

SYNOD TO MEET AT ST. JOHN ON APRIL 29, 1919

NOMINATIONS MADE AS DELEGATES TO WINNIPEG

Report of Nominating Committee Adopted—Delegates Entertained at Bishops' Court.

The Diocesan Synod this morning spent the greater part of the time upon the adoption of the report of the nominating committee upon the boards and committees of the Synod for 1918. The changes in the committees were not very extensive.

Nominations were made for delegates to the General Anglican Synod of the Dominion of Canada, which will meet in Winnipeg beginning September 11th next. Six clergymen and six laymen are to be elected. The balloting probably will take place this afternoon.

It was decided that the next annual meeting of the Synod will be held April 29th, 1919, at St. John, that place alternating with Fredericton as the place of meeting.

Entertained by Bishop.

His Lordship Bishop Richardson and Mrs. Richardson entertained the visiting delegates and their wives at Bishops' Court last night. Many were in attendance at the reception and greatly enjoyed themselves.

Bean Supper.

The Presbyterian ladies will hold a bean supper in the Fraser Memorial Hall on the evening of Wednesday, April 17th, from 5 to 7 o'clock.

Fire at Cooper's Factory.

The firemen were called out this morning to extinguish a small fire at Cooper's carriage factory, King street. The damage was not great.

St. John Press Represented.

Mr. Frank Ellis, city editor of the St. John Globe is here today as a member of the delegation on the New Brunswick Power Company's bill, and also is representing his paper. Mr. A. M. Belding, editor of the St. John Times, also is here on the delegation.

Humor of the Trenches.

Capt. T. Rand McNally will give an illustrated lecture at the Brunswick Street Baptist Church vestry on Monday evening on "Bainstater's Humor of the Trenches." There will also be a reading by Miss Lynds and a musical programme. The proceeds will go to the Capt. F. S. Porter fund.

Madawaska Lumber Co., Ltd.

The Madawaska Lumber Co., Ltd., has been incorporated under provincial charter with total capital stock of \$10,000 and head office at Edmundston. Those incorporated are Wilfrid Demers of St. Jacques, and Emile Michaud and Marie Louise Verret of Edmundston.

Fires Yesterday Afternoon.

The fire department was called out twice yesterday afternoon for small fires. One was at the residence of Mrs. Moffatt, the roof being slightly damaged. Shortly after four o'clock an alarm from box 54 called the firemen out for a fire at the residence of Mr. Robert H. Wandless. The roof was considerably damaged.

Lancaster Tugboat Company.

John A. Gregory, Mrs. Addie L. Gregory, J. Dufferin Mitchell and Mrs. Lily B. Mitchell, all of Lancaster, St. John County, have been incorporated under the name of The Lancaster Tugboat Company, Limited, with power to engage in a general tugboat business. Head office is in Lancaster and the capital stock is \$20,000.

Aged Man on Long Walk.

Among the many guests at York Hotel today is Mr. Henry Hawkes, of North Tay, who although 72 years of age, walked from his home yesterday to Nashwaakasis, a distance of twenty-six miles. Mr. Hawkes said the roads are very bad and make travelling rather hard, nevertheless he was up for breakfast at 7 o'clock this morning, feeling none the worse for his long journey.

No Discretion Allowed.

Roy Mullins, who is serving a term in York County jail for violating the Intoxicating Liquor Act, 1916, by having liquor in his possession at a place other than his place of residence, is a deserter from the 236th MacLean Highlanders. He has expressed a desire to rejoin his battalion and the military authorities have taken steps to have him released. Application to the police magistrate, however, has brought out the information that under the prohibition act a magistrate has no discretion and when a prisoner is serving a sentence he must complete it. The act is different from practically all others in this respect.

Died in Hospital.

Richard Howard, a well known resident of Devon, died yesterday in the Victoria Hospital after a long illness. He was aged sixty-six years. The deceased is survived by a widow, one daughter, Mrs. Raymond Richardson of Bangor, Me., one son, Philip, at home and three brothers, Zebadiah in Alabama, Frank of Washington, and Turner of St. John. The funeral will take place Friday afternoon from the late home of the deceased, Rev. A. D. McLeod conducting the service at 2:30 o'clock. Interment will be made at Sunnybank cemetery.

