

# Ministers and Churches.

## Our Toronto Letter.

The intense heat of last week has driven everyone out of the city whose business and purse would allow them to leave. Those who remain have been busy planning how to escape exertion during the day, and how to find a cool spot to lie upon during the night. The hot wave affected the churches most of all. It was evident that, to the popular mind, the church is not suggestive of cool graces. Perhaps it was the perspiring preacher that made it uncomfortable for the very sensitive, or it may have been the three minute walk to and from the church, but whatever the deterrent, it was most effective.

Why should not some of the pleasant lawns in connection with our beautiful residences be utilized for Sunday evening services during the hot summer months? We could dispense with a pipe organ, and a begowned minister, and all the rest for a couple of months. The minister would preach more freely, and the people would enjoy the comradeship of the open air service. A cornet with a small organ would lead the singing admirably. Apart from the greater comfort of the service more who would not come into the stately church building would gladly sit under the trees on a beautiful lawn.

There are queer folk in the average congregations. Many of them are not there to worship; indeed, if it were possible to read their thought it would be found that they considered that by attending service they had placed something to their credit. That they were fulfilling an obligation had not occurred to them. They listen to the preacher with a patronizing air, and comment upon his performance as they would upon the performance of the variety actress whom they were watching the evening before. That there has been a Presence about them as they went through the form of worship has never dawned upon them, and of course they have never bowed before Him. And these are they who most loudly demand that the minister shall satisfy their desires Sabbath after Sabbath.

Every available man is pressed into the service to supply the demand for pulpits where men are off on vacation. During the month of August is the minister's rest time, but many of them are not resting altogether this year. The city pulpit has been kept supplied by men who are supposed to be off on vacation. We have had such men as A. G. Sinclair, Thos. Nixon, R. Hadow, R. M. Hamilton, and many others. In one of the groups east of the central line, three ministers agreed to exchange for as many Sabbaths, and thus take a holiday, visiting some nearby resort, such as Niagara, or Jackson's Point. Some have stayed on, working away the hot spell. It is not good policy. The summer takes much out of the man, and the season of hard and constant work finds him with little energy to enter upon it.

Rev. Alex. Macgillivray, who did such good work for the Century Fund in this Presbytery during the past winter found it well to take a lengthened holiday, and has spent it among the Rocky Mountains. He spent one Sabbath at Rossland, another at Nelson, another at Lethbridge. He had earned a rest, but his kindness would not allow him to refuse a hard-working brother among the mountains, and he has done considerable preaching on his way. He has been much benefited, and will return to his work on the 26th full of vigor, and enthusiasm for the mountains, and the work that is being carried on there. Incidentally this may tell upon the supply there next year, as Mr. Macgillivray is in charge of that most important Presbytery Committee that has charge of the student element in its work. A word fitly spoken may induce a young man, who has cherished dreams of an Ontario manse, to change his plans and go out to join the workers in the West.

We note that Rev. R. C. Marison, lecturer in Orientals in the University, is spending some time in Winnipeg, where he is to deliver a course of lectures during the summer session now in progress in Manitoba College. He, too, will bring some taste of Western air in college work when he returns. It is not altogether a new experience to him, for his first work was done on the Pacific coast, and one does not get the western life shaken off inside of a decade.

There was no meeting of the Presbytery during the month of August, and there is not much prospect of a big docket till October. Out of the nine charges that are vacant only one will come up with a call. Fairbank and Fisherville will present a call to Rev. J. W. C. Bennett, and

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hopes that it will be accepted. Mr. Bennett is the son of the manse, his father having been minister at Almonte in the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew. He is at present supplying for the Rev. S. O. Nixon, of Ayr, during the absence of the latter at Jackson's Point, Lake Simcoe.

The good people of St. Andrew's and St. Paul's, Vaughan, divided so evenly upon two good men that it was thought well to begin over again, and they will hear another life of candidates. It is unfortunate when two men run so close, as it is next to impossible to prevent a trace of sectional feeling, and that makes a final settlement all the harder. However, the good people of these two congregations may be trusted to keep down all such feelings, and we may hope that they shall come up a month later with a unanimous call. Rev. J. A. Grant, Richmond Hill, is Moderator.

Perhaps it is just as well for the city congregations to kill time during the hot summer months. Few of the members are at home, and were a call to be issued at present, one-half of the congregation would know nothing of the man who was to minister to them. So they are working along, largely under temporary supply, till the return of the members. We presume they are busy with enquiry, for no man will be called to any of these congregations because he has preached acceptably on the Sabbath. His record will be pretty thoroughly known before he is invited to take charge of so important a charge.

## Northern Ontario.

Rev. Mr. Craw's resignation of Medonte stations will take effect at end of September.

Rev. L. MacLean, of Duntroon, has been called to the pastorate of Stayner Presbyterian church.

Rev. Mr. Wishart, Woodville, occupied the pulpit on Sabbath last, Rev. J. McD. Duncan preaching in Knox, Beaverton.

Next meeting of Barrie Presbytery will be held in Barrie on 11th September, at 10.30 a.m. Part of the time will be spent in conference.

Sympathy is expressed for Rev. W. Amos, Aurora, on the sudden death of his sister, Mrs. Ralph J. Land, which occurred at the Woodstock Hospital.

St. John's church has been separated from Bradford, and it was agreed at last meeting of Barrie Presbytery to ask for a grant from H. M. Fund to aid in sustaining services there.

