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1894

REPORT

—OF THE—

Third Triennial Synod

—OF THE—

Diocese of **A**thabasca

HELD AT

◀ Lesser Slave Lake ▶

Thursday, July 25th,
1894

TOGETHER WITH

THE BISHOP'S ADDRESS

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Toronto:
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1894

LIST OF CLERGY

- THE RIGHT REV. R. YOUNG, D.D., D.C.L.,
Bishop of Athabasca.
- THE RIGHT REV. THE BISHOP OF MACKENZIE RIVER,
Archdeacon.
- REV. M. SCOTT, St. Luke's Mission, Vermilion.
- REV. G. HOLMES, St. Peter's Mission, Lesser Slave Lake.
- REV. J. G. BRICK (since resigned).
- REV. J. R. LUCAS, St. Paul's Mission, Chipewyan.
- REV. HENRY ROBINSON, Christ Church, on Smoky River.
- REV. CHAS. WEAVER, Wabiskaw.
- REV. A. J. WARWICK, Principal Irene Training School, Vermilion.

LAY WORKERS

- MR. PERCY MULLER, Teacher, Lesser Slave Lake.
- MR. W. G. WHITE, St. Andrew's Mission, White Fish Lake.

COMMISSARIES

- REV. CHARLES A. HEURTLEY, Ashington Rectory, Pulboro',
Sussex, England.
- REV. W. A. BURMAN, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

THE BISHOP'S ADDRESS.

DEAR BRETHREN OF THE CLERGY AND LAITY,—We are, through the ill-health of Mr. Brick and the impossibility, through distance and the requirements of their own mission, on the part of others of our fellow-workers, few in number, almost too few to constitute a Synod. Yet, on account of the special conditions and peculiar exigencies under which the work of the Church has to be carried on in a country so remote as this from the conveniences of more favored districts, and poor in the most ordinary facilities of travelling, I feel that such an assembly cannot, and ought not to, be judged from any other standpoint than that of its necessity and the actual possibility of holding it. As an integral part of the Province of Rupert's Land, called upon to bear our part in seeking to solve problems on whose right solution, under God, the future work and extended usefulness of the Church so much depends, even apart from the consideration of putting our own battle in array, and seeking that our work should be on the most effectual lines, it is necessary for us to meet in Synod. So far we have been able, though always few in number, to meet every third year.

I would now once more rejoice with you that we are permitted, in the good providence of God, to meet together for mutual counsel and encouragement. Life has been no changeless, uneventful thing either for ourselves or for the world around us since we met here last in 1891.

I would touch upon one momentous change, a change which must increasingly affect our beloved Church in Canada, viz., her consolidation effected by the action of the General Synod that met in Toronto last September. While seeking neither to change the doctrine or discipline of our Church as in full communion with the Church of England, while leaving untouched the Diocesan and Provincial systems under which we have so far prospered, the main purpose in consolidation is to gather the Church together in mutual council, mutual help, mutual encouragement, to remove the sense of isolation, to enable each part to realize that it is one of a great whole. "Like a mighty army moves the Church of God."

Again, it will enable our Church to speak with unity, and so with increased influence, on great public questions that gravely affect the moral and religious well-being of that large and increasing Dominion in which, in God's good providence, she is placed.

Nor can I pass on to other matters without reminding you that it is a cause for congratulation that our beloved and honoured Metropolitan, now titled the Archbishop of Rupert's Land, was so unanimously elected Primate of our now united Church.

When we turn to consider our own field of labour, we are again conscious that change has been at work among ourselves. Change in ourselves. I trust a change that speaks of increasing and strengthening spiritual power, growth in grace, in love, in loving and self-denying service. We may talk a great deal about the consecrated life, the higher Christian life, but is it manifesting itself in the real sinking of self, the not seeking one's own, the cheerful endurance of privations, the ready and cheerful acquiescence in things we would, if we could, have otherwise; the ready recognition that the very things that are the "thorns" in our daily life are none other than the "cross" our dear Lord sees is just what we need. His own loving hand disguised, but applying to our unruly wills just that discipline they need, until as cut and polished stones we are built in forever into that heavenly temple not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Again, a change in those among whom we are labouring, perhaps not very great, nor very striking, but nevertheless there. A change that makes us feel they are not quite what they were. Some fallow ground broken up, and brought under the gracious influence of God the Holy Spirit, who has graciously owned efforts so feeble and weak in themselves.

