

Ministers and Churches.

Ottawa.

At Glebe church, last Sunday, three recently elected elders, Messrs. R. C. Calhoun, A. Cochran and Dr. O. Martin, were duly ordained and inducted into that office, the minister, Rev. J. W. H. Milne, taking the service.

In Mackay church on Sunday morning the pastor, Rev. Norman MacLeod, referred to the fact that it was the fifth anniversary of his pastorate. In the past five years there had been an increase of 80 per cent in the membership of the church, an increase in givings of 70 per cent, an increase in the attendance at Sunday school and other organizations of 70 per cent, and similar progress in all branches of church work.

On the 5th Feb. under the auspices of the Ladies Aid of Stewarton church, Rev. R. E. Knowles of Knox church, Galt, will lecture; and on Sunday, 7th, he will occupy the pulpit of Stewarton church. At the lecture—subject of which will be duly announced—and Sunday services it is safe to say that every available seat will be occupied. Mr. Knowles is in constant demand to preach anniversary sermons and to deliver his popular lectures.

At the forenoon service last Sunday, the 17th instant, and after an appropriate sermon by Rev. R. Herbison, minister, on the duties and responsibilities of the eldership, the session of Stewarton church, following its practice on former occasions, ordained by prayer and the imposition of hands, Mr. William H. Fitzsimmons and inducted him with Messrs James Johnston and Robert McConnell, already ordained into office as elders of Stewarton church, each member of session giving the new elders the right hand of fellowship and inviting them to take part with them in the work of the session.

At the last meeting of the Ottawa Auxiliary of the B. and F. Bible Society a good deal of useful business was transacted. Recording Secretary, D. McElroy, reported having travelled 450 miles last month. He also addressed twenty public meetings and collected \$1,009.24 during the month. This sum has been added to the funds of the society. James Hope, the local agent, received stock last month to the value of \$594.93, and stock valued at \$541.41 was issued. Dr. Armstrong read a communication from Mr. Biggar of the Toronto Auxiliary with regard to the celebration of the centenary of the British and Foreign Bible society, which takes place on March 6th next. The communication was about the securing of contributions and the making of arrangements with the ministers to deliver special sermons, or addresses on the work of the Bible society. The communication was referred to the centenary sub-committee of which, Mr. Chisholm is secretary.

A circular was received from the parent society asking the local auxiliary to appoint a representative to attend the centenary celebration in London, England. Dr. Munroe Gibson of London, England, will be asked to act as representative. Dr. Gibson was in Ottawa last year and is well acquainted here. In case of his being unable to act, the president and secretaries were given power to appoint an alternative representative.

The past year was a prosperous one for Knox church. The meeting held last week was the 50th annual meeting of the congregation; and on motion of Mr. J. W. McMillan a committee was named to arrange for celebrating the diamond jubilee of the church at the end of the year: Rev. D. M. Ramsay, Geo. Hay, sr., Hiram Robinson, C. R. Cunningham, B. M. Northrop, R. M. McMorran, R. Masson, C. Ogilvie, J. McJanet, H. S. Campbell, J. Chisholm, R. K. Claire, J. McKellar, John Henderson and J. MacMillan. Thirty were added to the congregation by certificate during the year, and ten by profession of faith. Twenty-five certificates had been granted, and a few names were dropped from the membership roll. There are at present 405 names on the active roll. Twenty-five children and one adult had been baptized. The church debt had been reduced during the year by \$543, leaving an indebtedness of only \$2,300. The estimate of expenses for 1904 is \$5,175, an increase of \$270 over the expenditure of last year. The treasurer's report indicated receipts amounting to \$5,364.03, with payments aggregating a similar amount. The report of Mr. S. J. Jarvis, superintendent of the Sunday School, indicated growth and progress. The School has outgrown the accommodation, and the congregation is asked to provide funds to

