

TRINITY CHURCH, CHIPPAWA

A Summary of its History and the Story of its Centennial

THE centennial of Trinity Church, Chippawa, was celebrated with special centennial services on Sunday, June 20th, and a dinner and commemorative gathering on Tuesday evening, June 22nd, 1920.

These events are not exceeded in interest in the annals of church life in the Niagara district. Old Trinity Church, which has now passed the century mark, had an early place in the religious life of the community. When it was founded it was one of the sixteen English churches in Upper Canada, and five of these were in the Niagara Peninsula. It has continued until this day as an important religious centre and with the added virtue that comes from the dignity of its years and services.

Woven in the warp of its engaging history are threads of the past that can never be forgotten. It was the church of Laura Secord. In it King Edward worshipped when he visited Canada as a boy. There, too, went the great Jenny Lind when in Canada. Four score years ago the original church was burned to the ground by incendiaries from over the frontier. It was kindled really by fires of old hatreds which have long since, fortunately, died out, never to glow again.

Woven, too, in this warp are the imperishable names of the pioneers—Cummings, who founded Chippawa, Samuel Street, Thomas Clark, the Macklems—good and great Canadians who, though they have long been gathered to their fathers, have handed down from their era to this both good works and good examples.

Trinity Church! You are honored in your years!

The centennial services of Sunday could not fail to be of deepest and most impressive interest. The physical church is itself a thing of beauty, enhanced by age; its ancient pews; its stained-glass windows, through which come from without the shadows of the maple leaves; its tablets that link today with the long, long ago; its altar and pulpit so beautifully made. And added to this were the decorations for the church birthday, glorious flowers in their vases of brass. The years were marked in green panels set with daisies—1820 on the left, 1920 on the right. Short lived is the daisy, but it lived long enough to speak the age of the old church.

This physical church, the glad day, the music, the memories, the beautiful service, the sermon—all these united in a commemora-