

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

Owing to the abundant rain, superabundant I understand, many farmers in the country consider it, which we have had in the city and this part of the province, Toronto looks almost as fresh and green now as in early June, and never hardly in anyone's remembrance, looked so attractive at this season of the year as it does at present. All visitors to it, and they are many and increasing year by year, see it at its best still and it is really charming. Those visitors and strangers who have any curiosity about hearing the preachers of the city, have the smallest possible chance of getting their curiosity gratified. Hardly a Presbyterian minister at least is in his own pulpit, all being supplied either by visiting ministers or by exchanges with brethren from the country. Rev. L. Z. Graham D.D., of Olivet Presbyterian church, Philadelphia has been in the pulpit of Cook's church; Rev. Prof. Carr, of Franklin University, Pennsylvania, has been preaching in St. Enoch's; Rev. Cummings Smith B. D., of Indianapolis, son of Dr. J. R. Smith, has been in St. James Square; Rev. R. E. Welsh of London, England has been preaching for Rev. Dr. Black, may be mentioned as illustrating how mixed up things are amongst us Presbyterians, and we fancy it is much the same with other denominations. Rev. J. G. Shearer, the indefatigable secretary of the Lord's Day Alliance is off on a two or three months tour in the West which will take him as far as British Columbia. The result of his labors on behalf of Sabbath Observance abundantly justifies the wisdom of the alliance in employing a secretary to prosecute its work, and Mr. Shearer as that secretary. Rev. R. P. Mackay D.D., Foreign Missionary Secretary, who had been attending a Young Peoples' Convention at Lake George, New York, has again returned to the city, and so also has Rev. Dr. Warden from Murray Bay, where he had been resting after his anxious and laborious work connected with the general assembly.

We understand that the arrangement contemplated by Knox College authorities for temporarily supplying the place of the late Prof. Halliday Douglas, by securing the services of Rev. Dr. Kilpatrick of Manitoba College, has failed, owing to Dr. Kilpatrick's being unable to accept the appointment. It is now likely that the work of the late professor will be subdivided for this winter, and three ministers asked to undertake it between them. If those spoken of can do it, from the character and ability of the men there can be no doubt the work will be well done. It will be gratifying to the friends of Rev. Dr. George Bruce, founder of St. Andrew's Boys College in the city, and well known throughout the church, whose health, under the strains of inaugurating that school completely broke down, is now again to a large degree restored. On a recent Sabbath he preached both morning and evening in St. James Square church with much of his old time vigor, and with great acceptance to the congregation who heard him. Anent St. James Square, we chronicle with deep regret, a very great loss it has again sustained and Presbyterianism in the city generally, in the death, after almost a year's illness, borne in the most Christian spirit, of Mr. John Gowan. He had long been connected as a member with the congregation, for many years a most trusted and valued elder, wise in counsel, liberal in his support of all its work, taking in all its affairs a deep and wise interest, and altogether one whose place, it will be hard to supply. He was a man of the most sterling integrity in business, from which he retired a few years ago, a warm and true-hearted friend, and in his Christian character of the most simple, unaffected sincere piety. His loss will in every way be deeply felt. Another recent death in the city which will recall old memories to many who were students at Toronto University a generation or so ago, was that of the "Old Rabbi," as he used to be called, Prof. Hirschfelder. For forty-three years he was in connection with the University, was a most scholarly man, a good teacher, most kind and genial in all his relations with his students, and was honored when he retired in 1889, with a testimonial from the President and Council of the institution in recognition of his long services. He was in his eighty-third year at the time of his death. All educationists in Canada must have been interested in the scholarship arrangement of the will of the late Mr. Cecil Rhodes. Hon. Mr. Harcourt, Minister of Education,

some time ago received intimation through the department of the Secretary of State, Ottawa, that in the distribution of these scholarships Ontario would not be overlooked. He has called a meeting to be held in the city early in September, of representatives of degree conferring colleges and universities, to consider and arrange the conditions of granting the Rhodes scholarships. They will no doubt be found to act as a great stimulus in the higher walks of scholarship to all the youths in the province aspiring after the best education.

Coronation day was only in part observed as a general holiday, mainly because of the Civic holiday being kept on the Monday immediately preceding it. A salute, however, was fired, flags were hung out very generally, services were held in many of the churches, sermons of a special kind preached, in many cases on Sunday, and provision made for bonfires and illumination, particularly of the island on the evening of Saturday, and the Temple building illuminations exhibited at the time of the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales, which were among the most effective in the city at the time, with several added features were repeated on the Coronation day. Over ten thousand single electric lights made the great building a blaze of light, and the street bright as day.

In the interval since the publication of the last number of the DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN, an important temperance convention has been held in the interests of prohibition, under the auspices of the Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance. One great object of the meeting was to prepare for the referendum campaign by securing unity in action and in method in carrying on the campaign. It was largely attended and thoroughly successful in the attainments of its object. The President, Rev. Dr. Mackay of Woodstock, in his opening address made a strong indictment against both political parties as regards temperance and the government in their treatment of this weighty matter. The decision came to however is, the only one sensible men could come to, to bend all the energies of the societies represented under the leadership of the Alliance, towards rolling up the largest possible majority for prohibition when the day of voting comes. The means to be employed are unity of action and method, improved organization, the distribution of literature, sermons to be preached, and a fund of \$100,000 to be raised for campaign purposes. The first Sunday of September has been chosen as the day for the beginning of the great work which it is to be hoped will be a triumphant, decisive victory.