give the young people more room. The receipts amounted to \$387.45, and from the Chinese class \$54.10. The Ladies Aid reported through Mrs. Hugh H. Rowatt. The society had subscribed \$300 to the organ fund, the payments to be \$100 annually. The treasurer's report showed that the total amount collected had been \$215.45. The expenses were \$153.35, leaving a balance of \$62.10. With the balance from 1902, the cash on hand amounted to \$193.14. Mrs. E. W. Jarvis reported for the W. F. M. S., showing a membership of 70, with receipts for the year of \$144.63, which had been sent to the presbyterian treasurer. The total amount received from missions from all sources was \$1,575. The Y. P. S. had sent the sum of \$50 to Knox college to help support a missionary in the home field, and the society had purchased an organ. Refreshments were served by the ladies.

Stewarton church was organized thirteen years ago, and during the intervening time has made steady progress. All the reports presented at the annual meeting last week were of the most encouraging character. The present membership is 281. During the year there were 50 new members admitted, 9 members died and 40 removed from the city or otherwise withdrew from the church. The treasurer reported the receipts to have been \$2,211.10 as compared with \$2,028.21 in the previous year. The church debt has been reduced by \$250, having a financial obligation of \$5,000. The report of the Ladies' Aid society indicated faithful and efficient work. The society collected during the year, \$354, and contributed a large portion of that amount towards the liquidation of the church debt, and the ladies of the congregation contributed \$190 to the mission schemes of the Presbyterian church of Canada. The Sunday school report, presented by Miss Carruthers, showed collections amounting to \$183.43, with a slight balance on hand. The average attendance was 183. At the close of the services refreshments were served by the Ladies Aid Society.

There was a good attendance at the annual meeting of Mackay church, with Rev. Norman MacLeod in the chair. The congregation, as indicated by the reports, is in a prosperous condition. Thirty-two new members were admitted during the year; and the session was pleased to note the increased attendance at the prayer meeting. The total membership of the Sabbath School is 275, with an average attendance of 160. The sum of \$57 had been given to missions and \$102 had been subscribed to the general fund. The balance on hand is \$36.59. There are twenty-one teachers and officers in the Sunday school. There is also a well equipped library of 300 volumes. The need of more accommodation was brought to the attention of the congregation. The W. F. M. Society reported through Mr. Holt. The sum of \$34.00 had been sent to the Rolling River Reserve. Eleven volumes, the gift of Dr. Gibson, had been added to the Missionary library. The membership of the society is 24, and the average attendance at the meetings was 11. The sum of \$44.44 had been sent to the Presbyterial Treasurer. The other societies, such as the Mission Band, the Ladies Aid, the Young Peoples' Association etc., all showed good work during the year. The choir is not quite as large as before, and a new organ is urgently required. The following officers were appointed: Board of Management—John Gordon, chairman, Gordon Edwards, John Graham, Fred English, E. B. Holt, Treasurer—B. Slinn, Financial Secretary—E. B. Holt, Recording Secretary—T. B. Rankin, Auditors—Wm. Lunan and D. J. MacKenzie, Trustees—John Gordon and E. B. Holt, re-elected.

Billings' Bridge church commenced 1904, entirely free of debt. At the annual meeting the reports were very satisfactory showing excellent progress all round. Rev. Mr. McLeod presided and the 1903 board of management was unanimously re-appointed. Two hundred dollars were spent on church improvements, including the installation of an electric light system. The Ladies' Aid society report from Secretary Miss Fairbairn showed a balance to the good and Superintendent John McNichol's statements concerning the Sunday school were also gratifying. One hundred dollars were donated towards outside missionary work. The total balance amounts to \$89.31. The board of management consists of Messrs. T. W. Ritchie, G. K. Heron, T. M. Mulligan, George Moffat, Robert Bailey, John Heron, Hiram Wood, J. P. Phillips and A. E. Fairbairn.

