

Ministers and Churches.

General Assembly Echoes.

Rev. Dr. Armstrong, of St. Paul's church, Ottawa, was placed in nomination for the Moderatorship. In a speech "marked by chaste eloquence and fine taste," says the Vancouver World, "Dr. Armstrong declined the honour and supported Dr. Fletcher," who became the unanimous choice of the Assembly.

As we predicted, Rev. R. G. MacBeth, who had charge of arrangements for the reception of the commissioners, did his work in such a complete manner as to merit the special thanks of the Assembly for his "protracted and strenuous labours," which left room for only commendation and praise. In this connection the Vancouver World says: "In fact Mr. MacBeth made a name for himself as the organizer of the greatest church gathering Vancouver, or the Canadian Pacific Coast as a whole, has ever seen. All honor to him."

Of course all the pulpits in Vancouver and neighborhood were filled by Presbyterian ministers on Assembly Sunday. Among those from Eastern Ontario and Quebec were Dr. Herridge, of Ottawa; Rev. John Hay, of Renfrew; Rev. J. A. Cranston, of Collingwood; Rev. A. Graham, Lancaster; Rev. Prof. Campbell, Montreal; Rev. J. H. Forland, Collingwood; Rev. J. W. H. Milne, Ottawa; Rev. A. C. Wishart, Beaverton; Rev. D. Tait, Quebec; Rev. J. D. Morrison, of Bristol; Rev. Prof. Scrimger, Montreal; Rev. G. L. Johnson, North Bay; and many others.

The retiring moderator, the Rev. Dr. George Bryce, of Winnipeg, is one of the best known men in the church. He is a Canadian, and has done much to build up national sentiment in the west. As a young man he was chosen by the Presbyterian church to come to the new province of Manitoba, to found a Presbyterian college there. This was in 1871, just after the first Riel rebellion and in the critical and formative days of the province the young professor did important service. The material for the college was found in the parish school at Kildonan—the famous Selkirk colony—and the institution has become one of the pillars of church and state.

Mr. W. W. Miller, of Portage la Prairie, is one of the faithful elders of the church present at this Assembly. Mr. Miller has a unique record as a superintendent of a Sabbath School in that he has occupied that post for over twenty years in one congregation and was only absent two Sundays during this period.

Of the coming Moderator the Vancouver World has this to say: "Rev. W. D. Armstrong, D.D., of St. Paul's church, Ottawa, will likely be moderator of the General Assembly next year. He is a man of wide education and especially learned in many of the branches which few pastors have an opportunity of studying. He has been for years a worthy and vigilant watchman on the towers of Ottawa and at the seat of legislation the pulpit of St. Paul's has sent out a distinct influence in the cause of truth and righteousness. Possessed of a strong physical frame and sound health, there are doubtless many years of important service before him."

The same paper gives a truthful pen-portrait of another minister well known to many of our readers: "Rev. Peter Wright, D.D., is one of the giants in the assembly, physically, mentally, and in every other way. He has always been known as so powerful a man physically that some men who were agitating for a liquor license in a certain town forbore to raise a disturbance over it till Dr. Wright was away. Only then did they venture to commit an assault. Dr. Wright is a born thinker and a born teacher. As a preacher he excels. He has a commanding presence and a voice as clear as a bell. He has much of the poet in his make-up and some of his addresses are poems in prose form. He has always been a prohibitionist and as convener of the temperance committee never failed to send out a ringing note of certainty. His report of the committee on church life and work, presented at Montreal four years ago, was a masterpiece both in literary form and in its analysis of the situation all over the Dominion. Dr. Wright's family having moved to British Columbia, he

came westward from Portage la Prairie and was persuaded to take charge for a time of the congregation at Nelson, where he now resides. He is yet in the full enjoyment of all his powers and the church expects to have his strong service for many years.

The Montreal Star sent a special correspondent on the assembly train to write up the trip. The correspondent was a lady, Miss Baker Edwards, who seemed to know her business thoroughly.

Rev. J. McG. McKay, of New Glasgow, aged 84, was the oldest commissioner. He had a long journey but enjoyed it thoroughly. These Nova Scotia people live well and their days are long upon the land.

There were many able men at the assembly but one could not but miss Principal Caven, detained by illness—and such giants as Grant and McVicar. Both these were "masters of assemblies" and gladiators in debate.

Dr. W. A. McKay of Woodstock, was a noticeable and popular figure in the assembly. He is the leader of the prohibitionists of Ontario and true to his Highland nature, is "a bonnie fighter." His books on the "Pioneers of Zorra," etc., are classics on the early life of Canada.

The Tourist Association afforded valuable aid in the arrangements and their room made a convenient meeting place.

Dr. DuVal of Winnipeg, was easily one of the best platform men in the assembly. The doctor has tremendous force and as a clear thinker has few equals. He learned his theology with the kingly Hodges, of Princetown, and his philosophy and science with such men as McCosh and Guyot. Out of the schools of prophets men came laden with learning and intense with sacred fire.

The Gaelic service was a great delight to the Highlanders, both men and women. The singing led by Mr. Hector McKenzie was one of the features of the gathering and one could understand how the whole congregation trained in the exercise made a melody of song on the hills which no mere professional music could hope to equal.

