

In Pulpit and Pew

Roman Catholic

The Church at St. Columba, P. E. Island, was burned Tuesday night, also the parochial hall adjoining. The total loss is \$30,000; insurance \$15,000. The fire started in the vestry stove. The contents of both buildings were destroyed. The church was first built 60 years ago but rebuilt and remodelled in 1914, being one of the finest churches on the island in the rural districts. Father Bernard Gillis is pastor.

The fourth serious church fire in Quebec during the past few months occurred at Lennoxville late Saturday, when St. Anthony's edifice was burned. A short circuit in the wiring was the cause of the fire. The loss is \$30,000.

The day before the beautiful parish church at St. Louis de Courville, Montmorency Co., was destroyed, the loss starting from the altar, was \$100,000, insurance \$75,000.

The simultaneous celebration of the tercentenary of the founding of the missionary work of the Order of St. Vincent de Paul or Lazarist fathers, and of the centenary of the arrival of the Lazarist fathers in St. Vincent's church Philadelphia, last week with dignitaries of the Catholic church, from many parts of the United States in attendance.

Cardinal Gibbons presided at the opening ceremonies.

Rev. Father A. Boucher of Dalhousie, was the celebrant and preacher at the French Church in Waltham, Mass., Jan. 14.

The opening of the Young Men's Catholic Institute in St. John was an event of interest to the public, as well as of special importance to the young men of the church. It was the opinion of many who visited the institute that it is admirably laid out and is well calculated to serve the purpose for which it was erected. As speakers remarked at the formal opening, it now depends on the young men to identify themselves with it, and to make it a success. His Lordship Bishop LeBlanc has shown his zeal for their welfare by providing it, and making it a comparatively easy burden to carry, providing those who are most deeply interested give it their hearty support. There can be no doubt that the response will be prompt and most favorable.

"In these days when nations are wrestling in a life and death struggle, we are so accustomed to hear of deeds of valor by individual units of our armies, that a domestic tragedy which in times of peace would be blazoned forth to the world in the few words of the despatch that announces it. Such was the news item that in the early days of the New Year told of the burning of an asylum for the Canadian village of St. Pierre de la Riviere, near the village of St. Pierre de la Riviere, Quebec. There 130 demented or half-witted girls were under the care of the Sisters of Charity. Forty-five of the helpless girls perished in the flames.

"One of the Sisters of Charity, who attended the funeral, and saw the bodies of the girls, is now in the hospital. What heroism and self-sacrifice is told in this one sentence and yet the heroine is unknown to the world. Yet she ought not to be unknown to P. E. I., where she belongs. Her father, a French Canadian living at Egmont Bay, Mr. Leon S. Arsenault, the mother is dead, but they had a large family. Nothing in this world, name, felt the call of a higher life, to serve the sick and afflicted in the religious sphere.

In 1915 she was sent to the mission at St. Ferdinand de Halifax. How faithful she was to her charge is told by the words above. Suffering martyrdom, in her devotion to the helpless derelicts of society whom Providence had committed to her care. Four times she rushed amidst the flames, three times she returned with one or two rescued from an awful death. But the fourth attempt was too much. In her supreme act of sacrifice she died.

Services in the city churches yesterday were largely attended.

Rev. S. B. C. Wright, M. M., rector of Mattland, Ont., who was offered the curacy of All Saints Cathedral, Halifax, has accepted the call. He preaches his farewell sermon at Mattland, tomorrow.

ANGLICAN

The annual meeting of the congregation of the Mission Church, St. John Baptist, St. John, was held on Wednesday evening with a large attendance. In the absence of Rev. J. W. Young, priest in charge on account of illness, Mr. H. B. Schofield acted as chairman and presented the accounts for the year ending 31st December, which were read and explained by Mr. R. Prith, the treasurer, who congratulated the congregation on the increase, both of offerings and pledges, but on account of repairs and extra cost of coal a small deficit was shown. Against this he announced contributions from two members of the church of \$50 each, and other amounts were soon promised so that the church will again start with a clean sheet. Reports were read from St. Monica's Guild, the Holy Cross Guild, the senior and junior Women's Auxiliary, and the Mothers' Meeting, all of which showed excellent work and results. The report of the priest was read by Colonel Sturdee. This gave a full account of the work and services for the year. There were 414 public celebrations of the Holy Eucharist, 75 baptisms, 8 marriages, 13 burials, 4 churchings and 24 confirmed, while the Sunday School roll is now 120 and the Boy Scouts zealous and in good form under Mr. F. C. Hoyt. Gifts acknowledged were a chalice veil and purse by Mrs. Sturdee, a bag for private use by Mrs. May, and a pair of crutches for use at daily celebrations by the Sacristans Guild of St. Mary the Virgin in memory of the late

Rev. J. B. H. Done. After the reports were read, a motion by Mr. M. Robert, priest in charge by \$200 was carried unanimously with much enthusiasm, and regrets of his absence from the meeting. The musical portion of the evening was a piano duet by Miss Allister and Master Horseman, songs by Mr. Lattimer and Mr. L. Clarke, who which a sketch from Barnaby Rudge was staged, the parts being taken by Miss M. Ellis, Miss Welsh and Miss Priars and Misses Lattimer and Clarke. The meeting closed with the National Anthem.

Rev. Dr. Courtney of New York, former Bishop of Nova Scotia, will preach in the Cathedral in Fredericton tomorrow evening. He will attend the synod meeting in St. John, Feb. 6 and 7.

The many friends of Rev. H. E. Bonnell of Waterborough, will regret to learn that he is ill.

