

to do this, and now repair the omission. And in doing so I would call your attention to Clause 3 of the same Canon, which provides that you may by resolution or otherwise, as you think fit, declare your opinion thereon and embody the same in the form of a memorial to the General Synod. As the proposed amendment to the Constitution was framed to meet the provisions of the new Statute for the nomination of a Bishop you can hardly deal adequately with the amendment without reviewing the Statute; and in doing this you will have to inquire whether by the method proposed in the new Statute any objectionable features in the present method are removed, and whether there may not be inherent in the new proposals features which are open to criticism. I trust that a Select Committee will be set up without delay to deal with the matter.

The Aotearoa Church Board.—Notice of a motion to deal with this subject has been given to the Synod. Under the Canon dealing with the matter which was passed by the last General Synod the Standing Committee of General Synod was empowered to take the necessary steps to bring the Board into existence if it was satisfied with the financial position, and if not less than two of the North Island Dioceses had, through their Standing Committee, agreed to the constitution of the Board. The Standing Committee of the General Synod, during which exception was taken to the Board on financial and other grounds. I cannot here deal at length with these matters, but before the question is discussed in this Synod I wish to make one or two points clear to the members. I still think, as I indicated last year, that the constitution of the Board is very cumbersome. Some of the powers conferred upon the Board in dealing with Pastors and Pastorates impinge upon the prerogatives of the Diocesan Bishop. It is true the Bishop will be a member of the Board, but he might find himself outvoted in a matter in which he was best qualified to judge. The same remark applies to the control of the Mission Houses. But the main difficulty raised by the Canon rests in the office of the Bishop of Aotearoa. Clause 17 makes the first duty of the Board "to assist

the Bishop of Aotearoa with counsel," and the first of the powers conferred upon it by Clause 18 is "to make regulations in regard to the payment of the stipend and travelling allowances of the Bishop of Aotearoa, and for the provision of a suitable residence." Both of these provisions imply the continuance of the office of the Bishop of Aotearoa. Title A, Canon IV., under which the Bishop is appointed provides that no nomination shall be made "until provision shall have been made to the satisfaction of a majority of the Bishops in the North Island for a stipend of not less than £500 per annum, a suitable residence and reasonable travelling allowances." After the Canon was passed the stipend and travelling allowance were guaranteed for five years by interests in this Diocese, and a house was promised, and money spent upon it by the trustees of the fund. It was hoped that before the expiry of the five years a permanent arrangement for stipend and travelling would have been effected covering a wider area. Little, however, has been done in this direction, and a portion only of the guarantee has been renewed for a further three years; and the house which was promised has been conveyed to the present Bishop personally. That means that if the present Bishop should have to give up work there would be no official residence, and only very inadequate financial arrangements, in which case the Bishops of the North Island would be most unlikely to sanction another appointment. It seems to me, therefore, to be necessary that steps to secure a succession to the office of Bishop of Aotearoa should be taken before we set up a board which might be left hanging in the air through failure in this respect. This will give time to simplify the composition of the Board, and to review the duties and powers assigned to it.

Arrangements for the Session.—I have made a slight modification in the arrangements during the Session. It has for some years been customary for the Bishop to meet the Clergy in conference on the Friday morning and the Laity on Monday morning. Now, while these conferences are often very useful, they are not part of the Session of the Synod; and it has become increasingly evident to me that they

are proving a hindrance to the proper prosecution of the work of the Synod. There are certain regular Sessional Committees, and always a number of Special Committees are asked for. Again and again it has been evident from the reports of these committees that the subjects referred to them have not received the consideration which was necessary. I have therefore decided to leave the morning of Friday free for committee work, and I will be pleased to meet the Clergy in conference on Monday, and I can further meet the Laity on Tuesday morning if there are any matters they would wish to discuss with me.

World Affairs.—Affairs in the world at large still give cause for grave apprehension. The financial depression has lifted but little, and very slight improvement has been achieved in the unemployment situation. And now it appears possible that the world may be plunged in war. Italy, a member of the League of Nations, has made exorbitant demands upon Ethiopia, a weaker nation, and also a member of the League; and has from the first announced her determination to achieve these demands, if not through the decision of the League, then by force of arms. On the plea of upholding civilisation, and maintaining peace she has pressed on her warlike preparations and massed her troops on the Ethiopian frontier, and has insolently defied the League to interfere. After months of patient negotiation by the members of the League she has opened hostilities in the face of the universal disapproval of the nations of the world. And who can tell where the trouble will end? In times such as this one hears harsh criticism of the Church, criticism from widely differing quarters. On the one hand, there are those—often but little interested in the Church—who ask scornfully, "What is the Church doing?" "Why does she not boldly demand the reduction of armaments?" "What has she done to relieve the trouble of unemployment?" and so on. On the other hand, when efforts are being made resentment is shown, the Clergy are told not to meddle in affairs which are not their business, and to keep their hands off politics. The critics of the Church have generally very vague ideas of what constitutes the Church. It cannot be too strongly emphasised