NEW BRUNSWICK POWER CO.'S BILL BEFORE CORPORATIONS COM. THIS MORNING AND AFTERNOON

Very Large Delegation from St. John is Present—Those Supporting the Bill Heard This Morning—Members of Company and Capitalists Represented—Strong Case Made Out for Company's Application for Power to Increase Rates—Company's Employees and Labor Represented—Opponents of the Bill to be Heard This Afternoon.

The hearing on the New Brunswick Power Bill began before the Corporations Committee of the Legislative Assembly this morning. When recess was taken at one o'clock this afternoon it was decided that the committee should meet again at 3:45. At the morning meeting those in favor of the bill were heard. They represented the St. John and American people with money invested in the company, the employees of the company and organized labor. The opponents of the bill will be heard this afternoon.

The delegation on the bill is large the bulk being supplied by those against the measure. The hearing took place in the Assembly Chamber, extra seats being furnished for the delegates.

Mr. J. P. Burchill, chairman of the committee, announced that the delegates supporting the bill would be heard first, then those against it and last the supporters in reply.

M. G. Teed, K. C.

M. G. Teed, K. C., said the increase in rates was not for the purpose of increasing returns to shareholders but to meet increased cost of operation, maintenance and upkeep of the plant due to the war. The company originally was incorporated in 1912 as the New Brunswick Hydro-Electric Company. It spent a number of years in acquiring all water powers on the Magaguadavic making an expenditure of some \$118,000. St. John offered the only market of any size and the company acquired the St. John Railway Company. Had conditions remained as they were early in 1917 there would be no reason to increase rates but changing circumstances altered matters. Materials and labor both had advanced.

The question was "what was a fair return on the investment?" Bonds and preferred stock were issued. There also was issued two millions of common stock. Dividends were asked only on the preferred stock and bonds. Some years ago when money was cheaper the legislature fixed eight per cent. as a fair return on money invested. The Public Utilities Commission had set the same figure.

Experts some years ago placed a valuation of \$2,730,311 on the various properties of the company.

Money had actually been spent to the amount of \$118,000 on the development of water powers on the Magaguadavic. Added it made a total of \$2,848,000.

Interest at seven per cent. would amount to \$199,000. The company was asking for only \$182,000. Taking the value of plant alone at \$2,666,228 seven per cent. would be only \$182,224 while the company asked only for \$182,000.

For plant, the retiring of bonds and the development of water powers, the

amount of \$2,575,600 actually had been paid out. Seven per cent. on that would be \$180,292.

Mr. Teed gave some instances of increased cost of operation. Increased wages amounted to \$40,000 per annum. Coal also had increased heavily. Organized labor had made a demand for further increase in wages. The new Workmen's Compensation Act also would cause additional expenditure.

The only thing contended that should remain stationary was the rates. At present rates after providing five per cent. on bonds and dividends of seven per cent. on preferred stock there would be a deficit of \$96,296. Either rates must increase or employees must go without increase or investors without dividends.

What was wanted was means to meet the increased cost of operation. Then adequate return to investment should be provided for, and eight per cent. would not be excessive. There had been discount of \$350,000 on disposal of bonds and stocks with a further discount on second preferred stock.

P. J. Hughes.

Mr. P. J. Hughes of Fredericton, said that if a campaign had not been waged in the press there would not have been agitation against reasonable increase in rates. Prejudice should be abandoned and the facts considered on their merits. There could be but one conclusion and that was that the company must increase its rates or go behind. There could be no dispute that the company should receive enough to pay its way. There is not the slightest foundation that the increase was to pay dividends on \$2,000,000 of common stock. The street railway never was expected to pay dividends but the profit was to come from water powers and New Brunswick needed water power badly enough. With the increase asked operating expenses could be paid and wages increased. Otherwise the company must default. This was not the only company to increase rates. Railway companies have been allowed to increase their rates to meet increased expense of operation. Public utilities cannot stand still. The old street railway company had come to a point where it could make no extension of its services and could sell no more bonds. The Legislature must come to the assistance of the company or it will default.

F. R. Taylor.

Mr. F. R. Taylor of St. John, pointed out that application had been made to the Public Utilities Commission for the right to make increase and the city of St. John had objected that application should be made to the legislature. The fullest opportunity was extended to the city's auditor, Mr. McIntyre, to examine the company's accounts and books.

Mr. J. B. M. Baxter at this point objected that Mr. McIntyre had been

(Continued on page 4.)

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