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### Conservative Rally

Town Hall, Petrolia, Wednesday, November 26th

The officers of the Liberal Conservative Association in East Lambton have decided to hold a general organization meeting and rally in the Town Hall, Petrolia, on Wednesday, November 26th next at 2 o'clock p.m.

Hon. Hugh Guthrie M.P., R. V. Le Sueur M.P., Wilfred S. Haney M.L.A., and Joseph E. Armstrong will be the speakers for the afternoon and a rousing time is expected.

It is the desire of the Association that the Chairman and Secretary of each polling sub-division in the riding shall attend this gathering with as many of the workers as can make it convenient to attend.

Special accommodation will be provided for the ladies, who are cordially invited.

If it is worth while getting a radio it is worth while knowing what make and what size you will get good results at the lowest cost. We can tell you.—Chas. M. Fitzgerald.

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(They taught me All I Know):  
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and WHEN,  
and HOW and WHERE and WHO"  
—Kipling

WHAT was the Declaration of London?  
WHY does the date for Easter vary?  
WHEN was the great pyramid of Cheops built?  
HOW can you distinguish a malarial mosquito?  
WHERE is Canberra? Zeebrugge?  
WHO was the Millboy of the Slashes?  
Are these "six men" serving you too?  
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### Congregational Church History

#### The Oldest Organized Church in This District

The Congregational Church of Watford which is celebrating the eighty-fifth anniversary of its organization on Sunday and Monday, is the oldest organized congregation in this village, and also, together with the Zion Congregational church on the corner of the second concession N.E.R., and the fifteenth sideroad, Warwick township, is apparently the oldest organized congregation in the township.

Back in 1839, some thirty-five years before Watford was incorporated as a village, Rev. W. F. Clarke, pastor of the First Congregational Church, London, journeyed out of London, along what is now the Sarina Gravel Road and established preaching stations at various intervals. His farthest point west was the township of Warwick where he commenced preaching services in an old log building on the outskirts of what is now the Village of Watford, and also in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Enoch Thomas on the second line N.E.R. A nephew of Deacon Enoch Thomas as he was familiarly known, is still serving as deacon of the Watford church in the person of John Thomas; while several grandchildren of Enoch Thomas, together with three great-grandchildren, are serving the two churches in official positions.

The first pastor of the two churches was the Rev. Mr. Geikie, who was followed by Rev. Leonard McGlashan. During Rev. Mr. McGlashan's pastorate he started a school of higher education in the home of Deacon Enoch Thomas. It was a kind of "Preparatory School for the Ministry" and at least two Congregational ministers, the Revs. William and James Hay, brothers of Rev. Robert Hay, who was later the pastor, for many years of the Watford and Warwick churches, began their theological studies under the tuition of Rev. Mr. McGlashan.

Rev. Mr. Armour was the next pastor.

Shortly before, or about, this time a church building was erected on the Main road and fifteenth sideroad, Warwick township, on the opposite corner to that on which Knox Presbyterian church stands today, and this church was shared with the Presbyterians, who had just commenced services, just as the building erected by the Presbyterians on the outskirts of Watford, on North St., was shared by them with the Congregational church of Watford. This cordial good-fellowship between these two denominations has been manifest throughout their history ever since.

Rev. Daniel McCallum commenced his pastorate about the year 1849, and continued as pastor for about sixteen years. A singular coincidence is that at the time of Rev. Mr. McCallum's death in May 1917, at Kingston, his pastor was Rev. T. DeCourcy Rayner, the present pastor of the Watford Church.

Rev. John Salmon became pastor in 1866, and during his pastorate the first Congregational Church edifice was erected in the Village of Watford, this being a frame building, 30 by 40 feet in size, painted white, with Gothic windows and doors. The Church, which was known as the Bethel Congregational Church, stood on Victoria street, and was opened on Friday, Jan. 7th, 1870, Rev. Dr. Wilkes, of Montreal, being the special preacher at the afternoon services, the Church being filled for the occasion. A tea meeting was held in the evening, the church being crowded and people turned away from its doors.

During Rev. Mr. Salmon's pastorate the Zion Congregational church, in Warwick township, decided to give up the use of the edifice on the Main Road, and, having secured a new site on the corner of the Second concession N.E.R., and fifteenth sideroad, in 1868 erected the present church edifice which was opened on Sunday, January 31st, 1869, with Rev. J. Wood, of Brantford, and Rev. Mr. Bauld, C.P., as special preachers in the morning and afternoon, and the pastor, Rev. J. Salmon, as preacher in the evening.

The brick used in the new church was donated by one of the members the late R. J. McCormick, afterwards M.L.A. for East Lambton.

Rev. Robert Hay followed Mr. Salmon as pastor, and remained for some years after which he resigned and was succeeded by Rev. J. B. Colwell, who served as pastor for about one year. Rev. Robert Hay was then invited to return for a second term as pastor, and served the church faithfully for about fifteen years.

Rev. Mr. Hay continued to reside in Watford following his retirement

from the active ministry, and is the only former pastor who is buried in Watford Cemetery.

During Mr. Hay's pastorate the present site on Main street was purchased, in February, 1889, and a large frame church edifice erected.

Rev. Mr. Hay closed his pastorate early in 1894, and in the middle of that year, Rev. W. H. Madill became pastor for a short term. In 1895 Rev. Albert Margrett succeeded Mr. Madill and continued as pastor until December 31st, 1898.

Rev. Charles R. Ashdown served the church as pastor from April to September 1899, and was followed by Rev. C. H. Routcliffe, who commenced his pastorate in October 1899, and continued until the middle of 1902 when he resigned on account of ill-health.

Rev. Albert Margrett returned to the church as supply-pastor for several months during Mr. Routcliffe's illness.

Rev. J. P. Gerrie B.A., accepted a call to the pastorate and commenced his work in September, 1902, continuing as pastor until September, 1904.

Rev. Matthew Kelly succeeded Rev. Mr. Gerrie, commencing his pastorate in November, 1904, and remaining with the Church until April, 1911.

The Church building was destroyed by fire on April 4th, 1911, and services were held in the old Town Hall. The present brick building was erected in 1911, the re-opening services being held on January 28, 1912.

Rev. R. M. Stevenson, F.R.G.S., served the Church as pastor for various periods from 1911 until the end of 1918; and the present pastor, Rev. T. DeCourcy Rayner, commenced his pastorate on May 4th, 1919, coming here from the pastorate of the First Congregational Church, Kingston, Ontario.

Several of the former pastors have been very prominent in the life and work of the Denomination, serving on various Denominational Executive Committees; the following having been honored with election as Chairman of the Congregational Union of Canada: Rev. Daniel MacCallum, in 1876; Rev. J. P. Gerrie, B.A., in 1903, while pastor of the Watford Church; Rev. Matthew Kelly, in 1919; and Rev. Albert Margrett, in 1920. The present pastor, Rev. T. DeCourcy Rayner, has served as Young People's Editor of "The Canadian Congregationalist" for the past seven years, and also as a member of the Executive of the Department of Sabbath Schools and Young People's Societies of the Congregational Union of Canada.

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