

CHURCH
WORK

Ministers and Churches

NEWS
LETTERS

WESTERN ONTARIO.

St. Andrew's Church, a Presbyterian mission on the York road a couple of miles west of Deseronto, was recently totally destroyed by fire.

The new organ was used for the first time at the services in Westminster Church, Toronto, on Sunday of last week. The pastor, Rev. Dr. Neil, preached at both services.

Rev. Dr. Taylor of Cooke's Church, Toronto, will preach the induction sermon, while Rev. Dr. McKay, ex-pastor, will deliver the charge to the minister. Rev. J. A. Brown, who accepted a call to Fergus, was the former pastor.

After being without a regular pastor for greater part of a year, the Presbyterians of Knox Church, Agincourt, have extended a call to Rev. James Anthony of Waterdown, and the induction will take place on Thursday.

The Rev. Dr. J. L. Murray, formerly of Woodville, and for the past thirty years of Knox church, Kincardine, severed his connection with his charge on Sunday last, when he preached his farewell sermon to his congregation, and announced his intention of retiring from the active work of the ministry. He will reside in Toronto. There was some talk of calling Dr. Murray to Orillia, as Dr. Gray's successor, when Dr. Grant was chosen.

The evangelistic committee of the General Assembly of the church, has decided to start four simultaneous evangelistic campaigns in the Kootenay district, B.C., on the request of the presbytery there. In this work the committee will be assisted by the American committee. Dr. Seartman, who came from New York for this body, made the announcement. Rev. Dr. W. C. Gordon (Ralph Connor), of Winnipeg, presided at the meeting.

A meeting of the men of Knox Church Stratford, in connection with the laymen's missionary movement, was held last week. The meeting was in the form of a conference, and it was decided that a systematic canvass of the congregation would be made for the purpose of increasing the giving to the schemes of the church, and for the purpose of having the subscriptions made in a uniform way. Rev. R. Martin acted as chairman, and Mr. D. A. McLachlan, was appointed secretary for the evening.

The formal dedication of the new First Presbyterian church, Walkerville, Ont., took place on Sunday, Nov. 22nd, Rev. Mr. Milligan of Toronto occupying the pulpit at both services. On Monday evening he delivered a most interesting lecture in the new church on educational ideas. The building of the church, which has a fine appearance, was begun in March of this year and will cost, it is expected, about \$15,000. A congregational meeting was held last Monday night to consider calling a pastor, but no action was taken in the matter.

The thankoffering meeting of the Women's Home Mission Society of St. Andrew's church, Guelph, was held in the schoolroom on Monday evening, last week. The speaker was Rev. Mr. Kofford, who has been in Latchford for a couple of years. Latchford is nine miles from Cobalt, and he gave an intensely interesting account of his work in the mines, where he preached every Sunday afternoon. He told how anxious the men were to get the reading matter that was sent to them from Ontario. A social hour was spent at the close of the meeting and a good collection realized.

The lecture room of Chalmers Church, Woodstock, was crowded on the occasion of Rev. J. C. Tolmie's lecture on Palestine. An uncommon treat it was to take a trip to the Holy Land and to wander about the ancient city of Jerusalem under the expert and kindly guidance of Mr. Tolmie, who is a fluent and, on occasion, an exceedingly humorous speaker. Mr. Tolmie said there were times when he was ashamed of the Christian peoples petty jealousies and strifes in the ancient sacred buildings of Jerusalem, occasion the guarding of these mosques and temples by armed Turkish soldiers. In Palestine one breathes the atmosphere of religion, and it is no hard task to transport oneself back to the time of Christ, when one walks the streets of the city whose name is a talisman to all peoples. As one walks the city streets, dirty, loathsome though they be, as one climbs the hills around Jerusalem and stands, overawed and thrilled with the memory of the love of Him who wept over Jerusalem, beside the walled-in garden of Gethsemane, one can feel the magic of that Personality permeating the atmosphere of this sorrowful eastern city on the green hillsides. Mr. Tolmie possesses the magic gift of making his hearers see those places and scenes which rise at his word before his own mind's eye, and it may safely be said that those who went with Mr. Tolmie last night to the Holy City, were privileged to a glimpse so clear in outline, so soft in detail that it will be long before the vision becomes blurred and indistinct. The next lecture held under the joint auspices of the Guilds of Knox and Chalmers Churches will be in February, when Dr. McCrimmon will speak.

EASTERN ONTARIO.