A change in that, both for ourselves and for our work, we have learnt to lean less on self and more on Christ, both for service and results.

Then there is change in our little band. I am thankful to say a change rather of addition than decrease. The Rev. Mr. Lucas has lost a fellow-labourer in Mr. Warwick, only that Mr. Warwick may become a fellow-worker with Mr. Scott at Vermilion, and one whose help I know Mr. Scott highly prizes.

Mr. Warwick's withdrawal from Chipewyan was necessitated by the financial arrangements of the C.M.S., and was at their request. St. Paul's Mission has lost by his removal, yet this loss is counterbalanced by the needed addition to our ranks at Vermilion. The need more especially arises from my own withdrawal, to which I may as well here refer.

When I first took up my residence in Vermilion, we could count on at least two winter packets from the outside, with opportunity of replying to letters. This has now been reduced to one in March, without an opportunity of replying. This has rendered oversight of the work almost impossible, and the management of the missions has suffered in consequence. Notably, the filling up of Wabiskaw has been seriously delayed

I know of the loss of at least two good men through delayed correspondence, not to speak of frequent disarrangements.

Athabasca Landing is not only a favorable point for mail communication both from within and outside the diocese, but it is also the point where our missionaries pass both in coming and going, offering therefore opportunities for personal intercourse which did not previously exist. I have therefore decided to put up a house at this point, and make my residence there for the present. It is now in course of erection. In prospect of my being so near Edmonton, I had intended removing the Church Missionary finances from Winnipeg there.

Two reasons weigh against any too previous action in the matter :

First, that in Winnipeg we bank with the Bank of Montreal, confessedly the foremost bank in Canada, and which has always been very considerate and obliging. The other is, by the Society's arrangement we have in Rev. A. E. Cowley one who does the banking, custom house work and forwarding of missionary and other goods from England free of charge.

I trust also, by being in more direct and frequent communication with him, to avoid for the future delays and mistakes that have occurred in the past. In any case, I think it is worth a trial.

One of the leading features of missionary enterprise in the present day is the increasing prominence of woman's share in it. It is not only being recognized from the force of facts, but gladly recognized as a most helpful auxiliary, and there is an increasing readiness on the part of our sisters in the faith to offer themselves willingly for the Master's service. We, too, are beginning to feel and benefit by this new advance, and so welcome Miss Thompson, a young lady from London, Ont., who has felt for some time drawn to offer herself for missionary work, and did so on the occasion of a visit by myself and Mrs. Young to London last March, on the occasion of the anniversary of the London Branch of the Woman's Auxiliary of Canada. She is now, I trust, safely arrived at Chipewyan. She will relieve Mr. Lucas of school duties, and thus set him more free for Indian work. We also welcome Miss Durtnall, sent out by the Toronto Branch of the Woman's Auxiliary, as a helper, and I trust a valuable helper, in the school work here. We welcome Miss Herbert as another recruit into that regular standing army of missionaries' wives, so many of whom have done noble work by their husbands' sides in the world's great harvest field, whose faith we may well seek to follow, and whose labours are recorded on high.

You will, I feel sure, rejoice with me in the fact that Wabiskaw has at last its long-looked-for pastor. It has been, and is, the place of many

prayers, and were it because of this alone surely we may expect great things. The Rev. C. Weaver would have been there last winter but for a misunderstanding, which a more ready letter communication could have cleared up. I think we have in him the right man. Simplicity of character is in him leavened with firmness and self-respect. Steady determination and power of application will, I think, outbalance more brilliant qualities. Good humour, good sense, with kindness permeated with grace, are markedly apparent in him, and I am confident, if it please God, we shall ere long have encouraging accounts of his work.

