

Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee met on Monday evening, June 19th, and discussed financial business. The session was continued during the whole of Tuesday and was resumed on Wednesday morning.

In view of the fact that the business of the Diocese is becoming too heavy for the irregular meetings, which can be called only whilst the Bishop is present in Napier, it was agreed that in future the committee meet regularly on the second Thursday in each month. If the Bishop cannot be present the minutes will be submitted to him by post for his approval before resolutions can be effective.

Mr Turner Williams was congratulated on the success of his year's work in the interests of the General Diocesan Fund.

The Bishop announced his desire to work Wairoa and the country district around it by establishing a Vicar and two colleagues at Wairoa. The Rev. J. A. Shardlow, a graduate of Keble College, Oxford, and lately Vicar of Hesse, near Leeds, will arrive soon from England to take charge of the district. He will be assisted by the Rev. Valentine Bianchi and the Rev. Bertram Brierley. Mr Bianchi has already arrived and for the present is assisting the Rev. E. C. R. Beale at Matawai. Mr Brierley is expected to arrive before the end of June.

The Standing Committee granted a loan of £100 to the Waipawa vestry to partly repay a mortgage on the old vicarage, on condition that, when the mortgage has been repaid, the property be vested in the Board of Diocesan Trustees.

It was decided to abolish parochial assessments. This will be good news to all parish vestries. A great deal of misunderstanding has always existed with regard to this "tax" on parishes. The expenses of the Diocesan Synod must be met and each parish should be responsible for its share, but, now that we have a General Diocesan Fund the diocese is able to relieve the parishes of the burden. It is to be hoped that vestries will duly appreciate this, and give all the help they can to Mr Turner Williams when he visits the parishes to organise the Fund. The grants in aid of districts were passed for the year—nearly every grant was reduced by £5 in pursuance of the policy that districts should ultimately become entirely self-supporting. The money thus saved is being applied to further extension in the forming of new districts.

The contributions to the Pension Fund have been assessed on the parishes instead of each paying £10

per year. The pensions of clergy will henceforth be £150 per year instead of £100. Some districts will pay a little more than hitherto but the abolition of the Diocesan Assessment will much more than compensate for the increased contribution required towards the Pension Fund.

The Standing Committee agreed to the merging of the Wairoa district and its country districts into one parish to be worked by three unmarried clergy. The boundaries of the new district and of other districts, not already defined, will be fixed at a future meeting.

The Rev. A. Gilbert Backhouse, B.A., of Jesus College, Oxford, will probably arrive shortly to take charge of a new district in the Bay of Plenty.

The Dean and the Rev. F. A. Bennett were appointed a sub-committee to arrange for a memorial tablet in the Cathedral in memory of the late Rev. Henare Wepiha.

It was reported that the late Mr Newman had left provision in his will for a legacy of £300 to St. Mary's Home, and a legacy of £250 to the General Diocesan Fund—subject to the life interest of Mr Newman's widow. The Committee expressed its thanks to the trustees.

It was decided to offer Bishops-court for sale, and that a new site be purchased on which to erect a more suitable residence.

An application was received from Wairoa for authority to sell certain sections. It was decided to apply to the Standing Committee of the province for power to act if necessary.

It was reported that Mr R. W. Reynolds, of Tolaga Bay, had offered a section of 1 rood 37 perches as a site for a church, on condition that the site should be kept for this purpose and never be sold. The gift was accepted with thanks.

The Standing Committee passed a resolution formally admitting its liability for the financial requirements of St. Winifred's School, Gisborne. All accounts in connection with the school will in future be submitted to the committee for approval.

It was reported that Mr Oliver McCutcheon, of Pakowhai, had given a section of half an acre at Greenmeadows as a site for a church, as a thankoffering for the safe return of his sons from the war. The gift was accepted with thanks and a small committee appointed to confer with Mr McCutcheon as to the site and extent of the section.

The Standing Committee agreed to certain proposals with regard to the building of a new church at Wai-pukrau.

Mr A. Turner Williams was appointed Synodsmen for the district of Te Puke, which had failed to elect a representative.

A great deal of time was spent in considering certain questions as to the liability of the Diocese towards the Mission Trust Board in regard to the Te Rau property, and an offer from a Gisborne client to lease a part of it. The Diocesan Secretary and Mr Turner Williams were appointed to interview the Mission Trust Board and place before them the position of the Diocese in the matter.

Messrs H. J. Bull and T. Halberd, the Very Rev. the Dean, Mr T. E. Crosse and Mr A. E. T. Williams were appointed to vacancies on the Te Aute Trust Board.

Archdeacon Williams, Mr Bernard Chambers and Mr F. W. Williams were appointed to the Bishopric Endowment Trust.

Archdeacon Williams, Mr T. Halberd and Mr E. H. Mann were appointed members of the Waerenga-a-hika Trust.

A great deal of routine business not of general interest was transacted.

Ordination.

On Trinity Sunday the Bishop of the Diocese held an ordination in St. Luke's Church, Rotorua, when Mr W. S. G. Cameron was ordained Deacon. It was the first time an ordination service had taken place in St. Luke's and the congregation was deeply interested in the event. The candidate was presented by Archdeacon F. W. Chatterton, who also preached a sermon. The Litany was read by the Rev. H. W. Klingender, Vicar of Whakatane, and the Rev. Paora Temuera acted as Bishop's chaplain and carried the pastoral staff. The whole congregation remained to the end of the service and a large number communicated. The service was very impressive, and many who had never taken part in an ordination service before, realised for the first time what ordination meant. While the Cathedral is no doubt the appropriate place for ordinations, there is much to be said for occasional exceptions to this rule. Mr Cameron received a title as curate to the Vicar of Rotorua. He has unfortunately been laid aside for the last three months in consequence of a serious accident to his knee, but is now slowly recovering.

The Rev. E. C. R. Beale was to have been ordained to the priesthood on the first Sunday after Trinity, but the vagaries of the Gisborne boat prevented his arriving in Napier till the following Tuesday. The ordination was therefore held in the Cathedral on Thursday, June 22nd, St. Alban's Day (new Calendar).

The candidate was presented by the Ven. Archdeacon Williams. The