

their own ministers, who must be recognized by the government. The free church congregation in Reykjavík is by far the largest of the three.

Iceland forms one bishopric with its see in Reykjavík. Besides the bishop there are two vice-bishops, one for each of the two dioceses into which the country was divided of old. The vice-bishops ordain clergymen in the absence of the bishop proper, and one of them can consecrate an entering bishop, in case the one retiring cannot himself perform the ceremony. The office of a vice-bishop is an honorary office, held by a clergyman doing ordinary clerical work besides. The country is divided into 20 deaneries, each presided over by a dean. The number of livings is 106, some of them including more than two parishes. The total number of parishes is 272.

Candidates for the priesthood must now, as a rule, have taken a theological degree at the university of Iceland. Clergymen are chosen by a secret voting on the part of such of the parishioners as are of age (21 years old) and of blameless reputation. At a parochial election, where more than one-half of the parishioners have voted, the candidate who gets more than one-half of the votes cast is called duly elected. If, on the other hand, none of the candidates polls the required number of votes, the government may disregard the election, and appoint to the office any candidate recommended by the bishop. Deans and vice-bishops are appointed by the government under the advice of the clergy of the deanery or diocese in question, while a bishop is chosen in the following manner: All the clergymen and the theological professors in the university propose three candidates each for the office, and the one who receives the greatest number of votes is elected, provided at least three-fifths of the votes cast are given for him. In the event of none of them obtaining the required number, the Ministry of Church Affairs shall appoint to the see the one of the three who polls the greatest number of votes.

The clergymen are paid out of the *Prestlaunaskjóður* (Clergymen's Salaries Fund) which is made up partly of the income derived from Church Rates, i. e. 1.5 krónur payable by every parishioner of 15 years and over; partly of rents paid by tenants of church estates; and partly of the interest of the Church Estates Fund, that is, of the interest on the money realized by the sale of church lands. In so far as the Fund's own receipts do not suffice to cover the annual expenditure, they are supplemented by a grant from the State, which in 1928 amounted to 247 000 krónur.

Every parish has its congregational council, composed of 3 or 5 mem-