We welcome two others. Mr. W. G. White, who will, I trust, do good, earnest, and thorough work for the Master in that part of the mission field God's overruling hand may open out for him. He has already seen service in connection with the Church Missionary missions in Alberta, with which we have now been for some years in friendly and frequent intercourse, and which have before now recruited our ranks. Mr. F. H. Killick, of Montreal, accompanies me on my visitation free of charge. He is kindly taking views of our missions and other objects of interest *en route*. I have been frequently asked for views of our missions while in Canada last winter, and I think they will serve to increase an interest in our work. An appeal, not to the ear only, but to the eye also will help to obtain and promote an interest in it.

May each and all of us be actuated by one spirit and have one aim, the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom.

I regretted being unable at our last Synod to report on the result of my appeals for a Clergy Endowment Fund, supplemented by the offertories on Easter Sunday and other subscriptions. I am now thankful to state that the fund is placed on a good working footing. As required by the S.P.C.K. of England, which has most kindly made a conditional appropriation of £500, a trust has been formed, composed of the Archbishop of Rupert's Land, Dean Grisdale, Rev. W. A. Burman, Messrs. Howell and Gilroy, and \$6,000 is now held by them in trust. The interest will be added to the capital account until such time as it is thought needful to bring the fund into operation.

I did not meet with a large response to my appeals in Eastern Canada. I had too little previous time to make any systematized arrangement. In fact, except preaching generally in the interests of and advocating the cause of missions as opportunity offered, I was unable to do anything much till after the end of the year (1893).

Though constantly travelling, preaching, and speaking through January, February, March, and part of April, reaching as far as Quebec and Halifax, the time was too short. Montreal, Quebec, the Eastern Town-

ships, the country north of Toronto, Hamilton, London, Guelph, and other points, were visited.

I had intended seeking for help in Toronto during April, and had previously preached for this purpose at St. James' Cathedral, the Church of the Redeemer, and St. Paul's Church, but bereavement in my own family early in that month prevented my doing anything further.

The immediate result of my efforts has been about \$2,300, enough to lighten anxiety for the present as to the wherewithal to meet the increasing calls, outside of the strictly limited block grant received from the Church Missionary Society, and which remains at the same figure it stood at when I entered on the work ten years ago. I trust before long, under the new order of things, we shall receive from the Mission Board of the united Church of England in Canada a larger amount; at present it hardly averages \$200 per annum.

I think, however, there is no ground for limiting the effect of my stay to the immediate results. I have made many personal friends.

There has been a marked interest taken in our work here. Friendships have been formed, interest has been aroused, which I feel sure will serve to keep our work more before the Church in Canada. I would specially record the kindness and cordial welcome accorded me by the Bishops of Montreal, Quebec, Niagara, and Huron, as also the readiness and heartiness with which many both of the clergy and laity in these dioceses and elsewhere procured for me opportunities of pleading for my work, both in the pulpit and the platform.

I still feel that our work of translation and of bookmaking, if I may use the expression, hangs fire. After some consideration, I have come to the conclusion that the most satisfactory thing is to possess a font of type of our own on this side of the Atlantic. It will be a little costly, but I shall utilize part of the money I have raised for this purpose, and for the printing of manuals, gospels, etc. I have made an arrangement with the Toronto Type Foundry, of Toronto, to turn out the syllabic characters in "pica," and The Bryant Publishing Co. have undertaken to do any printing for us. I have already received specimens of type, and they are fairly satisfactory. I trust that, once in possession of the wherewithal, it will stimulate our efforts in so important a branch of our work.

I am sure we may well congratulate Mr. Holmes on the plain, but substantial building he has succeeded in erecting as a boarding school here, and in raising the necessary funds for which he has laboured so hard. I am also sure that much is due to Mr. Muller for the progress which is so clearly observable in the manners and English speaking, and doubtless in the proficiency in their studies, of the scholars. I can only hope that the

appeal I have made to the Government through Mr. Hayter Reed for an increase in their grant towards teachers' salaries, as also for a per capita grant of \$50 per annum for every Indian child boarded at the school, will meet with the response it ought to receive. One essential to receiving steady, continuous Government help is regularity and correctness in the despatch of the quarterly returns, with a careful adherence to the printed instructions.

