

The Provincial Synod of Canada Now Meeting in Montreal

The creation of a new Ecclesiastical Province, to be known as "The Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario," will form the principal business at the twenty-first session of the Provincial Synod of Canada, which is convened by order of His Grace the Lord Archbishop of Ottawa, to be held in the Synod Hall, University Street, commencing on Thursday, October 17, at 10 a.m. At present the Provincial Synod of "Canada" embraces the territory from the Atlantic to the boundary of Manitoba, including the dioceses of Nova Scotia, Quebec, Montreal, Ontario, Ottawa, Toronto and Huron, but if the proposed Ecclesiastical Province is created, the Provincial Synod of "Canada" would then only consist of the dioceses of Nova Scotia, Quebec, Montreal and Fredericton. The new Province of Ontario would embrace the dioceses of Toronto, Huron, Ontario, Niagara, Algoma, and Ottawa. The creation of the new Ecclesiastical Province would also call for the creation of a new Archbishopric.

On the opening day of the session, to-day, Thursday, the clergy and laity will proceed in procession to Christ Church Cathedral for Divine service at 10.30 a.m., the Lord Bishop of Huron delivering the sermon. The members of the Synod will re-assemble in the Synod Hall at 2.30 p.m., for the disposition of general business.

Our readers will be glad to learn our old friend, "Spectator," will write up events of interest in connection with the Provincial Synod and M.S. C.C. for our issue of October 24th.—Ed.

Co-operation in Theological Training

The inauguration of the inter-collegiate lecture courses which are being provided this year for the first time by the four theological colleges affiliated with McGill University, took place during the first week in October, and proved to be one of the most interesting and significant functions which have engaged the attention of the religious public of Montreal for many years. The programme really commenced on Sunday, September 29th, when in response to the joint requests of the Principals of the four colleges sermons upon some phase of the Christian ministry were preached in many of the churches of the city. The inaugural meeting in connection with the scheme of theological training was held on Tuesday afternoon, October 1st, in the Royal Victoria College Hall, which was well filled for the occasion by students, clergy and members of the general public. The two invited guests who had been specially brought on for the occasion, were Bishop Boyd Carpenter, Canon of Westminster, and Dr. Robert E. Speer, Secretary of the American Presbyterian Board of Missions. Rev. Dr. Hill, the senior Principal, presided, and he was supported on the platform by a staff of fourteen professors and by a large delegation of each of the governing bodies of the four theological colleges. Rev. Dr. Hill remarked on the significance of the occasion that the Anglican, Congregational, Presbyterian and Methodist students should study theology in common. It was hoped that this partial amalgamation would raise their school of theology so that it could command a vital interest as the other faculties, and it was hoped that the school of a first rank could ultimately merit more than mere affiliation to the larger university.

Bishop Farthing then introduced Bishop Boyd Carpenter and spoke as follows: We welcome you on a great occasion which is most important for our theological colleges; for their future usefulness is bound up with the success of this movement. An occasion which is weighted with potentialities for McGill University. We trust, too, that it may have some effect in bringing nearer the union of all Christian people.

We in Montreal are proud of McGill. Our university has one of the best scientific equipments

in the world. I well remember Sir Michael Foster saying to me, at the time the British Association of Science met in Toronto, that he had seen almost every university in Europe, but there was not one which, in his opinion, could equal the scientific equipment of McGill. In medicine she has taken a place among the foremost medical schools on this continent. Even proud Oxford sought a professor from among her graduates. And in arts, too, she stands the equal of any university in the Dominion. McGill has had many struggles in the past and she has had her friends. Sir Wm. Macdonald and Lord Strathcona have done much for her medical and scientific efficiency. To-day they are supported by an ever-increasing host of friends standing behind them, ready to fight to place McGill among the foremost seats of learning in the world. She is famed for science, medicine and arts. We have every hope that the movement which we are inaugurating to-day may in some degree add lustre to McGill, by making her also a centre of theological learning. This is the hope that rules strongly within me.

