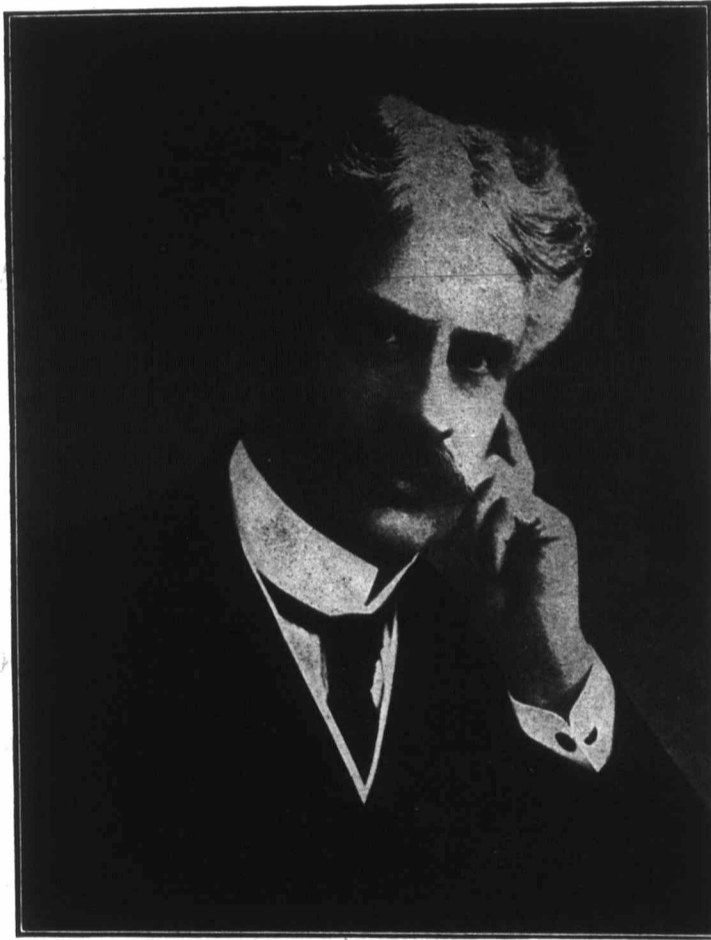


## THE CHURCH AND THE Y.M.C.A.

One of the most unique ceremonies ever held in the city of Toronto took place on Tuesday evening, the 14th, when the cornerstone of the new building on College Street for the Central Branch of the Toronto Young Men's Christian Association was laid. The outstanding feature of the occasion was in the representative character of those participating in the function and giving endorsement to the work of the Association. His Lordship, the Bishop of Toronto, conducted the service. The Right Hon. R. L. Borden, K.C., LL.D., the Prime Minister of Canada, laid the stone. Mr. Harry Rylie, vice-president of the Association, presided, and recalled the magnificent way the citizens of Toronto had responded to the request for an adequate equipment to meet the demands for Association work throughout the city in subscribing \$800,000 for the erection of four buildings for the Y.M.C.A., and for new equipment and buildings for the Young Women's Christian Association as well. The speakers were:—Mayor Geary, representing the city of Toronto; the Rev. H. A. Macpherson, Vice-President of the Ministerial Association of Toronto, on behalf of that body; Sir John Morrison Gibson, K.C.M.G., Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, on behalf of the Province, and the Prime Minister, Right Hon. Mr. Borden, who had come to Toronto especially to be present for the occasion and to deliver the address. It would be safe to say that there are few institutions that would command such honour from Church and State, and array on the same platform the highest representatives of the churches, the city, the province, the Principal of the University, the President of the Board of Trade, and the first citizen of the Dominion, with the business men and young men composing its membership, as the Association has done on this occasion. At the forty-ninth annual meeting held later in the evening, practically all the representative men referred to were the guests of the Association, and in addition, the speaker of the evening was Sir Edmund Walker, President of the Canadian Bank of Commerce. From the reports presented at the annual meeting, some idea of the Association's growth and activities were presented. The four buildings planned were reported to be all under way or completed, and would represent an outlay of \$1,050,000. Even though hampered by antiquated equipment at the Central Branch and West End and College Associations, the membership in the city had increased by 1,334, and now totalled 6,081. The Broadview Branch was opened in March and the new West End building was expected to be ready for occupation in the fall of this year. All the Associations closed the year free of debt. A noteworthy feature was the report of the Mimico Railroad Branch, where all the railroad men away from home at the centre are looked after by the Y.M.C.A. The Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific Railways in common with all the trunk lines on this continent sustain a Railroad Branch Association at each prominent divisional point. These centres are greatly appreciated by the train men. The late Charles M. Hays was a strong advocate of the Railroad Branch. Of particular interest to Churchmen were the men taking part and the endorsement given to the Association, which is significant. Not only was the presence of the Bishop of Toronto in his robes, with his chaplain, Canon Dixon, as the officiating clergy, strikingly conspicuous at the function, but the fact of the Prime Minister and the Mayor both being Anglicans, adds to the interest of the occasion.