The Bishop of London has offered to place the park ground of his official residence, Fulham Palace, at the disposal of the local council "for the raising of potatoes or other vegetables, or for grazing purposes."

A new See, that of Bradford, Eng., is being formed out of the diocese of Ripon. The Bishop of Ripon, (Dr. Drury), has agreed to surrender \$2500 of his salary towards the income of the new bishop.

Bishop Daniel S. Tuttle of Missouri, the oldest bishop in the Episcopal church and head of the House of Bishops, who rounds out his 50th anniversary as Bishop this year, was 80 years old this week.

The annual meeting of the Deane of Sheldale Sunday School Association was held recently in St. George's Church, Moncton. The sermon was preached by Canon Sisson, who took for his subject, "The Work and Example of St. Paul" in advancing the cause of Christian knowledge and education.

After a short business meeting those present had the pleasure of listening to a paper by the Rev. T. Loweth of Hillsboro and an address by Rev. Mr. Ellis of Sheldale, formerly of St. John, P. E. Island Conference, now of the General Hospital, recovering from a serious case of chronic appendicitis. He is reported as making satisfactory progress, and complete recovery is confidently anticipated. As missionary on the Saddle Lake Indian Mission, Brother Seller for ten years, he has given himself to the spiritual needs, not only of the people directly under his care, but of settlers throughout a large area in which he was the only ordained Protestant missionary.

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chairman of that body, which is to meet in Garden City, in January, 1918. The next session of the Conference will be its twenty-fifth anniversary, which fact will doubtless be signalled in the programme and give occasion for a review of the splendid progress in the developing co-operation in the foreign mission work of the church.

A correspondent from High Bluff, where Rev. J. J. Crookshanks is pastor, sends two very interesting items: "In the death of Mr. Angus Smith of Poplar Point, in October, 1916, was renewed an historic first. The first service conducted by a Methodist minister in Manitoba, was held in his home by Rev. George Dougal, who also baptized his son John, now of Edmonton, the first child baptized in Manitoba by a Methodist minister. The first service held at High Bluff by Dr. George Young in organizing Methodist mission work in Manitoba, (then Red River Settlement), was also held in this home. Brother Smith assisted by Brother John Norgauy, got out and rafted down Assiniboine river to Fort Winnipeg. Mr. Smith at several years of age, entered under a five year's contract for service in the Hudson's Bay Co., and was located at Norway House. There he was married by Rev. Robert Brookings, to Mary Inkster, who was a real helpmate. One son, Colin, is a preacher of the Manitoba Conference, and is now with the 20th Battalion, C. E. F.

"One evening in November the congregation of the High Bluff Church gathered at the home of Mr. George Cadman, who for over a quarter of a century has been one of the church's trustees, regarding steward, class leader, Sunday School teacher and superintendent. After a happy social time, Brother Cadman was presented with an easy chair, in recognition of his long and faithful services. The congregation is so glad that he may be spared to work and enjoy his home life.

Rev. John A. Seller, A.B., of Mount Allison, a native of P. E. Island, and at one time a member of the N. B. and P. E. Island Conference, now of the General Hospital, recovering from a serious case of chronic appendicitis. He is reported as making satisfactory progress, and complete recovery is confidently anticipated. As missionary on the Saddle Lake Indian Mission, Brother Seller for ten years, he has given himself to the spiritual needs, not only of the people directly under his care, but of settlers throughout a large area in which he was the only ordained Protestant missionary.

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of Toronto, he speaks of his work in the camps at St. Martin's Plains, East Sandling, West Sandling, Shorncliffe, Digby and Sandgate, England. The meetings were held in huts capable of holding from 350 to 600 with an average attendance of about 425 men. The interest in spiritual things has increased from the first. Of the apparent results he says, "One does not like to speak in figures, but we have had no meetings with less than forty decisions and in most cases from 60 to 80 men have taken their stand. He says, "I think our greatest meeting was at Digby in the closing service. It was not one of the largest huts but 450 men were packed into it. Slowly and with great seriousness men began to rise till from 140 to 160 men were on their feet. Men do not stand that way before their comrades without some serious intention. The after meeting was announced with an urgent invitation to all to stay, but especially the men who had stood. And not more than 50 or 60 men of the whole meeting left the hut.

A further challenge followed. It was pointed out that a genuine trust in Christ involved a confession of sin. It was a severe test but the men began to meet it. Timidly at first but gaining courage by the example of others, they rose one by one to speak a word of confession. McNeill closes with the words "There must have been a great battery of prayer at work somewhere that night."

In College St. Baptist Church, Toronto, of which Rev. A. J. Vining is pastor the annual meeting brought out a report of work done during the year 1916, which marks it a very successful year. One hundred and three members were added, making 287 during the four years of Mr. Vining's pastorate.

The Sunday School reported 1,046, the largest in Toronto, a gain of 87 during the year. The financial report was the best ever given in the history of the church. The total receipts amounted to \$2,444. For denominational objects and missions \$3,019, an increase of more than two hundred dollars over the previous year.

It will be remembered by our readers that Rev. Mr. Vining is the man recently called by one of our largest Provincial churches, a call that Mr. Vining felt compelled to decline.

Dr. A. K. DeBolt calls Billie Sunday the greatest living evangelist. He says, "Sunday is startlingly original in gesture, manner and method, though his thought processes are neither original nor constructive. In scathing invective and fiery denunciation he is easily without peer. He is a John the Baptist preparing the way of Christ."

Courland Myers says, "The greatest spiritual and ethical revival in the history of Boston is spreading all over New England. More than 50,000 people have signed cards in the 'Pledge' which we search with much interest the after effects of this extensive effort at evangelizing Boston will be."

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