The services in Division Street church, Owen Sound, last Sabbath morning was conducted by the Rev. John Wilkie, of Indore, India, who was able to give much valuable information regarding famine relief as well as mission work. Mr. Wilkie is listened to with deep interest wherever he goes.

It is with deep regret the death of Rev. F. A. McRae, Bolsover, is announced. Mr. McRae, who was a Queen's College student, had been ill for some time. Last summer he was stationed in the Northwest, in the hope that the climate would improve his health. He was greatly respected by all who knew him. The influence of his life and example and kind words will long be felt in the community. The funeral on Saturday, to the "Old Stone Church" cemetery, Thorah, was largely attended, the Rev. D. W. Best of Beaverton, assisted by Rev. B. M. Smith, of Bolsover, conducting the services.

A very pleasant affair took place recently at the residence of Mr. Hugh McKay, 10th Line, Sydenham, a few days after that gentleman had joined the ranks of the bereft. About 130 members of the congregation of Knox church, Sydenham, dropped in on the young couple and presented them with a writing desk and chair, accompanied by an address expressive of the kindly feelings of the visitors, which was signed by the pastor, Rev. John A. Black, on behalf of the congregation. Mr. McKay has been and is treasurer of Knox church and this fact opened up the way for the presentation. Mr. McKay made a suitable reply in which he thanked his friends on behalf of Mrs. McKay and himself. A very enjoyable evening was afterwards spent, during the course of which lunch was served.

## Winnipeg and West.

Rev. Principal Patrick opened the new Presbyterian church at Longburn last Sunday.

Rev. W. J. Heribson, Minnedosa, Man., has accepted a call to the Presbyterian church at Carman, Man.

## Western Ontario.

Rev. John Currie, Belmont, is taking a well-earned vacation.

Rev. T. D. McCullough, Harriston, is summering at Rosseau, Muskoka.

Rev. J. P. McInnis, Ripley, took the services last Sunday at Bradford.

Rev. R. Fowle, Erin, takes his holidays this season by visiting the Pacific Coast.

Rev. R. Pogue, Hespeler, having returned from a brief holiday trip, will resume work next Sabbath.

Rev. W. A. MacKay, D.D., Woodstock, has been elected president of the Ontario's Lord's Day Alliance.

In the absence of Rev. A. F. Webster, Mr. D. Ferguson, Knox College, occupied the pulpit of Esson, church, Nevis.

Rev. A. M. Stewart of Culloden and Versohoye, preached two very acceptable sermons at Knox church, Stratford, last Sunday.

Rev. W. M. Cruickshank, of St. Anns, preached a very able sermon in the Presbyterian church, Smithville, on Sabbath evening last, in the absence of the pastor, Rev. A. McD. Haig.

Rev. Dr. James, Paris, was the preacher in Knox, Hamilton, last Sabbath. The Times styles his sermons as "powerful and eloquent." Dr. James was for many years pastor of this congregation.

Re-opening services in Guthrie church, Harriston, were conducted by Rev. Hardie, Listowel. The attendance was large at both services. The church now presents a clean, tasteful appearance, after passing through the hands of the decorator. The grounds have also been nicely levelled and seeded down under the superintendence of the esteemed pastor, Rev. T. D. McCullough.

## Maritime Provinces.

Bridgeport, C.B., congregation is about to build a new church.

The Pictou Presbyterial W.F.M.S. met at New Glasgow on the 15th.

Rev. C. McKinnon, of Park St., Halifax, has returned from his European trip.

The N.B. Christian Endeavor convention will be held at Fredericton on Aug. 21-23rd.

Halifax is going to erect a memorial fountain to the Canadians who fell in South Africa.

Rev. A. Gandier preached the anniversary sermons in Sharon Church, Stellerton, last Sunday.

Revs. Thos. Cumming and A. F. Carr have been nominated for the moderatorship of next Synod.

Shelburne, N.S., has called Mr. D. J. MacDonald, one of this year's graduates. He will be ordained on the 28th.

Rev. J. G. Shearer, Field Secretary of the Dominion Alliance, is now holding meetings in the Maritime Provinces. He spoke at Summerside, P.E.I., last Friday.

Rev. W. S. Darragh, of Linden, N.S., will celebrate his jubilee as a minister on Nov. 12th. The Presbytery of Wallace is taking steps to suitably mark the occasion.

The church at Baillie, N.B., has been handsomely repaired and refurnished. Mr. A. A. Smith, catechist, has given nearly a year's continuous supply and is very acceptable.

The Halifax Presbyterial W.F.M.S. met last week in Halifax. A letter was read from Mr. Macrae, Korea, and Dr. Morton gave an address. The next meeting will be held at Elmsdale.

Rev. A. Robertson of St. Johns, N.F., was presented with an address and purse of \$400 on the eve of his trip to Scotland, where he will represent our church at the union of the Free and N. P. churches.

## Deaths.

At Toronto, August 8th, 1900, John T. M. Burnsides.

In Winnipeg, Man., on Aug. 9, 1900, Duncan McBean, formerly of Lancaster.

At her residence, Whitby, on Wednesday, Aug. 1st, Christina Manuel, widow of the late James Thomson, aged 79 years and 5 months.

On Aug. 10, 1900, at the Jeffrey-Hale Hospital, Quebec, Robert Craig (late of Reid, Craig & Co.), aged 63 years.