I feel that I should be neglecting not only an evident, but pleasant duty were I to omit any mention of the assistance we receive from the now old established and valuable "Missionary Leaves" Association of London, England, and from the young, but vigorous sister organization, the Woman's Auxiliary of Canada. The goods sent by them to the various missions are, for the most part, of a very useful and practical character. Only, to prevent overdoing in one direction and suffering lack in another, it is well to bear in mind that the demand and supply should be carefully systematized. It would be well for each mission to send in to Miss Montizambert, of Quebec, a careful statement of their needs in the way of clothing for the coming year, indicating any churches or branches that have taken a particular interest in their mission hitherto. It is Miss Montizambert's work, as Central Secretary, to apportion the application to the different branches, and she will, I have no doubt, at the same time be guided in the distribution by any expression of a wish as to the source or object of help. The Toronto branch of the Woman's Auxiliary have most kindly designated their thank-offering for 1894 for hospital work at Lesser Slave Lake.

Many other points might be touched upon, but I am conscious of having occupied enough of your time, and perhaps made too heavy a call upon your attention.

In conclusion, let us in our deliberations now, as at all times, seek for the presence and presidency of God the Holy Spirit. May He who orders and directs the Church of Christ in all things rule our hearts, direct our thoughts, enlighten our understandings, and so shape our undertakings that they may abound to God's glory and bring forth much fruit.

SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF ATHABASCA

HELD AT

ST. PETER'S MISSION, LESSER SLAVE LAKE

THURSDAY, JULY 5th, 1894.

Divine service was held at St. Peter's Church at 10.30 a.m.

The Ante-Communion service was read by the Rev. Henry Robinson, after which the Bishop delivered his address.

The Holy Communion was then administered by the Bishop, assisted by the Rev. M. Scott, of St. Luke's Mission, Vermilion.

The offertory, amounting to \$23, was for the Clergy Endowment Fund.

The Synod met in St. Peter's Church after luncheon.

The hymn, "Veni Creator Spiritus," was sung, after which prayer was offered by Rev. G. Holmes.

On motion of Rev. G. Holmes, seconded by Rev. M. Scott, Mr. F. H. Killick was appointed Secretary of Synod.

Moved by Rev. M. Scott, seconded by W. G. White, and carried, That the Rev. H. Robinson and Mr. M. G. Hamilton be scrutineers.

The roll being called, the following clerical delegates were present :

Rev. M. Scott, St. Luke's Mission.

" G. Holmes, St. Peter's Mission.

" Henry Robinson, St. Andrew's Mission.

Lay delegates :

Mr. Max. Hamilton, Lesser Slave Lake.

" W. G. White, Peace River.

" P. M. Muller, Vermilion.

" William Whitford, Wabiskaw.

" G. Harvey, White Fish Lake.

MINUTES.

Rev. M. Scott moved, seconded by Rev. G. Holmes, That the minutes of the last meeting be accepted as read. Carried.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Notice of motion of consent to the action of the General Synod by the Bishop.

Notice of motion by Rev. H. Robinson for a committee on the printing of Cree prayers.

Notice of motion by Rev. G. Holmes on form of prayer for Synod.

Notice of motion by Mr. M. G. Hamilton on printing and publishing the Bishop's address.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES, CLERICAL AND LAY, TO THE NEXT PROVINCIAL AND GENERAL SYNODS.

The following were returned :

CLERICAL DELEGATES.

Rev. M. Scott.

“ G. Holmes

Substitutes :

Rev. W. A. Burman, Commissary of the diocese.

“ John George Anderson, of St. Peter's Mission, Manitoba.

LAY DELEGATES.

Mr. Ewen McDonald, Lesser Slave Lake.

“ M. G. Hamilton, Lesser Slave Lake.

Substitutes :

Mr. T. Gilroy, Winnipeg.

Lieut.-Col. Irving, Stony Mountain, Man.

Moved by the Bishop, seconded by Rev. H. Robinson, That the delegates elected to the Provincial Synod be the delegates to the next General Synod. Carried.

