed

One of the matters dealt with at the General Synod held in Toronto last September, was the Liturgical use of the Athanasian Creed. Judging by the letters and articles appearing in the Church papers during the intervening months, it appears that the decision arrived at by the Synod upon the subject is a matter of keen interest to the Church at large.

The Athanasian Creed is one of the most treasured documents of the whole Christian Church. The Anglican Church expresses her sense of its value in one of the thirty-nine Articles. Some portions of the Anglican Church still enshrine this Creed in the midst of one of the Services, other portions of the Church, while retaining the said Creed as a document have ceased to recite it in Divine Worship. The question that was raised at the Synod was neither the authenticity of the Creed, nor the value of the Creed as a statement of faith, nor the benefit to be derived by Church people from knowing the Creed. The one question raised was that of its use in the public service of the Church.

There is a feeling which can be found more or less throughout the Church that the Creed as it has come to us expresses a harsh judgment upon those who intellectually cannot accept the theological definition expressed in the Creed. Hence some people do not like to say: "Which faith except everyone keep wholly and undefiled without doubt he shall perish everlastingly," or "He therefore that will be saved must thus think of the Trinity," or again, "This is the Catholic Faith, which except a man believe faithfully he cannot be saved." In consequence the Revision Committee sought to give relief, and in the following way:

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