

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

One could write an interesting letter about the travels of the men who have charge of the Presbyterian churches in Toronto, as they are recuperating with their families. Some have crossed the ocean, as has been their custom for many years now. Nothing will tone up some men like an ocean voyage, and the slower the boat the better for such a one. One of them in order that he might be as long as possible on the water, took passage in a cattle steamer. True he knew the captain, and so had things as comfortable as it is possible to have them on such a vessel. And he enjoyed it, and came back with twelve months' vigor stored up.

This year several have gone down by the sea, to the quiet of the southern shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, where the fashionable time-killer has not yet come. The sail down our own St. Lawrence in order to reach this place is next to a sea voyage in its tonative effects. The quiet and restfulness of the resort, one hates to call such a spot of natural beauty by that name, makes it peculiarly pleasant to a minister who comes to it from the bustle of a city congregation.

The Lake of Bays in Muskoka claims several of the Toronto minister. Rumor has it that two of them have undertaken to build a shelter for themselves and their families on one of the points of that pretty series of Lakes during the month of August. A small boy will go along, and the stillness of the summer days will be broken by the sounds of the hammer, occasionally interrupted by a yell, and then by the voice of the small boy expressing the feelings of the man who sits silent, holding the injured finger or thumb in his least injured hand.

One minister, who would rather preach than listen to another man preach, or lie under the trees and read, is going west, and will take service for his brethren during the month he is away from the city. Another will preach for a brother in a small congregation and allow him to have a well-earned holiday, which, had it not been for the thoughtful offer of this minister of one of our larger congregations would have had to keep pegging away during these hot days.

For some time attention has been directed to the need of the Presbyterians who make the Island their summer home. There are Methodist and Anglican services there at present, and some of the Presbyterians have asked that their own Church shall furnish them with summer service. Also the matter was remitted to a small committee, who had power to act if they deemed action desirable. No definite steps have so far been taken in the direction of establishing service there, and we presume the members of the Committee have not found it advisable to establish any other than the services at present being held for the benefit of the Christian people who wish to worship without having to come over to the City.

There is some talk of the Honan missionaries, the male portion, of them at least, returning to their work this autumn. The news that reaches us from China is not reassuring however. If the word of the British representative in China may be relied upon, the condition is not so good as it was some months ago. The Boxer movement has taken on a new lease of life, and the number of members of that insurrectionary body is daily increasing. If our missionaries return it is doubtful if they will be able to take up the work in our own field. Of course they may be able to secure work under another body, but surely the Church will not grow restive because it has to maintain the missionaries at home for another year. Certainly they are not maintained in idleness, and most, if not all of them are only too eager to go back again. We would venture to hope that the way will be indubitable clear before they are allowed to return where some of them have already all but laid down their lives in prosecuting the work to which we sent them out.

Rev. Dr. Jackson, of Cleveland, Ohio, (formerly minister of Knox Church, Galt) is filling pulpit of St. Paul's Church, Peterboro, in the absence of the pastor.

Rev. R. Aylward, of Park Hill, Ont., occupied the pulpit of St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa, last Sunday. He will also be the preacher at both services in the same place next Sunday. Mr. Aylward is an able and scholarly minister; and the St. Andrew's congregation is to be congratulated on having such excellent supply.

Western Ontario.

Rev. A. L. Budge, Mandaamin, has been visiting friends in Sarnia.

Rev. A. Mahaffy, Port Elgin, has been elected Moderator of Bruce Presbytery.

Rev. G. McKay, of Caledon, and family are summering at Ethel Park, Beaverton.

Rev. F. D. Roxburgh, M. A., has been preaching in Erskine Church, Hamilton.

Rev. Neil D. McKinnon, Glenallan, has been elected Moderator of Guelph Presbytery.

Dr. Wallace and Lt. Col. Wiginbotham were appointed auditors of Treasurer's books, Guelph Presbytery.

The Waldemar and Maples congregations have called Mr. R. A. Cranston, a recent graduate of Knox College.

Mr. P. C. McDermid, graduate of Knox College, has been duly licensed as a preacher of the Gospel by London Presbytery.

Rev. Dr. Fraser, wife and daughter, of Annan, left last week for Halifax on six weeks' holidays. They spent Sunday at the Capital.

Knox Church, Walkerton, will celebrate its jubilee in September; and Bruce Presbytery has appointed Rev. A. Tolmie to carry its greetings to the congregation.

The Ladies' Aid Society at Eugenia served meals to the Orangemen and others assembled there on the 12th inst., and realized the sum of \$60.00 for their labor.

A committee on the schemes of the Church was appointed by Guelph Presbytery as follows: Dr. Torrance, convener; Messrs. Bradley, Knowles, MacVicar, Ross, McLennan and Blair.

London Presbytery has accepted the resignation of Aylmer charge by Rev. M. N. Bethune; and Rev. D. R. Drummond was appointed to declare the pulpit vacant on the 21st inst.

The Rev. Jas. McLeod, from Southern Manitoba, occupied the pulpit in the St. George church last Sunday, the pastor, Rev. D. V. Ross, having gone to Beaverton to enjoy a well deserved holiday.

Rev. D. L. Campbell, of Dromore, assisted Rev. J. A. Matheson at the preparatory service in St. Columbia Church, Priceville, on the 5th inst. Communion was dispensed on the Sabbath following by the pastor.

The congregation of Chalmers church, Dundwich, has been granted leave to borrow \$2,500 on the church property, the new building to cost \$3,500, and the subscription towards the same amounting to \$3,100.