The Young Peoples' Missionary Society of St. Andrew's church at its regular monthly meeting

yesterday afternoon listened to an interesting address given by Mrs. Gardner, Presbyterial President of the W. F. M. Society, Mrs. Gardner spoke of the hymn "Work for the Night is Coming" which had been written by a cripple in the hospital in which Mrs. Gardner had been born, and urged the young people to greater enthusiasm and more strenuous efforts. A letter was read from Rev. Mr. Johnson, missionary at Swan River, expressing thanks for a gift of papers sent by two members of the Society and telling of Sunday School work in that Mission field. Another letter expressive of thanks was received from Rev. Mr. McKay, in reply to a notification that the Society undertake the support of a famine child in India. It was decided to form flower, visiting and sewing committees, but this was left over until next month. Mrs. Gilbert Allan presided in the absence of the president Mrs. W. T. Herridge.

Under its young minister, Bank street congregation has just closed a very prosperous year. At the annual meeting Mr. John Keane read the report of the church session. He stated that at the last annual meeting the communion roll showed 571 names. Of these 76 had been dropped after consideration, 7 were removed by death and 30 left on certificate. Fourteen members had been added on profession of faith and 40 on certificate, leaving the membership now at 513. The report referred in detail to the reorganization of the Y. P. A. and the formation of the Men's association and the session asked for \$1,000 for missions in 1904. The treasurer's statement indicated receipts aggregating \$5,534.92; and expenditure \$46.86 less than this amount. Sustentation Fund, receipts for 1903, \$5,106.60, expenditure \$5,076.11, balance, \$50.49. The estimated expenditure on account of this fund for 1904 is put at \$5,600. The managing committee reported the receipt of \$1,365.66 principal, and \$259.72 interest. The mortgage on church had been reduced by \$1,500, leaving a balance to pay of \$7,000 with \$805.85 in the hands of the treasurer. Mission schemes fund \$1,001.91; expended on mission schemes of the church, \$804.50, leaving balance \$197.41. On the roll of the Sunday School were 362 names, with an average attendance of 251. Receipts of Sunday School \$286.93. The W. F. M. Society reported a membership of 49. Good work was done during the year; and the thank-offering amounted to \$702.05, the balance on hand is \$240.35. The membership of the Ladies Aid is increasing. The \$1,200 subscribed to the debt fund, five years ago, is being gradually paid off. It is expected that the full amount will be realized next year. The contributions to the association for the year were \$213.14. The Young Peoples Society have \$290.40 in the bank, and the sum of \$275 had been applied to the church debt fund. The average attendance at the Chinese class is 30. Mr. M. L. Young presented an encouraging report of the work done. There is a balance of \$87.62. The following new managers were elected for a term of three years: D. H. Gardiner, W. Williams, G. N. Hutchison, W. Bailey and R. Stewart, Mr. F. G. Hutchison was appointed for two years. Mr. C. W. Jeffrey was elected treasurer of the mission fund, and Mr. A. H. Brown, treasurer for the church.

Toronto.

Our space this week is largely devoted to annual congregational meetings. All the city churches appear to have made substantial addition to their membership, Central church leading with 95 new members, and Cook's making a good second with 88.

Mr. George C. Pidgeon of Victoria church, Toronto junction, has purchased a house on Laws street for three thousand three hundred and fifty dollars. The house is a large one, and finished in hard wood throughout.

There was a good attendance at St. John's Presbyterian church. Rev. J. McP. Scott, the pastor, presided. The gross additions to the membership for the year were 66. After the revision of the roll the number of members now stands at 400. The total collections for ordinary revenue amounted to \$2,449.01. All accounts were paid, and the sum of \$380 was transferred to the building fund. The total missionary gifts were in excess of any preceding year and amounted to \$2,171.56. The total revenue for all purposes was \$4,833.16. The congregation maintains in Honan, China, Rev. George M. Ross, B.A., as their own missionary, and in addition supports a lady missionary for work in the city in connection with the congregation. The congregation is entirely out of debt, but is now considering the subject of a new church building.