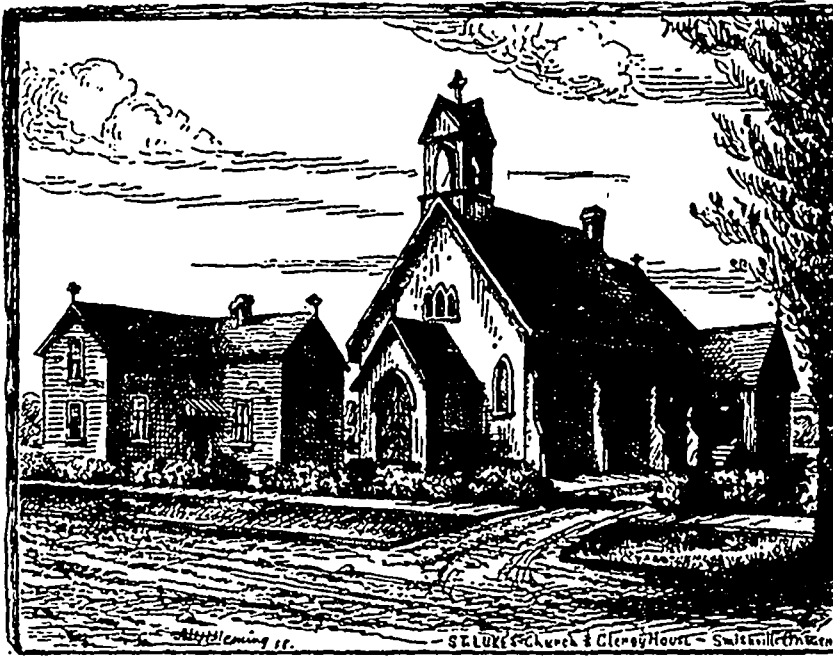




ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, SMITHVILLE, ONT.

fastened at the back of the seat recording the result of the voting. A few years ago at an election held for the Municipal Council of North Qu'Appelle the friends of the candidates met and resolved to decide the election by a toss up, which was done. The next year when voting actually took place the poll stood 7 to 5.

The North-west is certainly a grand country with unbounded possibilities before it. And, while I would not advise anyone in comfortable circumstances to "go west" on an uncertainty, yet I certainly think a struggling farmer, on a mortgaged or rented farm, and with a family of boys, would be foolish not to go. There are drawbacks there to be sure—cold winters, pestiferous gophers, cut worm, wire worm and numerous mosquito—yet the hardy settler can laugh at them all. For what are these compared to the drawbacks of many other lands? Heaven has smiled upon his labors and granted him an abundant yield. Indeed the smiling sun is seen all but too regularly, and the great want is summed up in the prayer uttered by many lips, "Lord, Lord, 'a gracious rain upon Thine inheritance.'"

OUR PARISHES AND CHURCHES.

No. 29—ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, SMITHVILLE
DIOCESE OF NIAGARA.

THE village of Smithville has long been a point of interest to those who looked anxiously for the extension of the Church in those parts. Old established parishes are found along the shores of Lakes Ontario and Erie, but between these lines of occupation

the middle range running westward from the Welland Canal to the Grand River has been far from sufficiently supplied.

Smithville, as well as being a thriving village of considerable size, surrounded by a fine agricultural country, is a central place in this belt, and if the Church was firmly established there would form a radiating point for further extension.

A few visits from Rev. C. L. Ingles and other travelling missionaries was all that had been done in years past until 1874, when Rev. W. Green was licensed to minister there in connection with Jordan and Beamsville. His ser-

vices in the Smithville Court House were fairly attended during the two years of his stay, after which there was an interval of six years.

Rev. A. C. Jones was appointed to Smithville in connection with Font Hill in 1882, and remained in charge until June, 1883. During this period the erection of a church was mooted, but very little was done.

The true work of this mission commenced with the appointment of the present incumbent, Rev. F. C. Piper, in 1883, who for the first three years also ministered with much acceptance at Font Hill, and until of late at Wellandport, where by great exertion he succeeded in building a small church. Font Hill having been annexed to Welland, and Wellandport attached to Caistorville Mr. Piper found himself at liberty to visit Beamsville, which although within the limits of his mission it had hitherto been impossible for him to reach. In this prettily situated and flourishing village Mr. Piper has lately commenced services, and so far even more success than was hoped for has attended his efforts. A good congregation it is confidently believed will be established there, and in due time the fruit will be seen in the erection of a church.

Mr. Piper's arduous labors at Smithville have produced very gratifying results. A very pretty little church has been built and paid for and is now well attended. A comfortable parsonage has also been secured, but efforts are still required to remove the debt incurred. The people of the adjoining parish of Grimsby, one of the oldest in Canada, rendered Mr. Piper substantial aid in his