

**THE WATERDOWN REVIEW**

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G. H. GREENE  
Editor and Publisher

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1920

**Prof. Ballantyne  
New Moderator**

If Prof. James Ballantyne, the new moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, had followed in the footsteps of his father, the late Hon. Thomas Ballantyne, his life's vocation would have been connected with the dairy industry and not with the church. And it would have been a natural thing for him to have done, for the particular Ballantyne clan to which he belongs takes as readily to the making of butter and cheese as the Cecil family of England to politics. He might also, as a side line, have taken to provincial politics, as did his father, and like him eventually graced the Speaker's chair in the Legislature.

But if Prof. James Ballantyne had the blood of a dairyman in his veins it was the lure of the church that decided the vocation he should follow. And when that lure came upon him he set himself to the task of acquiring all the mental equipment that it was possible for him to command. He had obtained a good educational foundation at Dr. Tassie's famous school at St. Mary's. But just as Oliver Twist wanted more food he wanted more education. He accordingly entered the University of Toronto, specialized in modern languages, English and history, and in 1880, at the age of 23, graduated with first-class honors. Still unsatisfied he took a course at Leipzig, Germany.

Then he took up the more serious study of theology, in the course of which he entered in turn Knox College, the Princeton Theological Seminary, and the Edinburgh University. In 1885, five years after graduating from the University of Toronto, he was ordained into the ministry, and became pastor of Knox Church, London, where he remained nine years, leaving to accept the pastorate of Knox Church, Ottawa.

When in 1896 Knox College wanted a professor of church history, the lot fell upon Rev. James Ballantyne. Whatever it might have been to others, it was unexpected by himself, but after due consideration he accepted. Twenty-four years have since elapsed, but he is still lecturing to Knox students on church history, church government, and a few odd subjects.

Although Prof. Ballantyne had not prior to his appointment to the staff of Knox College in 1896 specialized particularly in church history, his education had been so broad and deep that he had become a recognized authority on the subject, hence his unexpected call to the professorate. As to his qualification for teaching the subjects he does at Knox College, no one apparently has any doubts. He is an indefatigable worker, and as a student he is just as keen as he ever was. That naturally keeps his mind fresh and up to date. As a lecturer he never attempts flights of oratory. What he has to say, having been well thought out, is lucid, concise, logical, full of meat and such as the average student can readily grasp and digest. But while his lectures do not savor of oratory they are made interesting both by the fund of information they contain and the spice of dry humor with which they are punctuated. As one, now a minister, but once a student of his, recently remarked: "Prof. Ballantyne seems to cover completely the whole of church history during the course of his lectures."

That Prof. Ballantyne is eminently fitted to perform the duties of moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada there can be no doubt. There is nothing of the theoretic pedagogical about him. He is a plain, practical man, fortified with sound judgment, happy in tactfulness, and as a presiding officer always cool and collected.

The proof of Prof. Ballantyne's soundness of judgment and tactfulness is to be found in the fact that the Toronto Presbytery from time to time appoints him as a commissioner to bring about peace in churches in which disturbing factors exist. One of his most recent tasks in this particular was in a Toronto church in which there was an open rupture between pastor and officials which threatened to bring about a serious split in the congregation. But the professor accomplished that which many thought to be the impossible. He brought about peace and harmony, with the result that this particular church, instead of being handicapped by a split in the congregation, is to-day more united and prosperous than at any time in its

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history, while Prof. Ballantyne carries a watch and chain of solid gold which the congregation presented to him as a token of their appreciation. Prof. Ballantyne is a doctor of divinity, having had the degree conferred upon him by both the Manitoba and Queen's Universities.

**Noise and Birds.**

One thinks of birds as shy and delicate creatures easily frightened by a sudden sound. That's error. A bird is disturbed by noise only so long as the noise is associated with danger. The moment noise ceases to threaten them, birds seem to mind it not at all. The gentle, lispng phoebe chooses to nest under bridges across which wagons and trucks pass frequently with a deafening roar. If the bridge is under railroad tracks, where the racket is much greater, it's all one to phoebe. The gravel roof of some high office building in the noisy centre of the city is often the chosen nesting place of Mrs. Night Hawk. The creature more harried by nerves and noise is the one that makes the most noise of all. That's man!

**Change Name of Nushka.**

The Postmaster-General has issued the order that the name of Nushka village will be changed to Val Gagne. The change is in honor of a gallant orient who died in the bush fires of 1918.

**Searching Autos.**

Canadian automobilists crossing to the United States at Detroit are complaining that federal authorities have been "unreasonable" in inspecting their machines. It has been announced that the reason for the action of the custom officials was a discovery that considerable liquor was being smuggled into the United States in automobile radiators.

**TIME TABLE**  
**Waterdown Bus Service**

Leave Waterdown	Leave Hamilton
6 a. m.	6.45 a. m.
7.45 a. m.	10 a. m.
1.30 p. m.	3.30 p. m.
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A number of White Wyandotte Cockerels. Apply to Gordon Buttenham, Phone 36-5, Waterdown

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**For Sale**

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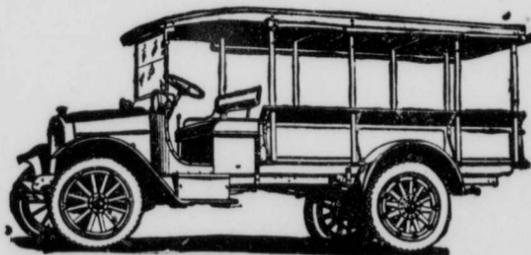
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