The Sabbath Schools of Erskine Church, Dundalk, and Knox Church, Ventry, held their annual picnic together in Doyle's grove, Dundalk, on the 5th inst. Although the weather was threatening there was a fairly good attendance and all enjoyed the outing.

Cooke's Church, Markdale, held their annual garden party on the 9th inst, on the beautiful grounds of Squire Struthers about two miles from the village. The evening was delightfully fine and the turnout was large. Proceeds \$50.00. The pastor, Rev. J. Hunter, is now off on two weeks' holidays.

Mr. D. J. Davidson, a recent graduate of Knox College who is giving three months of his time to Orangeville Presbytery in the interests of the Student Volunteer Movement, was with Rev. J. R. Bell at Laurel on the 6th inst. and on Sabbath last with Rev. L. W. Thom, speaking to interested congregations at Flesheron, Eugenia and Proton.

Bruce Presbytery has named standing committees for the year with the following conveners, Home Missions, Mr. Conning; Sabbath schools: Mr. McLennan; statistics, Mr. Nicol; superintendence of students, Mr. Tolmie; Finance, Mr. Conning; Young People's Societies, Mr. Patterson; Church Life and Work, Mr. Leslie; augmentation, Mr. Johnston.

At the anniversary services in Chalmers Church, Flesheron, on the 7th inst, a special collection was asked for in lieu of the usual week evening festival and nearly \$35 were placed upon the plates. Rev. J. Little, of Chatsworth, who conducted the services with great acceptance, preached the annual sermon to a large turnout of the Orangemen at Eugenia in the afternoon. Rev. L. W. Thom supplied for Mr. Little at Chatsworth and the former's pulpit at Proton Station was supplied by Mr. P. McGreggor, of Dundalk.

At last meeting of Bruce Presbytery Mr. Nichol read a carefully prepared report on statistics and finance. The report showed in many respects an encouraging measure of success and yet when the standing of the Presbytery is compared with the average of the whole church in the matter of supporting the various schemes, it was evident that there is ample room for improvement.

"The Rev. G. C. Little," says the Herald, "has refused the call from Maple Valley. The Corbetton and Riverview congregations were loath to let him go and raised the salary to \$750. a year and free manse. Mr. Little is very popular with his congregations. A call to him from Victoria Harbor has been made but it is to be hoped that he will remain with his present congregations."

Before the service in Knox church, St. Thomas, Sunday night the pastor, Rev. D. R. Drummond, addressing the ladies of the congregation, said that he had no doubt that it would add to their personal comfort and besides give those behind them a better and unobstructed view if the ladies removed their hats, to which he had no objection. A large number took the hint and removed their hats.

Guelph Presbytery has arranged for missionary meetings within the bounds; missionary sermons to be preached and meetings held so far as practicable before end of October; and the following ministers were appointed to take charge of the same: Mr. MacVicar, Mr. McKinnon, Mr. Glassford, Mr. Robertson, Mr. Ross, Dr. Dickson, Mr. Macpherson, the Presbytery to bear the expense.

The following were appointed Conveners of Standing Committees in Guelph Presbytery: Superintendence of Students,—Mr. Gilchrist, convener; Church Life and Work,—Mr. Horne, convener; Sabbath Schools,—Mr. A. W. McIntosh, convener; Finance,—Dr. Torrance, convener; Evangelistic Services,—Mr. Pogue, convener; Young People's Societies,—Mr. W. R. McIntosh, convener; Home Missions,—Dr. Dickson, convener; Augmentation,—Mr. Ross, convener; Systematic Beneficence,—Dr. Wallace, convener; Committee on Conferences,—Mr. MacVicar, convener; Examination of Licentiates,—Church history, Mr. Robertson; theology, Mr. MacVicar; Hebrew, Dr. Dickson; Greek, Mr. Hamilton; Latin, Mr. Horne; philosophy, Mr. Black; exercises, Mr. Glassford.

The annual convention of Euphrasia Sunday School Association was held at Rocklyn on the 28th ult., and was a profitable season. Among those who took a leading part in the program were Revs. Hunter, Markdale; Davidson, Blantyre; and Dr. McLaren, of Rocklyn, who in addition to giving an excellent address on "The duty of parents to the S. S. teachers" ably answered the Question Drawer. Mr. Davidson spoke interestingly on the "Advantages of Sabbath School Conventions." Mr. Hunter's theme was "The Communicant's class in the S. S." and in the course of an able address pointed out the need first, and secondly the great benefit derived from having a class of this kind under the pastor's care. Rev. Dr. McLaren was elected Hon. President; Rev. Reynolds, President; Rev. J. Hunter, Vice President.

Miss Hattie Sullivan, ex-President of the C. E. Society and organist in the Sunday School of Chalmers Church, Flesheron, was on the 10th inst. joined in marriage to Mr. J. J. Mills, traveler for Chantler, Massey & Co., Toronto. On the eve of her marriage Miss Sullivan was waited upon by the Superintendent, Mr. A. M. Gibson, and a number of his lieutenants in the Sabbath School and in behalf of the School was presented with a beautiful parlor lamp and silver gray lade as a token of their appreciation of her faithful services. She will be greatly missed in both School and Endeavor. The latter held an appropriate memorial service on Sabbath evening last in memory of the late Mrs. Alex. McCalmon, an esteemed and faithful member who was called home on the 7th inst, after but a few days illness with inflammation. She too, will be greatly missed in the Society.

Edinburgh students have declared by a big majority that Mr. Carnegie's method of dealing with university education is "right in principle, and a direct step towards the higher standard of national education."

Lord Roberts has decided that in future the use of the rifle must be the first consideration in the training of recruits for all arms of the British service. Sword, lance and bayonet exercises have been abolished.