This co-operation is an experiment. It is a new departure on this continent. Like all such experiments it has its potentialities for good and its possibilities for evil. The causes which have led us to make this experiment are twofold, prac-



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Lord Bishop of Montreal.

tical necessity and the desire to further Christian union. Our numbers in each college are small, and it is impossible for a man to do his best work in teaching small classes; it is often difficult to persuade the most active minds to consent to lecture to half a dozen students. By co-operation we obtain larger classes, give greater encouragement to teacher and scholar, and avoid the waste of duplicating lectures in each college. We have agreed to co-operate on those subjects which are common to us all. For years past we have met together to study Hebrew under a McGill professor and more recently have combined for the study of the New Testament and Septuagint Greek in the same place. We now go further, for it must be clear that such subjects as the Being of God, the Incarnation, the Atonement and the questions of criticism and the like, can also be taught in common.

When, therefore, by the kindly courtesy of the other colleges, we of the Church of England were asked to join them in this movement (for, I understand, in the original scheme we were not included) we were glad that we could honestly do so. For, thank God, we have very much in common, we have the essential verities of the Christian faith which are so dear to us all; and above all we have our common loyalty to the same Lord, the Incarnate Son of God.

When we went into this scheme, we went into it with a whole heart, determined to do our part to the full in making it a success. There were some misgivings about certain subjects; but all of our Board of Governors were heart and soul in sympathy with the general idea. No sensible man can ignore the fact that there are very important and deep differences amongst us, such as our views on the Church, the ministry, and the sacramental life. These are really at the bottom of our separation from one another and cannot be ignored. Therefore, the public should understand that a complete theological training common to all is not even thought of. Any attempt of that kind would only lead to compromise, to colourless teaching of no real value to any one. We all, in each of the colleges, stand for honest conviction. We know we differ on important points; let us in love examine our differences, compare them, but let us not compromise or confuse them. Therefore those great principles upon which we differ, we have all reserved for our own colleges and the general rules agreed upon safeguard us all. So that distinctive teaching and the devotional life of each college will be preserved by the members of the several colleges as heretofore. It is not, as has been emphasized, a union, it is co-operation.

We are not without hope, however, that in this co-operation we shall be led to understand each other better and in some degree we may further what every true man desires, the re-union of Christendom.

I desire to express my admiration for, and my deep appreciation of those laymen, belonging to different religious bodies, who have suggested this co-operation plan. It is a very hopeful sign for our city, for the cause of true religion, and for our Dominion, when business men will give their time and thought to furthering a movement of this kind, which concerns the religious life of the country, and the training of those who are to minister in sacred things. In the name of the Church of England, which I represent, I desire to tender to them our thanks, and to give them the assurance that we will do all we conscientiously can to loyally co-operate with them in making it a success in every way.

I would like too, here, to express my sense of the deep debt of gratitude which we, in the Church of England, owe to the principal of our college, Dr. Rexford, for the patience, the discretion, and wisdom which he has shown in conducting these negotiations on our behalf. Gladly do I bear my personal testimony to his work and assure him that we do all thoroughly appreciate what he has done. And I would thank all those of other colleges for their uniform courtesy and consideration. I can only hope that as we all know each other the better, we shall esteem each other the more.

We rejoice that we have you with us to inaugurate this movement; and feel proud that the Church of England is so ably represented on this occasion. We cannot express to you our sense of obligation, that you should have come so far to help us. The banquet on Tuesday evening at the Windsor Hotel was attended by more than 550 guests, representing all phases of Montreal life. Never perhaps in the history of the city has such a representative gathering of the religious forces of the community taken place. Mr. W. M. Birks, chairman of the Provisional Board, presided.

At the outset a number of messages were read. His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught wrote expressing his warm sympathy with the movement and his best wishes for its success.

The Right Hon. R. L. Borden expressed his sincere appreciation of the far-reaching importance of this noble movement.

Lord Strathcona, the Chancellor of McGill University, cabled that he was deeply impressed with the importance of the movement, and that he warmly congratulated the colleges on being the first to show this example of unity.

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