

## HAMILTON AND LONDON.

The meeting of the Synod of Hamilton and London, held last week at Brantford, has been pronounced one of the best in the history of that body. About 150 delegates were present, and the whole proceedings were alive with interest. The sermon of the retiring moderator, Rev. Hector Currie, of Thorold, in the Sarina Presbytery, was eminently scholarly and evangelical.

Dr. John Ross, the new moderator, was for over 26 years minister of Melville church, Brussels, and is now pastor of the church at Port Dalhousie. He is a gentleman of fine presence and made a dignified and tactful moderator.

The lengthened devotional exercises of the first day were very largely attended and most impressive. The singing, with Rev. J. Thompson, of Ayr, as organist, was inspiring to a degree.

The augmentation report, presented by Rev. A. Henderson, of London, convenor, was the most satisfactory in the history of the fund within the bounds, the contributions exceeding last year's by \$1,000, and the previous year by \$1,400.

Rev. J. H. Edmison, of Cheltenham, gave a fine address in support of the fund. The prejudice against it in some quarters, he declared, to be unreasonable. Dr. Lela, Dr. McCrae and others spoke briefly on the splendid results, but pointed out that the rate of giving was still very small on the part of many of the members and adherents of the church.

Rev. J. W. Macnamara, of Nelson, presented the report on young people's societies. Many of the societies have suffered severely by the removal of so many young people to the west. Some have ceased to exist for this cause. Still a good year's work has been accomplished, and there is reason for thankfulness for the good done.

The Sunday school report caused the most lively discussion of the sessions. It was presented by Rev. E. B. Horne, B.D., of Watford, and was a very able document. His reference to bringing Sunday school teaching into closer harmony with modern learning was taken by some to be too advanced, and the recommendation dealing with this part of the report was struck out.

It was felt that Mr. Horne's splendid report and the discussion on it will have a good effect in connection with the Sunday school work of the synod.

The conference on Tuesday afternoon brought before the synod two exceedingly able papers, one on "The Minimum Creed," by Rev. B. Atkinson, of Chelmsford, and another on "Evangelism and the Ministry," by Rev. H. Diekirk, the new minister of Chalmers church, Woodstock, and successor to the late Dr. W. A. MacKay. Both papers were scholarly and suggestive, and were discussed by Rev. C. Fletcher, Kirkton, in the Huron Presbytery, and Rev. J. Crawford, of Niagara Falls, and a large number of other members of the Synod.

Rev. Dr. MacKay, of Toronto, gave a stirring address on the foreign work in India and China.

The new general secretary of Sunday school work, Rev. J. C. Robertson, made a good impression on the Synod. His address was earnest and strong. An overture from the Paris Presbytery in respect to a change in the regulations of the widows' and orphans' fund was supported by Dr. McMillen, and sent forward to the General Assembly.

Mr. McMillen's overture to unite the Women's Home and Foreign Mission Societies was sent on to the assembly, without being adopted. There was a general sentiment favorable to the aim of the overture, but it was felt that it would be very difficult to unite these two organizations, as the Women's Foreign Society existed for the special purpose of helping the women and children in foreign lands. It was feared that as there was no such work in the home field, friction in regard to division of funds, etc., would be apt to result.

Rev. Dr. McCrae, of Westminster, as the representative of the General Assembly's committee on the aged and infirm ministers' fund, presented the claims of that fund to liberal support.

The report on church life and work was given by Rev. John Bailey, of Camlachie. The report was strongly optimistic and showed progress in every department of the church's work.

The faces of Rev. W. J. Clark, Rev. James Rollins and Rev. Dr. Ross were missed. Great regret was expressed on all hands at the long and serious illness of Rev. J. G. Stuart, of Knox church, South London. The synod consists of nine presbyteries, and a committee was appointed to seek to secure a full attendance of both ministers and elders at future meetings. The next meeting is to be held in the First Church, Chatham, on the last Monday of April of next year.

## WESTERN ONTARIO.

The next regular meeting of London Presbytery will be held at Glencoe on 1st July.

Rev. J. S. Lockard, of London Presbytery, has been asked to retire, after nearly forty years' service.

At the last communion in Knox church, Aton, twenty-two new members were added to the roll.

The resignation of Rev. W. M. Kay, of Rochester, has been accepted, to take effect on 27th May.

The Chinese class of Knox church, Hamilton, presented Rev. E. A. Horne with a handsome gold-headed cane.

Rev. J. M. MacNamara, of Nelson, near Brantford, has received a call to Shabonee Church at a salary of \$800 and a free manse.

Rev. E. W. Panton, for nearly twenty-five years pastor of St. Andrew's church, Stratford, has tendered his resignation, and will preach his farewell sermon on May 13.