An interesting figure in attendance at the meeting of the General Assembly was Hon. John Charlton, M. P., for North Norfolk, Ontario. Born to humble parentage at Wheatlands, in New York state, in 1820, he started at an early age clerking in a country store. In 1849 his father removed to Canada and took up a small holding near the village of Ayr, Ont., and the subject of this sketch worked on the farm, until 1853 when he opened a small country store in the village of Vynedoch, and later embarked in the lumbering business in which he has been most successful. In 1872 he was elected to a seat in the House of Commons and has continued to represent North Norfolk since that date. He is a logical speaker and reasoner and it is doubtful if any public man is better informed upon tariff and trade questions.

Dr. Herridge's sermon on the Christ who received sinners, made a most profound impression on the vast audience. Those who were unable to gain admission will be glad of the opportunity afforded to hear this noted speaker on Tuesday evening in the First Presbyterian church.

Dr. Fletcher made one of the best of moderators and the success of the assembly is largely due to him. He took a firm hold on the business and with a saving sense of humor that made jars impossible.

The missionaries, both home and foreign, made a splendid appearance, and one feels that the church is rich that can have such men in her fields of service.—Vancouver World.

Ottawa.

The session of Erskine church last week entertained the choir and management committee at an outing at Rockcliffe.

Rev. Prof. Jordan, D.D., of Queen's University preached both morning and evening in St. Andrew's church. Dr. Jordan has many friends in the capital who are always glad to hear him.

Northern Ontario.

Rev. J. Hodges, Oshawa, gave an address on "The Duty of the Home to the Sabbath School" at the Sabbath School convention in Lindsay last week.

A magic lantern entertainment consisting of views of Formosa was given in Annan in connection with the Mission Band of the church by Rev. Dr. Fraser and Dr. McDonald.

Rev. Dr. McCrae of Westminster church, London, occupied his former pulpit in the Collingwood church on Sunday last. His many friends were pleased to have the opportunity of again hearing him.

Eastern Ontario.

At the First church, Brockville, services were conducted by Prof. Dyde, LL.D., Queen's University, Kingston.

Rev. J. Somerville, D.D., preached last Sunday and will next, and Rev. Mr. McWilliams will occupy the pulpit on the 12th instant.

Rev. J. Bennett and Rev. R. McDonald preached in Williamstown the last two Sabbaths. Next Sunday the pastor Rev. A. Givan will have returned from Vancouver and services will be conducted by him.

Rev. Mr. Beaton of Moose Creek occupied Burns Church, Martintown, pulpit on Friday and Saturday before communion which was observed last Sabbath. The Burns church S. S. intend having their picnic on Wednesday, July 1.

Rev. Dr. Campbell, of Perth, formerly of Renfrew, spent a few days on a pleasant visit to Rev. Mr. Rattary at the Eganville manse. Dr. Campbell conducted the prayer meeting in the church on Wednesday evening. His many friends were pleased to see him so much improved in health.

Rev. E. D. Pelletier, of Blind River, one of the pioneer Presbyterian missionaries to Algoma, spent Sunday and Monday in Carleton Place. On Sunday morning he spoke in St. Andrews church, showing the claims of New Ontario for assistance as a mission centre, and addressed the congregation of Zion church in the evening.

Anniversary services in connection with Knoxville church were held on June 14th and 15th. On Sunday sermons were preached at 3 o'clock p. m., by Rev. A. G. Sinclair, B. A., of First Church, Port Hope, and at 7 o'clock p. m., by the Rev. William Potter, of Apsley. On Monday evening a social and concert by the choir was held.

Mr. Thos. A. Billings, of Lyn, a Queen's divinity student, conducted the services in St. John's church yesterday and preached two eloquent sermons. Mr. Billings gives promise of becoming one of our best men. Owing to the bad weather there was a small attendance at the morning service, but in the evening a large congregation listened to Mr. Billings preach.

A very interesting service was held in First church, Port Hope, on Thursday evening. The usual service preparatory to the communion was held. The service was conducted by Rev. J. W. Mackintosh, of Centreville, who preached an able and appropriate sermon. Twenty new members were received into full communion with the church, most of them by profession of faith. At the close of the preparatory service a congregational meeting was held when the call to Rev. H. E. Abraham was finally arranged. The induction of the new pastor will take place on July 14th. Mr. E. G. Sinclair was then presented with an address and a purse of gold. Mr. Sinclair preached his farewell sermon on the following Sunday and has gone to Prince Edward Island where he will visit for a few weeks before leaving for Germany.

Western Ontario.

The annual garden party in connection with the Norwich church took place on Friday.

Evening services have commenced in Nasagaweya church and will be carried on every Sunday during the summer.

Rev. Mr. Reid, of Bethel, preached in Knox church, Hamilton, on Sunday evening. His sermon was very practical, and was listened to by a large and attentive congregation.

The Rev. A. L. Howard, M.A., pastor of the Presbyterian church, Cayuga, has been offered a fellowship in Psychology at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., for one year, with a prospect of a lectureship at the end of that year.