The new pipe organ for St. Andrew's church, Renfrew, is expected to be ready for use by Christmas. The instrument will cost \$4,000.

At the meeting of the Brockville Presbytery last week it was decided that an earnest effort be made to raise \$20,000 for the Laymen's Missionary Fund.

The Rev. John Sterling, of Detroit, occupied the pulpit of St. Andrew's church, Picton, on Sabbath morning. In the evening the pastor took as his subject, "Belshazzar's Feast."

The annual thankoffering meeting in connection with St. Andrew's W.F.M.S., Carleton Place, was held on Wednesday evening. Miss J. McLean, a returned missionary from Persia, was present and addressed the meeting.

Rev. Dr. H. N. Maclean, Ph.D., Avonmore has arrived home much improved in health, after an absence of some time in British Columbia and the West. He is feeling well and strong and is now able to take up his work with greater vigor of body and mind.

ANNIVERSARY SERVICES AT
HAVELOCK.

The first anniversary of the induction of the Rev. James A. G. Stirling to the pastorate was observed on Sunday, 22nd November, the preacher on that occasion being the Rev. Percy B. Thornton, B.A., of Colborne and Lakeport, who delivered two inspiring sermons to large congregations. Mr. Stirling was inducted at Havelock by the presbytery of Peterborough on 2nd November, 1907. Since his induction, twenty-two members have been added to the roll, and a flourishing Christian Endeavour Society has been established.

MANITOBA SYNOD CONCLUDES
SESSION.

At the opening of the synod proceedings on Friday morning, Rev. Thurlow Fraser presented the report of the committee on statistics and finance. It showed an increase in every department of the church's work, some of these being very satisfactory. The number of preaching places had increased by 8; number of families by 1,008; number of communicants by 1,508; number of communicants received 844; number of baptisms by 323; the contributions of congregations to stipends by \$12,152; for missionary purposes by \$9,302; for all purposes by \$40,944; arrears of stipends by \$359; increase of debts \$39,600.

The report made some interesting comparisons between the synod of Manitoba, with the others of the synods of the church. In proportion to the numbers of families Manitoba synod was shown to stand fourth in number of communicants, the three standing before it being Hamilton and London, Toronto and Montreal and Ottawa. In number of communicants added Manitoba synod is second, British Columbia being first. In proportionate number of Sabbath communicants added or profession of faith, Manitoba synod is first by a slight majority. In proportionate number of Sabbath schools Manitoba is decidedly first.

The financial showing of the synod is good. In contributions by congregations to stipends, the Synod of Manitoba is second, British Columbia being first, the latter contributing \$12.33 per family, and the former, \$11.37. The Synod of Montreal is third, with \$9.58. In contributions to missions Manitoba is fourth. The banner synod in missionary giving is the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa, giving \$7.20 per family. Hamilton gives \$4.69; Toronto \$4.68; Manitoba \$4.20.

In contributions for all purposes British Columbia stands first and Manitoba second, the former contributing \$32.25 per family, and Manitoba \$31.94; Montreal and Ottawa \$27.25. On the basis of families, the Presbytery of Kamloops is the banner presbytery in contributions for all purposes; Minnedosa presbytery in this synod being second. In missionary giving the presbytery of Montreal and Ottawa is first, and the presbytery of Quebec is second out of a total of 64. In contributions for all purposes the presbytery of Prince Albert is the banner presbytery; and the presbytery of Winnipeg is second.

Standing Committees.

Rev. F. J. Hartley, from the committee to strike standing committees reported the following additional committees which were confirmed:

Committee on evangelism — Revs. Clarence Mackinnon, Donald Munro, R. F. Hall, Dr. Gordon, R. Boyle, George Young, G. R. Crowe, and M. C. Rumball.

Committee on church life and work — Revs. S. E. Beckett, F. J. Hartley, J. S. Davidson, A. George McKinnon and James Laidlaw.

Church law and property — Hon. C. H. Campbell, Judge Myers, J. B. McLaren, J. H. Haverson, I. Pitblado, C. Isbister, D. B. Mickle and Judge Chapple.

Home Missions — Dr. Carmichael, convener; Dr. Farquharson, Dr. Patrick, Dr. Gordon, J. W. Macmillan, J. B. Mitchell, G. R. Crowe, K. J. Johnston and conveners of the home mission committees of presbyteries.

Sabbath schools — J. W. Little, J. A. Cormie, R. H. Fotheringham, G. W. Faryon, W. J. Higgins, W. B. Martin and conveners of presbytery committees.