

Historical Sketch of St. George's Church MONTREAL

Issued on the Occasion of Celebrating, in October, 1920, the Fiftieth
Anniversary of the Building of the present Church

FOR many years, in the early part of the past century, there was no Bishop or Diocese of Montreal, and Christ's Church and Trinity Church were the only Anglican places of worship in the city. About 1840 the need of increased accommodation for the steadily-growing membership of the Church of England in the western end of the city began to be keenly felt, and influential Churchmen finally decided to proceed with the erection of a new church on what was known as the proprietary principle. Proposals were accordingly made, in 1842, "for the establishment of a proprietary chapel in the western part of Montreal, in connection with the parish church known as Christ's Church," and a code of conditions for subscriptions and donations was drawn up. Every contributor of £12 10s. was to be a joint proprietor. The proprietors were to have the right of presenting an incumbent, with the approval of the bishop and the rector of the parish. One-tenth of the pews were to be free. At a meeting held in the Ottawa Hotel, on the 16th of February, 1842, the Rev. Dr. Bethune in the chair, a ballot was taken for the selection of a Building Committee, and the choice fell on Messrs. J. Thornton, J. T. Brondgeest, H. Corse, F. Griffin and J. H. Dorwin. On the 23rd of February the plan of a lot on St. Joseph Street was submitted. Messrs. Griffin and Corse having withdrawn from the Committee, Messrs. Charles Phillips and William Bradbury were elected in their places. Mr. C. Meredith explained the title of the property. The purchase price was £800, of which £700 was to remain on the property for twenty-one years. Mr. Footner submitted to the committee a plan of the proposed chapel. On July 8, 1842, the corner stone was laid by Bishop J. G. Mountain, a large number of the clergy, the churchwardens, Messrs. Thomas Mussen and Charles Geddes, and members of the congregation, being present.

THE FIRST RECTOR

Such were the beginnings of St. George's Church. The next step was the selection of an incumbent, and apparently this task revealed considerable difference of opinion. At a meeting held on February 20, 1843, Dr. Bethune in the chair, offers to serve were reported from Rev. Dr. Robertson, assistant minister of Christ's Church, Rev. H. Sewell, of Quebec, and Rev. J. Jones, of Stanbridge. At a postponed meeting, letters were read from these gentlemen, and from Rev. Messrs. Parnter, Falloon, Mulkins and Leach. The last-mentioned gentleman was highly recommended by the Bishop of Toronto, and a majority of the proprietors were anxious to secure his services. Negotiations to this end were successful, and the first incumbent of St. George's entered upon the office of which, for nearly twenty years, he discharged the duties with general acceptance. The first churchwardens were Mr. F. H. Howard and Col. Dyde. The chapel was formally opened on June 30, 1843, the clergy of the neighborhood and the choir of Christ's Church taking part in the services, and the St. George's Society