

CHURCH
WORK

Ministers and Churches

NEWS
LETTERS

OTTAWA.

At the last communion in St. Andrew's Church there were seven additions on profession of faith, and eighteen by certificate.

The annual dinner of the St. Andrew's Men's Association is announced for the night of February 19th, at the Russell House, when it is expected that His Excellency the Governor General, Hon. Frank Oliver, and other public men will be present.

The Message, published by the Men's Association of St. Andrew's Church, in the January number, just out, gives its readers "A Christmas Dream," graphically and gracefully told on the morning of last Christmas by Rev. Dr. Herdridge. Many friends will doubtless be glad to get it in this attractive form.

The Glebe people know how to treat a good pastor, and so increased Rev. Mr. Milne's salary from \$1,500 to \$1,800. The reports presented to the annual meeting showed the church to be prospering. The membership is now 285, a net increase of 25 over last year. The most successful society was the Ladies' Aid, though it was closely rivalled by the Men's Association. The receipts amounted to over \$3,000, the amount received in envelopes and loose collection being \$2,488.73. The amount given to missions by the church and its dependent societies was \$492, a sum more than twice as large as that given last year for the same purpose. Mr. J. R. Reid, who acted as chairman, in the absence of Rev. Mr. Milne, read the report of the building committee, and expressed a desire that \$2,000 should be contributed to make a material reduction of the principal of the church debt. The retiring members of the Board of Managers, Messrs. A. S. McElroy, M.D., J. S. McEwan, and R. J. Brown, were re-elected by acclamation, and Mr. R. H. Campbell was elected to fill the place on the board vacated by the withdrawal of Mr. R. Massie from the church.

All the various Christian activities of St. Andrew's Church, Sault Ste. Marie, are in excellent condition, the reports presented at the annual meeting indicating healthy progress. The membership had increased from 335 to 377; and there was a marked advance in the contributions to missions. When the congregation entered upon the project of building the new church, it was estimated that the cost, apart from the organ, would be \$27,000. It is now found, through the increase in the price of labor and materials, that the total cost in addition to the organ will be about \$30,500. The building committee have received from all sources including proceeds of mortgage loans, the sum of \$27,414.80, and estimates that a further sum of \$1,000 will yet be paid in on subscriptions already made, so that the committee will yet have to raise about the sum of \$2,000. The Ladies' Aid have been successful in providing the organ, and the church when completed will represent an investment of nearly \$35,000. The new building will probably be opened on the 2nd of February, the preacher being Rev. R. E. Knowles, of Galt.

Knox church, Woodstock, enters on another year with bright prospects. Ninety-nine new members were added during the year, making a total of 520. The total receipts were \$6,732.59. It was decided to introduce the individual communion cups; and it was unanimously agreed to increase the minister's stipend by \$100.

WESTERN ONTARIO.

Knox church, Ayr., Rev. J. Thomson, minister, closed the year with a good balance sheet. The total receipts amounted to \$2,862.51. The debt on the sheds is to be wiped out during the year.

The Rev. R. C. McDermid of Knox church, Fingal, has accepted a call to Stayner and Sunnidale and is to be translated on the 3rd of February. Rev. H. W. Reede, M.A., St. Thomas, is moderator during the vacancy.

At St. John's Church, Hamilton, the salary of the pastor, Rev. John Young, was raised \$200 a year. The receipts amounted to \$6,865, and the mortgage was reduced by \$500, leaving it now at \$10,000. The membership increased from 560 to 572. These managers were elected: John Davidson, Alex. Stuart, Alex. Snodgrass, J. Bews, O. H. Christie, and W. R. Budde.

The debt on Knox church, Guelph, was reduced by \$500 last year. This is gratifying in view of the fact that many unforeseen expenditures were met, including \$170 for a new chimney, and \$140 for communion cups. The financial report showed receipts totalling \$3,610.61, of which \$1,584.32 was devoted to missions. The membership is now 770, a net increase of fifteen during the year—the deaths numbering eleven.

Unanimity and heartiness characterized the annual meeting of Chalmers' church, Woodstock. The receipts for 1907 aggregated \$5,142, an increase of over \$1,000 more than the previous year. To the communion roll had been added 34 new names, with a membership of 452—one-third being from the country. The missionary givings amounted to \$935. The debt had been reduced to \$1,000. It is proposed to build a new church, and a committee was appointed to take the matter in charge.

