

## RURAL DEANERY OF EAST SIMCOE.

REV. J. A. HANNA, RURAL DEAN.

*(Continued.)*

## CRAIGHURST AND VESPA.

The Mission of Craighurst and Vespra embraces an area of about eighteen square miles occupied by about eighty Church families. In it are three neat brick Churches: St. Peter's, Minesing; St. John's, Craighurst; and St. James', Crown Hill. Service is also held in the Orange Hall at Hillsdale. At the beginning of the incumbency of the present Incumbent, the Rev. J. H. Teney, four years ago, the Mission consisted only of St. John's, Craighurst, and St. James', Crown Hill. The following year Hillsdale service was opened and subsequently Minesing was attached, making one of the largest missions in the Deanery of East Simcoe. Service is held every Sunday in Craighurst and Crown Hill and every other Sunday in Hillsdale and Minesing. To take these services requires a drive of thirty-nine miles one Sunday, and twenty-five miles the next.

In the four years past the congregations of St. John's, Craighurst, and St. James', Crown Hill, have put forth a splendid effort towards the advancement of their Mission. The Church at Crown Hill has undergone extensive repairs, while at Craighurst a comfortable parsonage has been erected and has been occupied by the Incumbent about two years. Too much praise cannot be given to the people who in the face of great financial difficulties, by their patient self-denial have been enabled to accomplish so much in so short a time.

The only difficulty which the Incumbent has to face, and it is an unsurmountable one, lies in the great distances to be travelled to take the services and to make parochial visitations, involving much time and a correspondingly large expenditure of money.

In addition to the regular Sunday services, the Incumbent endeavours as far as possible to hold week-night services in every place of worship in the Mission during the seasons of Advent and Lent. In addition to these the Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and Thanksgiving services are never omitted. Holy Communion is regularly celebrated at every place of worship every second month. The Incumbent has had the satisfaction of seeing the number of communicants grow from about twenty to over one hundred. At the last visit of His Lordship the Bishop, forty-nine candidates were presented for Confirmation, while a similar class is now being prepared for Confirmation this summer.

No description of the Mission would be complete without mentioning an organization that has done so much during the past four years for the financial and social well-being of the Church here. We refer to the Ladies' Aid Societies of St. John's, Craighurst, and St. James', Crown Hill. Not only have the members contributed most liberally themselves but they have been instrumental in, from time to time, repleting an exhausted treasury with large sums of money just when most needed. Their regular meetings have, too, accomplished much in adding fresh zeal for the cause of God, and the Incumbent deeply appreciates their many acts of kindness and encouragement.

## MISSIONARY ARTICLE.

CONTRIBUTED.

## ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, CHANDOS, APSLEY.

The total cost of this Church is estimated at \$420, and is nearly paid for by subscriptions from the S. P. C. K., our Diocesan W. A., and private contributions in the Mission and in Toronto. Rev. C. Lord would be grateful for further help in the shape of Prayer Books and Sunday School books.

*Apsley Mission.*—On Wednesday, December 8th, the new Church of St. Andrew, Hawley and Post Settlements, in this Mission, was formally opened for Divine worship. Evensong was said by the Rev. C. Lord, and the sermon preached by the Rev. F. H. Hartley. The building, which will seat nearly 200, was filled to overflowing by a very attentive and devout congregation, very many of whom are recent converts to the Church's teaching. The Church people here are very much in earnest, and out of their poverty have contributed handsomely towards the building fund. They are rightly proud of their beautiful new Church, and deserve substantial encouragement from their brethren in the Faith who are better off in this world's goods. This is the fifth edifice which has been built in Apsley Mission during the incumbency of the Rev. Canon Harding; and this latest extension of Christ's Kingdom is, under God, due to the untiring energy and self-sacrificing work of Mr. Lord.

The first Church service ever held at Buckhorn was conducted by myself in the village school-house on the fourth Sunday after Easter in the year 1894. I shall never forget it. The crowded house, dimly lighted with oil lamps, the serious faces of the people, mostly men, the hearty singing of two hymns, "Rock of Ages" and "Jesus Lover of My Soul," the surprise of the people