

The Waiapu Church Gazette

BISHOP'S LETTER

My Brother of Aotearoa and Brethren of the Clergy and Laity,—

In welcoming you to the new Session of the Synod, I wish once more to express my thanks to Almighty God for the many blessings he has bestowed upon this Diocese during the year that has passed.

In Memoriam.—Let us remember before God, three former members of the Synod who have passed away, Horace Packe, Priest, Canon; Edgar Ward, Priest; Wiremu Arameta Te Waaka, Priest, and Mr. Wiremu Kingi, Layman, of Ohinemutu: May their souls through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Changes.—Archdeacon Chatterton retired from the charge of Rotorua at the end of the year, but is continuing his duties as Archdeacon of Tauranga, where he is now residing. The Rev. R. Hodgson has been appointed Vicar of Rotorua, and the Rev. W. S. C. Stephens of Fitzroy, has taken his place at Waerenga-a-hika. The Rev. A. R. H. Morris resigned the Parochial District of Te Karaka on December 31 and has been succeeded by the Rev. J. D. G. Hodgson; the Rev. F. I. Parsons following him at Tolaga Bay. The Rev. M. Holmes left Tauranga to gain experience in England, and no one has yet been found to take his place. The Rev. W. Lea has been compelled to take a year's rest and the Rev. L. Foulkes, of Auckland, has kindly acted for him at Te Puke. I am glad to be able to report that Mr. Lea's health is much improved. The Rev. F. L. Frost has resigned the parish of Taradale, and the Board of Nomination has appointed the Rev. Canon Hodge to take his place, and the Rev. S. R. Gardiner, of Waverley, to succeed Canon Hodge at St. Augustine's. On April 7th, at Rotorua, I ordained the Rev. F. G. W. Oulds, Priest, and Mr. J. D. Hogg, Deacon. Mr. Oulds has since been appointed Vicar of Matamata, in the Diocese of Waikato, and Mr. Hogg has been licensed as Chaplain to Te Aute College. The Rev. R. Aires has been appointed Curate at Gisborne, and on February 10th I ordained Mr. T. A. Moresby as second Curate in that Parish. The Rev. R. Rangiaho has

been moved to Ruatoki, the Rev. W. Moana to Porangahau and the Rev. W. Rangi to Tokomaru Bay.

The Rev. C. Hyde has been asked to return to his old curacy in London, and will probably be leaving for England about the end of June. The Rev. J. J. Anderson will take up the work at Puketapu, and the Rev. A. R. H. Morris will return from England to take Mr. Anderson's place at Wai-piro Bay.

Miss Newman and Nurse Bartrum are now in charge of the Mission House at Ruatoki; Miss Beswick is at Tokomaru Bay, where she has the help of Miss L. Gray; and Miss Taylor has joined Miss Price at Manutuke. Miss Biddle has arrived from England as a voluntary worker among the Maoris. She will be stationed at Te Araroa, where she hopes shortly to be joined by Miss Hopley and her sister, who have also volunteered for work, and will be arriving about the end of November.

Deaconess Esther and Deaconess Isabel have returned from their trip to England and are nominally in retirement, but actually are very busy in Hastings and Napier respectively. Deaconess Mabel Henn has been working at the Hospital and in St. Augustine's parish.

Canon Nield has had to undergo a severe operation, and is still in hospital, and making satisfactory progress. The Rev. P. Hakiwai, who is seriously ill, is lying in a critical condition. May God in his loving mercy grant them both relief.

Church Buildings.—On March 17th I consecrated the new chancel of the Church of St. John the Baptist at Dannevirke; and on June 30 the Bishop of Aotearoa consecrated the Church of St. Paul at Ngapuna, Rotorua.

Church Army.—Since the last Synod we have had the visit of the Church Army Flying Column to the Diocese. Captain Banyard arranged that practically the whole of the Diocese should be covered. Success varied widely in different parishes and districts. Where the results were disappointing I do not think the Church Army is to be blamed. The members of the Column worked hard; but I felt all the time that it was hardly fair to ask them to cover the whole of New Zealand after a prolonged campaign

in Australia. We are most grateful for what they have done. The proposal for a Provincial Centre in New Zealand was not found practicable, but a training institution is to be opened in Auckland, where we shall be able to train workers who are already familiar with New Zealand conditions. We wish the venture all success. The Standing Committee has decided to purchase a caravan, which will be operated by a Church Army Officer and should do valuable work in the outlying parts of the Diocese.

The Cathedral.—The question of rebuilding the Cathedral has not been lost sight of during the year, and will be brought before you by resolution during the present Session. The suggestion has been made that it might be well if the Dean could be spared to pay a visit to England during the coming year in order to arouse interest in the scheme, and to endeavour to raise the nucleus for a substantial rebuilding fund. Inquiries from friends in England have, on the whole, brought encouraging replies, and you will be asked to give your sanction to the scheme. Of course, the outbreak of war may mean postponing the venture indefinitely.

Amendment of the Constitution.—In my address to you last year I mentioned that the General Synod had passed a Statute the effect of which would be to make material alterations in the method of nominating the Bishop of the Diocese. My own feeling is that Synod allowed the measure to be pushed through without adequate consideration. The wording of many of the clauses is clumsy and undignified; and there was not thorough discussion of how the proposed machinery of the Statute would work in practice. There was no need for this haste, as the provisions of the Statute cannot come into operation until amendments have been effected in Clause 23 of the Constitution. A proposal to amend the constitution must be brought forward in one General Synod, made known to the several Diocesan Synods and agreed to at the following General Synod. As I have said, I mentioned the proposal to you last year; but Title C, Canon I, Clause 2, directs that the Bishop should expressly invite the attention of his Synod to the matter. I failed