At the annual meeting of St. Andrew's church, Guelph, a most encouraging feature was that the tightness of the times had failed to influence the inflow of receipts, as increases had marked the greater number of financial statements presented. The newly elected additions to the managing board are Messrs. S. Broadfoot, A. Taylor, W. A. Clark, Jas. Murdock, H. Turner, Dr. Skinner. The auditors for 1908 are Mr. W. Ross and Mr. Geo. Chapman.

The financial statement presented at Chalmers' Church, Guelph, showed to the receipts of \$9,364.73, and congratulated the congregation on the fact that the church debt had been entirely subscribed during the year, and that the premises were now free from debt. The missionary contributions for 1907 amounted to \$2,723. The following officials were elected Trustees, Messrs. Geo. Bruce, J. Cowan, Sr., and W. Laidlaw; managers, Messrs. R. Shortreed, W. Tuck, J. Thomson and Rod Ross; treasurer, James Watt.

The new church erected by St. Andrew's congregation, Berlin, was opened recently. Two of the former pastors of the church assisted the present pastor, Rev. W. A. Bradley; Rev. Donald Tait, of Teeswater, preaching in the morning, and Rev. A. B. Winchester, of Knox church, Toronto, in the evening. The new church home, which will seat between 900 and 1,000 people represents a cost of about \$30,000, exclusive of the lot. It is built in the Tudor Gothic style of architecture and is a decided acquisition to the public buildings of Berlin. A fine new organ has been installed and the Ladies' Aid have already paid over \$600 on the organ fund, that amount having been raised last year.

ROUND ABOUT LONDON.

The next meeting of London Presbytery will be held in First church, London, on Tuesday, 3rd March, at 10.30 a.m.

Rev. R. W. Leitch, late of Delaware, will apply to next Assembly for leave to retire from the active duties of the ministry.

King street (London) church has held annual meeting and reports a small balance on hand after all debts were paid. Hope is entertained that the last of the debt on the property will be wiped out during the incoming year.

London Presbytery has sustained the call to Rev. J. G. Inkster, B.A., of Montreal, has made, provisionally on his acceptance, arrangements for his induction to take place on the 27th February. Rev. W. L. Nieloh to preach the induction sermon, Rev. Dr. Ross to address the minister, and Rev. Dr. Munro the congregation.

Rev. Mr. Mitchell, of St. James' Church, London, last week concluded a series of sermons on "The Temperaments," the closing one being "The Ideal Temperament," as illustrated in Christ. This congregation has had a rapid growth under Mr. Mitchell's pastorate, and the church is filled at every service.

A factious minority of the congregation of Knox church, Dutton, petitioned the Presbytery to disannul the action of the Session in installing in office a certain elder who had been recently elected by the congregation. The Presbytery found that the election had been constitutionally conducted, and the man elected by a majority vote taken by ballot; also, that there was no proof that he had, as they charged, used undue means to procure his election; sustained the action of the Session, and expressed sympathy for the pastor and Session in the harassing trouble to which they had been unnecessarily put by the petitioners; dismissed the petitioners to drop their opposition and set themselves to work with their brethren of the congregation in peace and amity. These good people have been troublers of Zion ever since the demission of their former minister. But there are some people in this world so awfully good that no ordinary people can live with them.

When report on Union from General Assembly was before the Kingston Presbytery on motion by the Clerk, seconded by Mr. Currie, it was resolved:—That a special meeting shall be held, prior to the ordinary meeting in March next, for the purpose of dealing as fully as possible at the present stage of negotiations, with the Report of the Committee on Union, sent down by the General Assembly to Presbyteries, Sessions and Congregations for information and suggestions; and that a small committee be appointed by the Moderator to arrange as to the time and place of such meeting, and to consider and report, if possible at a subsequent seditur of this meeting, as to how the subject may be most effectively brought before the Presbytery for profitable discussion; and also as to how, and to what extent the Presbytery shall endeavor to elicit the views of Sessions and Congregations and have them in an orderly way transmitted in response to the request of the General Assembly. The Moderator appointed the following as a committee:—Principal Gordon, Convener; and with him the Clerk, and Messrs. Binnie, Gracey, R. J. Craig and Alex. Dickson.