

definitely to register, are asked to communicate with the General Secretary, Student Christian Movement, Vickers House, Woodward Street, Wellington, C1, if they have not already done so.

The cost of the conference should be approximately £1. The time is being restricted to three full days so that ministers may attend between Sundays.

BOARD OF MISSIONS NOTES.

Annual Meeting of the Board.—

This took place on August 28th, beginning with a celebration of the Holy Communion in the Pro-Cathedral, Wellington, and ending with the usual Provincial Thanksgiving Service in the evening. Bishop Hilliard, of Nelson, preached the sermon on the text, "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest." He spoke feelingly on some of the world problems of the present day and missionary work in relation to them. He gave a most interesting account of the harvest being reaped in many countries, and ended with an eloquent and moving appeal for increased effort on the part of the Church.

At the business meeting of the board motions of sympathy were passed with the relations of the late Bishop Sadler and Mr. A. P. Williamson, both of whom had been connected with the board since its inception. Heartfelt appreciation was expressed of their services.

The budget was fixed at the same amount as in the preceding year, viz., £16,500, and the quotas for the various dioceses also remain the same. From the years 1927 to 1934 the budgets remained at £18,000, with the exception of one year—1931—when £20,360 was aimed at. The drop to £16,500 was made last year. There was a general feeling among members of the board that financial matters in the Dominion had certainly improved, but that it would not be prudent this year to increase the budget. It is hoped, however, that the general improvement will produce a hearty response to the missionary cause, and that in all probability something more than the amount asked for will be given by church people.

It was announced that there is a prospect of Bishop Graham-Brown, of Jerusalem, coming to New Zealand in 1936, and it was decided to send him a hearty invitation. Invitations are also being given to the Primate of All Ireland and the Metropolitan of India to come here. These prelates will be attending the Broughton Centenary in Australia.

PERSONAL.

Miss M. A. Jennings, of the C.M.S., Kowloon, who is expected to arrive in Auckland on the 28th September, will undertake deputation work without delay, beginning in the Nelson Diocese.

Major H. S. N. Robinson, secretary of the Melanesian Mission to Sydney, was a visitor at the annual meeting of the board in Wellington. He returned to Sydney after spending a few days in Auckland.

THE NEW VESTRY.

News item ("News From Nowhere") :—"At the annual meeting of the parish of Mostlikely, the following were re-appointed church officers for the current year. . . . It is an indication of the confidence placed in them by the electors that these men have served on the Vestry without a break for the last 50 years."

So we are the lads of the vestry, merry and gay are we. From the very first start, of the vestry a part, and this is our Jubilee. That's so! This is our Jubilee.

The Vicar appointed his Warden: Mr. Giffer, he said, it must be. It don't make no differ, says Granddaddy Giffer, for I am a hundred and three, my boy, yes, I am a hundred and three.

The people all voted together—their warden was plain for to see—our Benjamin Blower, he's older than Noah, his beard flows down to his knee, snow-white, and flows right down to his knee.

The minutes are read by Macandrew, a Protestant, born at Dundee. "Ah ken what Ah'm saying, Ah ken what Ah'm daeing." Ah was fowerty years at sea, ma. mon, fowerty years at sea."

The next is a relative youngster, son of old Giffer is he; fifty years in the choir, and pitches no higher than the octave below middle C, a drone, an octave below middle C.

There's Thomas and Henry and Alfred, three brothers as like as can be. They're never been farther, than—London?—or rather, they're never been over the sea—that's safe—they've never been over the sea.

So these are boys of the Vestry. Of Vicars they've known twenty-three. Of progress they know not, to movements they glow not, their Church is as safe as can be. Alas! their Church is as dead as can be.—Anon.

(We are assured that in the above skit there is no reference intended to any particular vestry or individual.—Ed.)

AUCKLAND CHURCH LEADERS' NOBLE APPEAL.

Signed by twelve ministers of religion belonging to several denominations, the following moving appeal was recently addressed to Cabinet Ministers, members of Parliament, and church leaders. It is a piece of plain speaking which does credit to the Church and articulates the thoughts of tens of thousands of people throughout New Zealand.

Their statement reads:—

Determined to arouse the public conscience to the dire need for drastic alteration on the existing methods of dealing with unemployment, with its appalling suffering and injustice, we the undersigned emphatically declare that in this city we know that on every hand there is suffering that is absolutely unnecessary. In our daily contacts we are constantly confronted with cases of distress that need not exist.

Widespread malnutrition in a primary producing country is nothing short of a national scandal, and calls for immediate remedy.

POOR HOUSING

The fact that whole families are living in one room or perhaps two rooms in an apartment house, eating, sleeping, washing, etc., within the confines of a single apartment, needs surely only to be known to be condemned without hesitation on Christian as well as on humanitarian grounds.

SHORTAGE OF CLOTHING

While our social workers are faced with a desperate necessity of attempting to cope with the demands