A call from the Presbyterian Church at Jean, Koko town, to Rev. S. G. Livingstone, B.A., of Windsor, has been sustained by the London Presbytery. Should Mr. Livingstone accept, his induction will take place about the middle of May.

Mr. J. W. Currie, B.A., who has just completed his second year at Knox college, carrying off the Bloor street church scholarship of \$50 and the Clark prize valued at \$120 for proficiency in Hebrew preached in St. Andrew's church, Maitland, on a recent Sunday.

The London Presbytery has licensed Mr. Walter L. Nichol, B.A., of Westminster, he having passed his examination in the prescribed subjects most successfully. Mr. Nichol expects to leave shortly for Scotland, where he will take special studies in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

At a large gathering of the congregation and friends of Locke Street, Hamilton, held for the purpose of tendering a farewell social to Rev. Mr. and Mrs. McDermont and family Dr. Fletcher, on behalf of the congregation, and the Ladies' Aid Society, presented Rev. Mr. McDermont with a purse of gold as a token of the esteem in which he is held by the congregation. Mr. McDermont on behalf of his wife and family made a suitable reply.

The Woodstock Express, in noticing the first sermon of the new assistant in Knox church, says: "R. B. Cochrane, M.A., has made a very favorable impression on the congregation. Mr. Cochrane is a rapid but fluent speaker, and preaches with much energy and appropriate manner and gestures. His sermon was well balanced and connected and gave evidence of clear, deep thinking. Mr. Cochrane is a son of the late Rev. Wm. Cochrane, for so long the Minister of Zion Church, Brantford."

## MONTREAL.

The Rev. K. J. Macdonald, B.A., B.D., was inducted as pastor of St. Matthew's church, Point St. Charles, on Thursday evening. The Rev. C. A. Doudiet, who, thirty-three years ago, was pastor of this church, preached the sermon. The church was well filled to receive its new minister, and, besides the congregation, several of the city clergymen were present to greet their newest "co-presbyter."

Taking I. Thes. iv., 10-12 as his text Mr. Doudiet spoke on four points: First, on the necessary increase of love, sympathy and generosity in the Christian life; then upon the value of performing the many arduous duties of life in inconspicuous ways. The true Christian would not make a fuss over his good works or exploit them. His next point was a practical piece of advice in regard to letting others do their duty without our constant interference, criticism and advice. Finally, Mr. Doudiet urged that the duty of the individual consisted in performing those duties which, as a citizen in a civilized, rational society, each man ought to face. Let each work hard at his own appointed task; then "this Canada of ours," bound by religion, sympathy and co-operation, would realize the great future which lay in store for her.

The usual questions were then put to Mr. Macdonald by Dr. Scott, moderator of the session, and the brief ceremony of induction having been duly performed, Mr. Macdonald was greeted by members of the Presbytery present.

The Rev. Professor Mackenzie, whom Mr. Macdonald succeeds, addressed the new pastor upon the duties and opportunities of a minister. He mentioned the fact that Mr. Macdonald had been heard by a parishioner of St. Matthew's away out in Western Ontario, and he had come back with the message, "Here is our man." This, he remarked, had led to his being invited to St. Matthew's. The many things which a minister was expected to do and to be were always a dangerous element in the pastor's life, where the greatest temptation and tendency to waste valuable time in the mere social and everyday occurrences of life existed, and the preacher sometimes was forced to speak, conscious that, through lack of communion with the source of his supply, his cold words were feeble and uninspired. But, above all, as a man could not do everything, the pastor must concentrate his energy upon preaching the Word. Appreciation would come readily, but times of doubt and depression would come, too, and the minister must be fearless of opposition when it was his duty to preach his message, no matter whom it hurt. Lastly, the congregation wanted spiritual food—not mere high-sounding, polished phrases. To meet this demand the minister should preach the unsearchable riches of Christ.

The Rev. W. R. Cruikshank addressed the congregation upon ways and means of helping their minister and one another. Since they had called him, they should attend the services and give their most earnest support. Each member should be in co-operation with the pastor through some channel of work. They must pray for him, and, above all, be broad-minded, kindly and generous in interpreting the words, which, in whatever form they came, would be always honestly intended for their help and uplifting. The mortgage of the church should be burned on their jubilee day in 1910, at latest. The missionary spirit, also, from its unselfish ideals, would draw member to member and congregation to pulpit with those strong ties, without which success and progress were impossible.

Rev. Louis H. Jordan, B.D., who has been spending several months in Canada, left Montreal last Thursday to return to Oxford, England, where he will continue his studies and proceed with the preparation of his second volume on "Comparative Religion."