The following motions were then discussed :

1st. Moved by Rev. M. Scott, seconded by Rev. G. Holmes, that—
“We, the clerical and lay members of the Synod of this diocese, desire to express to your Grace the Archbishop of Rupert's Land the pleasure with which we have heard of your advancement to the distinguished position of Primate of the Church of England in Canada by the unanimous voice of both houses of the General Synod held last year in Toronto. We wish to tender to you our hearty congratulations on the honour thus accorded you. It is our earnest prayer that you may be long spared to fill an office which both by your past career, your wide experience, and your abilities you are so eminently fitted to fill.” Carried.

2nd. Moved by the Bishop, seconded by Mr. G. M. Hamilton, that—
“This Synod approves, and herewith assents to, the consolidation of the Church of England in Canada made by the General Synod held in Toronto last September, and accepts the constitution so far laid down by said Synod, and the rules and regulations as to representation and other matters passed at the session of the General Synod.” Carried.

3rd. Moved by Mr. P. M. Muller, seconded by Rev. G. Holmes, that—
“The members of this Synod desire to tender their cordial thanks to the officers of the Hudson Bay Co., in the district, for their kind interest in and their efficient help in the building and support of the Children’s Home at St. Peter’s Mission.” Carried.

4th. Moved by Rev. M. Scott, seconded by Rev. G. Holmes, that—
“This Synod desires to express its thanks to Mrs. McDonald for her kind exertions on behalf of St. Peter’s Mission, which have resulted in the placing of a fine organ in the church.” Carried.

5th. Moved by Rev. Henry Robinson, seconded by Mr. W. G. White, that—
“We heartily accept the kind offer of the Rev. H. L. Harkness, of Worcester, England, to contribute toward the cost of publishing a Cree translation of the short and simple prayers for the Holy Spirit, and we hereby direct that these prayers be translated and printed in the syllabic, and appoint the following a committee on translations: Rev. M. Scott, Rev. G. Holmes, Rev. Henry Robinson, Mr. Wm. Whitford.” Carried.

5A. The Bishop here read a letter from the Corporation of the Church House, Dean’s Yard, Westminster, London, England, thanking him for consenting to act as honorary secretary in this diocese. The Bishop circulated leaflets which had accompanied it.

6th. Moved by Rev. G. Holmes, seconded by Rev. M. Scott, that—
“The Bishop be requested to draw up a form of prayer for use in our Diocesan Synod.” Carried.

7th. Moved by Mr. M. G. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. P. M. Muller, that—
“The Bishop’s address be printed, together with the proceedings of the Synod.” Carried.

8th. Moved by the Bishop of Athabasca, seconded by Mr. F. H. Killick, that—
“A vote of thanks be accorded the Missionary Leaves Association of London, England, and the Woman’s Auxiliary to the Board of Missions for their constant support of the missionary work of the Church in Athabasca by valuable contributions in clothing, medicines, etc.

“They would also herewith convey their thanks to the Toronto Branch of the Woman’s Auxiliary for the generous designation of their thank-offerings to hospital work at St. Peter’s Mission, Lesser Slave Lake.” Carried.

9th. Moved by Rev. M. Scott, seconded by Mr. G. Harvey, that—
“The Rev. G. Holmes be requested to continue his revision of St. John’s Gospel, and that the Synod empower him to secure such help as may

facilitate the work and make the revision thoroughly colloquial, and will guarantee any expense incurred in securing such help." Carried.

10th. Moved by Rev. G. Holmes, seconded by Mr. M. G. Hamilton, that—"The Synod discuss the subject of supporting the St. Peter's Children's Home until the result of the Bishop's appeal to the Government for \$50 per head is known." Also the best mode of conducting the Home during the two months' holiday allowed by the Indian Department was discussed, and on the motion of the Rev. G. Holmes and Mr. G. Harvey it was agreed to open a subscription list for the maintenance of the children at the Home during the holidays.

The Bishop then declared the Acts of the Synod, and closed with the benediction (7.30 p.m.).