There is a happy unity in the Association activities which obliterates the denominational differences. There has been much talk of Church unity in recent times, but the Y.M.C.A. has been practicing it for nearly seventy years. Loyal to the Church, usurping none of the Church's functions, it binds together the men of all faiths for the service of their fellows. While it is Christian to the core, it opens its door widely to all. Its buildings and its activities give substance and reality to the good impulses and desires of those who wish to help young men to fight a winning battle, each one with strength as the strength of ten because his heart is pure. To undertake such a task is an inspiration, to accomplish it even measurably is to find a new value in life. Representative Churchmen have always been active in the Association's work. Among the presidents and chief officers here have been Hon. S. H. Blake, Dr. Hoyles, the late Stapleton Caldecott. Bishop Baldwin was a constant representative and speaker at the conventions of the Association. Among the Toronto men who volunteered for the foreign work of the Association was the Rev. Mr. Southam, now rector of All Saints, Toronto, who



(Courtesy The Mail and Empire).

RIGHT HON. R. L. BORDEN,  
Prime Minister,  
Who Laid the Corner Stone.

served as secretary at Hong Kong, and the Rev. Dr. Taylor, now home on furlough, who is an Association official at Shanghai. A unique fact of interest to Churchmen is that the first native Bishop in India to be consecrated comes from ranks of the Y.M.C.A. secretaries in India. Perhaps few Churchmen know that Sir George Williams, of London, England, who founded the Y.M.C.A. in 1844, was honoured as few men have been by the nation and by the Church. He was knighted at the time of the Jubilee of the Association in 1894, and on his death a great petition was presented asking that his body be interred in St. Paul's Cathedral. On the following Sunday Archdeacon Sinclair preached a special memorial sermon to a great congregation in St. Paul's. The sermon was the Church's answer to the people's memorial. "If," said the preacher, "any were to ask why the authorities of the Cathedral had granted to so humble and unassuming a Christian worker as Sir George Williams the rare and very

exceptional honour of laying his remains among those of great heroes of sea and land, of illustrious Churchmen, of eminent painters, musicians, and wise statesmen, the answer was the Cathedral has a three-fold duty in its sympathies and obligations: to the city, to the diocese, and to the Empire. In all three aspects the founder of that marvellous organization, the Young Men's Christian Association, was pre-eminent. During his long business career he set an example to all City men of a simple, devoted Christian life, of wide and constant generosity, and of unswerving zeal for the welfare of those vast multitudes of young men whom the business of the City requires." It was because Sir George Williams was to the last a business man among business men, that he has written his name on the heart and life of the world. No sounding triumph, no sudden victory, no startling appeal to a people's passion, or a country's gratitude gave him his place among the noblest of the nation's dead. It was his life, his life seen as a whole, his eighty-four years of battle for things that are pure and holy and of good report, that the world honoured in St. Paul's Cathedral on the 14th November, 1905.

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## ROYALTY TURNS THE FIRST SOD FOR GRACE CHURCH.

In particularly favourable weather his Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught turned the first sod on Thursday, 23rd May, 1912, for the new Grace Church, College Heights, Toronto, in the presence of a large company of clergy and laity, including the Bishop and the Assistant Bishop of Toronto, Canons Dixon, Plumptre, Macnab, the Rev. J. S. Broughall, rector of the parish, his father, the Rev. A. J. Broughall, former rector of St. Stephen's, and others. The order of the procession was as follows:—The vested choir; visiting clergy; the Church Wardens; the rector of the parish, the J. S. Broughall; the Rev. A. J. Broughall; the Bishop's Chaplain, the Rev. Hilliard Dixon, who carried the Pastoral Staff; Assistant Bishop Reeve; and His Lordship the Bishop of Toronto, the Right Rev. Dr. Sweeny.

**Duke Arrives.**—At 11.05 the Duke arrived accompanied by Colonel Lowther and Captain Lang, who was received by the rector, Dr. Sweeny, and the Church Wardens as he stepped from his motor car. After the singing of the National Anthem, in which His Royal Highness joined, the Duke passed along the walk to the improvised platform where he was sheltered from the sun by a small tent. The address was read by the people's warden, Mr. D. T. Symonds, K.C., and a beautifully illuminated copy, bound in purple leather was presented to the Royal guest. It read as follows:—

"To Field Marshal, His Royal Highness, Arthur, Duke of Connaught and of Strathearn, Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada:

"May it please your Royal Highness, we the Rector and Churchwardens and members of the congregation of Grace Church, Toronto, desire to express to your Royal Highness our deep appreciation of your kindness in being with us to-day to turn the first sod preparatory to the erection of the new church in the new parish.

"Among the several happy omens that have attended the beginning of our work here we consider your visit as one of the most auspicious.

## An Interesting History.

"The old church was situated on Elm Street in a parish which was set apart in the year 1872. Owing to an entire change of conditions in the

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