

## Editorial Notices.

The Clergy and Laity are invited to forward articles and communications for insertion in the "Gazette." Such should deal with matters of general interest, should be brief and logical, and legibly written upon one side only of the paper. No guarantee is given that unused matter will be returned.

Subscriptions (2/6 per annum, post free) are payable in advance. They may be paid to the Local Clergy or sent direct to Archdeacon D. Ruddock, Napier, to whom also, all communications of a business nature should be addressed, and cheques and postal notes made payable.

As the Bishop is himself responsible for the cost of publishing the "Gazette," it is hoped that Churchmen will promptly send their subscriptions, which need not necessarily be limited to the actual cost (2/6 posted). With increased income it will be possible to further extend the usefulness of the paper.

Parochial news and all other matter for insertion in a particular issue must be received by "The Editor 'Waiapu Church Gazette,' Napier," not later than the 18th of the preceding month.

## Waiapu Church Gazette.

FEBRUARY, 1913.

### Board of Nomination.

It will be within the knowledge of many of our readers that our Diocesan Synod has twice expressed its wish to have the Canon of the General Synod altered which deals with the "appointment of Pastors." In my last address to Synod I outlined a scheme which seemed to me to be more workable and satisfactory, and I particularly emphasized two principles, viz., that the Bishop of the Diocese should be ex-officio a member of the Nomination Board, and that the Vestries should take the place of the present Parochial Nominators.

The Bishop of Christchurch moved in General Synod for the appointment of a Select Committee to consider the whole matter, and as a member of that Select Committee I had the opportunity of bringing forward my scheme, which happened to be on very similar lines to the proposals of the Bishop of Christchurch. After due consideration, a Bill was drafted by the Committee and brought before

Synod. The general principles of the Bill were welcomed and readily accepted by the Synod, and have now become the law of the Church of this Ecclesiastical Province.

The main features of the new Canon are as follows:—

(1.) In each Diocese there will be a Board of Nomination, consisting of the Bishop of the Diocese (ex-officio) and two other members, the one a clergyman in Priest's orders holding the Bishop's License, and the other a Communicant layman resident in the Diocese.

(2.) The clergyman and the layman will be elected at the first session of each Diocesan Synod. The clergy will elect their representative, and the laity their's. The electors will act as an electoral body, and not as the Diocesan Synod, as is already done in the election of General Synod representatives.

(3.) Whenever a vacancy shall occur in a Parish, the members of the Nomination Board will meet the Vestry of the Parish in Conference in order to consider the filling up of the vacancy.

(4.) After such Conference, the Board of Nomination will nominate to the Vestry one, two, or three clergymen, and one of those so nominated must be chosen. If the Vestry fails to select one of those nominated within a reasonable time, the right of selection will lapse to the Board.

(5.) For the purposes of this Canon, the Vestry will be convened and presided over by the Churchwarden elected by the Parishioners, or in his absence by the Vicar's Warden. Neither the resigning Vicar nor any clergyman in temporary charge of a vacant Parish will be entitled to be present at any meeting of the Vestry convened for any purpose under the new Canon.

(6.) A clergyman duly instituted to the Cure of any Parish shall be deemed Incumbent thereof, and shall not be removed therefrom for any ecclesiastical offence except upon a decision by some competent tribunal constituted by the General Synod on that behalf.

(7.) It is competent for any Board of Nomination, with the consent of the Vestry, to delegate its power of selection.

(8.) All appointments to Parochial Districts shall be made by the Board of Nomination, instead of by

the Bishop alone, but the "Vestry" of a Parochial District will not have the right of Veto.

(9.) The License of a Vicar of a Parochial District, whether appointed by the Board or not, shall not be revoked by the Bishop without the consent in writing of at least one other member of the Board.

(10.) In case of the appointment to Parochial Districts, the elected members of the Board of Nomination may, if they choose, give to the Bishop alone the right of appointment.

(11.) The Standing Committee will immediately elect a clergyman and a layman to act as a Board of Nomination with the Bishop, until the next annual session of the Diocesan Synod, when the usual mode of election provided for in the Canon will come into operation.

The general principles of the new Canon as enumerated above give to the Bishop of the Diocese his proper responsibility in the selection of suitable clergymen for vacant Parishes, and at the same time give to him the valuable assistance of two co-nominators who enjoy the full confidence of the members of their own order on the Diocesan Synod.

The substitution of the Vestries for the Parochial Nominators is destined, I hope, to increase the responsibility and prestige of the Vestry, and should suggest to Parishioners the need for choosing the very best men as members of the Vestry, and induce the really representative men of the Parish to be ready and willing to act as Vestrymen.

It is true that the Bishop loses his sole right of appointment to Parochial Districts under this Canon, unless it be the wish of his fellow-nominators that he should act alone in any particular case or cases; but as far as I can gather, the Bishops will gladly forego the rights which they have hitherto enjoyed (?), and welcome the counsel and assistance of their co-nominators.

I have often expressed my desire to see the gulf between a Parish and a Parochial District lessened, and I welcome this new Canon because it takes one step at any rate towards the object of my desire. I believe the Province generally will welcome the change which the new Canon brings into force.

A. W. WAIAPU.