

Synod.

Synod met at 2.30 each day. The mornings, as usual, were occupied with conferences and meetings of committees. There was a very good attendance of clergy and laity.

Amendment of Canons.—The Commission consisting of Archdeacons H. Williams and W. J. Simkin and Mr E. Turner Williams, presented their report recommending a recasting and codifying of existing canons and statutes. The amended code was accepted by Synod with slight alterations. The duties of churchwardens and vestrymen have been carefully defined by regulation and every vestryman is to have a copy sent to him.

Banns of Marriage.—In future, before banns are called the applicant will be required to answer satisfactorily questions similar to those asked of applicants for a bishop's license, and to satisfy the minister that the parties to the marriage have been baptised.

Representative to General Synod.—A bill to provide for three lay representatives instead of four was lost.

Prayer Book Revision.—The Standing Committee of General Synod were asked to seek freedom for the New Zealand Church to revise the prayer book for itself, instead of being bound to wait for the English revision.

Parish Guilds.—Synod urged the establishment of communicants' guilds in all parishes in order to prevent the defection of so many young communicants.

Pensions for Lay Workers.—The Clergy Pension Board have been asked to take steps to provide pensions for laymen and laywomen who have given themselves to the work of teachers in Church Schools, Mission workers and other workers regularly employed by the Church.

Waipukurau Property.—Permission was given for the sale of certain Church properties in Waipukurau with a view to the lending of money to Waipukurau Parish for urgent needs, including the building of a new church; the loan to be gradually repaid, and the proceeds of sale to be used solely for the benefit of Waipukurau Parish.

Congratulations.—Synod heartily congratulated the Archbishop on his election as Primate and Archbishop. The Bishop of Waiapu expressed the pleasure that the appointment had given to all the bishops and members of General Synod.

Standing Committee.—The following were elected members of Standing Committee:—Clergy: Ven. Archdeacon Simkin, Archdeacon Williams, Very Rev. the Dean, Rev. F. W. Bennett, Rev. F. B. Redgrave and Rev. Canon Butterfield. Laity: Messrs H.

J. Bull, T. Ellery, J. H. Kibblewhite, A. G. Pallot, R. E. H. Pilon, A. E. Turner Williams and F. W. Williams.

Board of Nomination.—It was decided to increase the numbers of the Board by electing two clergymen and two laymen. The Ven. Archdeacons Williams and Simkin and Messrs A. E. Turner Williams and G. C. Williams were elected.

Fire Insurance.—The Standing Committee were instructed to inquire into the question of insurances on Church property with a view to the more efficient carrying out of the requirements of General Synod.

Spiritual Healing.—The report of the committee appointed to investigate the subject of Spiritual Healing was read. The Bishop promised to have it printed and circulated. The Bishop was asked to appoint a further commission to continue the investigation.

Rev. G. H. N. Watson.—Synod resolved that a letter of appreciation of his services to the diocese be sent to him. Mr Watson has been appointed Vicar of Waihao Downs (Christchurch Diocese).

Communicants' Rolls and Churchings.—In a debate on recommendations contained in the report of the Session Committee on returns and accounts, the question as to requiring returns to be furnished annually of the number of communicants on the roll and the number of Churchings taken was carefully discussed.

Sunday School Organiser.—A motion was carried asking the Standing Committee to secure the services of an Organiser for Sunday Schools. All who spoke emphasised the urgent need for an improvement in methods of teaching and organisation. This can be secured only by the appointment of an efficient expert in Sunday School matters to help the teachers by instruction and to outline schemes of work. The only difficulty in the way is the need of money, but, as this is a matter of the utmost importance to the Church it is hoped that the Standing Committee will be able to devise ways and means for obtaining the services of an organiser at an early date.

Prohibition.—The longest debate in Synod took place on Mrs. Hera Munro's motion in favor of Prohibition as "the only immediate available remedy" for the evils of the liquor traffic. Several speakers "let themselves go" in warm support of the motion. Archdeacon Williams opposed Prohibition as being a man-made shortcut that might bring material advantages but not strength of character. The grace of God was the real remedy and the best one.

The Bishop said that all the American bishops at the Lambeth Conference agreed that Prohibition had

"transformed the whole life of America."

Mrs Munro, in her reply, introduced a serious innovation by singing a solo she had learned from a Maori girl. We hope this is not the "thin end of the wedge."

The main gist of the argument was an appeal to the pakeha to vote Prohibition for the sake of the Maori "younger brother." The motion was carried by a large majority.

Ourselves.—A fairly long discussion took place on the "Church Gazette." An article on the subject will be found in another column.

Diocesan Choir Festival.

As the result of consideration by the committee and a conference with the clergy of Hawke's Bay the following arrangements have been made re the Choir Festival with the approval of the Bishop.

Date, April 18th.

Choirs arrive April 17th. Full rehearsal in the evening. April 18th: Plain celebration with hymns, 7.30 a.m.; choir breakfast, 8.30 a.m.; Choral Eucharist with short sermon, 10.30 a.m. (Merbecke); hymns, 546 (A. and M.), 316 (A. and M.), 318 (Eng. Hym.), 322 (A. and M.), 190 (A. and M.); Nunc Dimittis, plain-song, Tonus Peregrinus; lunch (say), 1 p.m.; garden party, afternoon; Evensong, hymns 641 (Eng. Hymnal), 470 (E.H.), 519 (E.H.), 272 (E.H.), 604 (A. and M.); short anthem, "Lord for Thy Tender Mercy's Sake"; Canticles and Psalms 122 and 84 (plain-song). The Bishop will appoint preachers for both morning and evening. The tune to 190 (A. and M.) will be "Hesperus" (to be found in the Hymnal Companion).

All the music not contained in Hymns A. and M. will be printed shortly and copies supplied to choirs.

Provision will be made for country choirs to camp in Napier in suitable buildings and expenses will be met by offerings at the services and other ways yet to be devised.

The Rev. Thomas Fisher, Hukareve Cottage, Hospital Hill, is the secretary. It will help if choirmasters will send to Mr Fisher soon an approximate estimate of the number of chorists likely to go to Napier for the festival. A few other details have yet to be settled.

The objects of the choir festival are (1) to encourage the use of good hymns and music suitable for ordinary parish churches and of a "congregational" character; (2) to promote sympathy and community of interest among members of the various choirs able to participate in the festival.

A very successful festival is antici-