

## NEWS FROM WESTERN DIOCESES

### DIOCESE OF RUIERTSLAND

#### CHURCH SOCIAL.

On Thursday, Nov. 24, Mr. and Mrs. F. Rimer, gave a church social at their home on Smith street, Winnipeg, in aid of the floating debt on Carleton church, in that city, of which Mr. Rimer is church warden. For some considerable time before, preparations had been being made, and, on the evening in question, everything was in form for an excellent gathering. A special musical programme was prepared, in which the following took part:—Mrs. H. Fry, M. S. Campbell, Miss Fraser, Miss Mathias, Miss Morgan, Miss Pace, Miss Anderson, Miss Burgess, Mr. F. Pace and Mr. S. G. Chambers.

It was very hard to particularise amid such a galaxy of talent; suffice it to say that the guests were more than delighted, and many of the artists had to give encores. A rich and supper, purveyed under the able management of Mrs. Hampel, whose work on this occasion is worthy of all praise was served at 11 p.m. The large dining room was most tastefully decorated, the tables were, as Mrs. Hampel's tables always are, and out in the most artistic and tempting manner, and the viands provided were of the choicest. Mrs. Rimer was aided in her onerous duties by Mrs. Henry Powell, whose devotion to the work of her church deserves the strongest commendation. The whole evening was a brilliant success, and over \$100 was handed over towards the funds of the church. It is impossible to over estimate the spirit in which the entertainment was given, and the energetic zeal of Mr. and Mrs. Rimer, which brought about such excellent results. Over 80 were present.

#### RAT PORTAGE—ONTARIO.

The editor of the Western Churchman spent a few days lately in this romantically situated town, and during his stay, he naturally gave a good deal of time and attention to the work of our church in the neighborhood. For the benefit of those who do not know Rat Portage, he now records his experiences:

St. Alban's church is a really fine frame building, in early English gothic, built on a splendid foundation of stone taken from the quarries in the district. In the basement, which is excellently lighted, are a chapel for week-day services, and a large hall for Sunday school, guild, and other meetings. The chapel is furnished with a neat, properly vested altar, lectern, font, reading desk, etc., all provided by the guild of St. Agnes (for girls) at a cost of \$300. The hall, which is comfortably heated from the furnace which heats the nave of the church, is furnished with benches and chairs for about 300 people.

The church, consisting of ap-

sidal chancel, organ chamber, vestry, and nave, is without exception the most commodious and churchlike of its size in the diocese of Rupert's Land. The altar, as well as all the other fittings, is of oak, and is duly vested according to the ancient English use. The whole chancel floor is covered with a fine Brussels carpet of an ecclesiastical pattern, and everything is arranged as it ought to be in a well-fitted church. The seating of the nave is all in oak. The whole of the internal fittings of St. Alban's were provided by the Ladies' Aid, at a cost of over \$2,000.

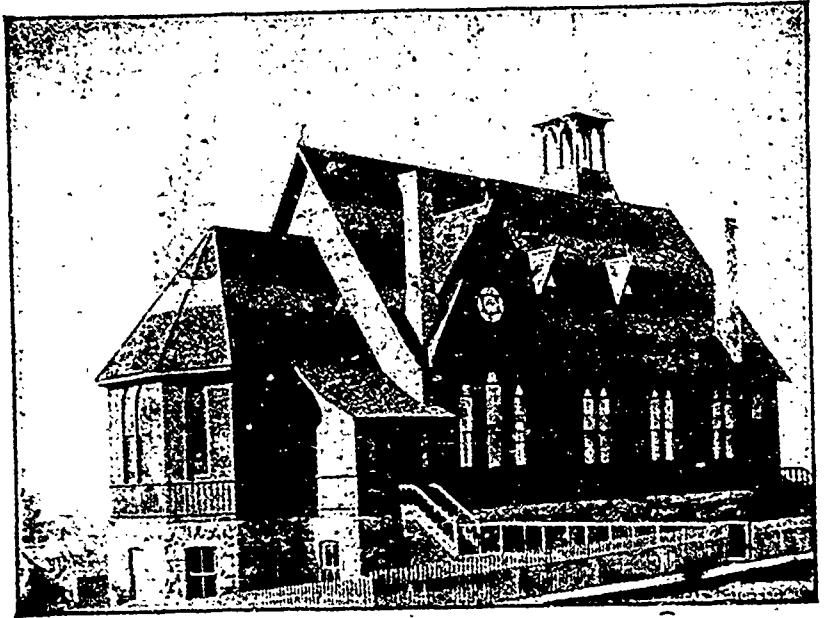
A short time ago the "tiny tots" of the congregation, consisting entirely of children under the age of ten, gave a kindergarten concert, which realized the sum of \$18.50, which sum was spent on tinting the walls of the chancel a lovely pale blue.

The rector, Rev. J. W. B. Page, M. A., B. D., a distinguished alumnus of St. John's college and the University of Manitoba, is not only an able preacher and parish organizer, but is a man beloved and revered by the

remembered with affection and respect. In the chancel there are two fine stained glass windows, one with a figure of our blessed Lord as "The True Vine," and the other with a figure of "St. Cecilia." These have been erected in memory of Mrs. Stunden, whose death was caused by the fall of a gasoller in the church, which set fire to her dress and caused injuries which proved fatal. Rev. Mr. Fortin, held the charge for two years, and Rev. Mr. Page has now been its rector for four and a half years.

There is a good mixed choir, and the services, though plain, are hearty and congregational. At evensong, when the psalms are chanted, the service is most hearty. Mr. G. H. Reid is a painstaking and devoted choirmaster. There are about 180 names on the roll of communicants; the average attendance at matins is about 140, and at evensong about 200.

From the care and attention given to Sunday school work, it is evident that Mr. Page believes the future of our beloved church to depend largely on



ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH, RAT PORTAGE.

whole community, because of his excellent life and work. Under his ministry, the charge has made rapid strides in numbers and efficiency, in respect of church work; and he is ably supported in his efforts by his energetic and cultured wife. Around them, Mr. and Mrs. Page have gathered a noble band of earnest church workers, whose labors would be a good example for many a congregation of far greater pretensions. A visitor to Rat Portage cannot help being struck with the loyalty to their pastor which characterizes every section of this very mixed congregation.

The first English church services in Rat Portage were taken by Right Rev. Bishop Grisdale, who was also the pioneer of many other parishes in the diocese of Rupert's Land. The first rector was Rev. Mr. Stunden, a good, sound churchman, who did excellent work, and whose name is still

the training given to the young in church principles. The writer had the great pleasure of taking Mr. Page's place as superintendent, for one session of the Sunday school; and, after an experience of twenty years, he ventures to say that St. Alban's Sunday school is far above the average as regards efficiency and attendance. The lessons are based on the leaflets of the Sunday school Institute. The singing, which is very hearty, is accompanied by organ and cornet. Every week the rector holds a teachers' meeting, at which the lessons for the coming Sunday are carefully gone over; notes are given, and difficulties are explained. The Sunday school roll contains 245 names, with 16 teachers. The average attendance is 175. Every visitor to this Sunday school must be struck with the excellent Bible class, the members of which are young men and women,