A small but influential deputation waited lately upon Hon. S. R. Stratton, provincial secretary, to urge upon his attention the need of a new reformatory for boys. Dr. Gilmour, warden of the Central Prison, was the chief speaker. Many children he stated are sent to the present reformatory who should not be sent. Police magistrates throughout the country he considered were not competent to deal properly with this class of juvenile criminals, at the most critical time in their life. Young criminals, whose parents were living, are, in many of the States of the Union, sentenced to be whipped by the court and sent home, and this method he advised to be adopted in this province. Probably in these days of revolt against corporal punishment, we may have gone too far, and no doubt this would in many cases be the better method of reform than herding boys together in a reformatory, where the more degraded have the opportunity of contaminating those not so advanced in youthful crime. A new reformatory is likely soon to be provided as the result of the deputation's visit to the minister who takes a deep interest in this important matter.

A large detachment of teachers from all parts of the province has been at work for several days reading and valuing the examination papers of candidates at the recent examinations, and deciding the fate of many anxious pupils in our schools all over the land.

The time for Toronto's great Annual Industrial Exhibition is hastening on, and the fears which were at one time felt, that the extensive building and altering work required to be done, would not be completed in time, are not likely to be realized. It is expected everything will be ready in due time, and the prospects for an excellent exhibition are at the present time very good. As an indication of the growth of the trade of Toronto, it might be mentioned that, the receipts from the cattle market, which in 1866 were \$25,224, were last year \$30,994, and that in six years, the revenue paid in to the city treasury from this source amounted to \$76,000. The transactions in real estate were in June 1900, 1901, 1902, respectively \$600,000, \$642,000,

\$702,000. Several additional subscriptions have recently been made to the Tivenis Relief Fund, making it now considerably over \$50,000 the sum at first aimed at.

Toronto's great annual Industrial Exhibition is approaching, and indications of its nearness may be seen on our streets, and in the city press. Owing to the destruction of one of the principal buildings by fire, and extensive repairs needed, great fears have been felt that all would not be ready in time. This is not likely now to be the case and there is every indication from the number of entries of all kinds, and because of the general prosperity of the country, that the coming exhibition will surpass any former one. The proposal is being mooted by Hon. J. R. Strathon, minister in charge of public institutions in Ontario of selling the present well known and beautiful Asylum grounds. The ground, the minister thinks, are becoming too valuable to allow of their being used for their present purpose. He considers that it would be better for the institution to be removed to some rural district, where a 300 acre farm might be obtained, which in several ways might furnish occupation as well as recreation for the inmates, and the cottage system of dealing with them, which is believed to be a better one, could be adopted instead of the large one-building plan which is the one now in use and has been for many years.

Northern Ontario.

On Oct. 1st a Y. P. Convention will be held at Parry Sound, and it is expected the meeting will be the largest ever held in the Presbytery.

The lumbermen are already entering camp and it is hoped four missionaries at least, will be laboring among them this season. As yet only one has volunteered. He will take up the Canada Atlantic group and will begin work about the first of September. Three other needy fields are the C.P.R. groups east and west of North Bay, and the McKellar and Hagerman group west of the Northern G.T.R. The work is now under the care of the Home Mission Committee of the Assembly from which grants are made as for regular settlement missions.

Knox church, Owen Sound, was crowded on Sunday evening, Aug. 3rd, when Rev. R. J. McAlpine conducted the service in memory of the late Edward H. Horsey. His remarks were based on the text "He was a burning and a shining light."

At the late meeting of Presbytery, the mission charge of Midhurst, Mining and Edenvale asked and received permission to move up to the status of an augmented charge. The new arrangement will begin from Oct. 1. These fields have done well lately under the ministry of Rev. T. Paton.

Two charges, Stayner and Black Bank, etc., gave calls at the same meeting, but without success. They are not at all disheartened, however.

During the absence of Dr. Grant, of Orillia, on his vacation, Dr. Grey had charge of the congregation, and the pulpit was supplied by Rev. J. W. McMillan, of Lindsay, on the 3rd and 10th of August, by Rev. George Arnold, of Portage la Prairie, on the 17th. Rev. Charles Cooke, of Smith's Falls, will preach on the 24th and 31st.

St. Andrew's church, Beaverton, is at present undergoing repairs and the roof of the building is being covered with slate.

Rev. D. Y. Ross of St. George, has arrived at his summer residence in Beaverton, where he will remain for a few weeks' rest.

Rev. John Neil, of Toronto, preached anniversary sermons at St. Andrew's church, Parry Sound, on Aug. 3rd. Mr. Neil also addressed the Sunday school in the afternoon with great acceptance.

Rev. Geo. Simpson of the Chicago Interior is spending his holidays near Huntsville.

Rev. K. McLennan, of Tiverton, lately received the degree of Ph.D. At a social meeting of the congregation, held on the evening of July 30, Dr. McLennan was presented with an address of congratulation, accompanied by a gold-headed cane and a purse of money. Addresses were delivered by a number of neighboring ministers.

Rev. J. S. Conning, of Walkerton, has announced his intention of resigning his charge this fall.