

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

Many sad faces are to be seen in the city these days, very especially if one makes a visit to, or happens to be passing any of our Fire Halls. Five brave firemen lost their lives this week while doing their duty at a great fire which consumed P. McIntosh and Sons, Grain and Storage Warehouse, at the corner of Front and George streets, and involved some other neighbouring buildings. The building was old and insecure, and through the falling of the walls while the fire brigades were at work, no fewer than five men, three at one point and two at another were buried beneath the ruins, and all killed. This sad fatality, greater than any of a similar kind in the city's history, is deeply felt by all, and sympathy, coupled with appreciation of duty bravely done are strong and universal. Three of the dead men are married, and all of them were young, the oldest being little over thirty years of age. Flags are flying at half-mast on all the fire halls and public buildings. After private religious services held at the homes of the deceased, a general public service was held on Sunday in St. James Cathedral at 3 p. m., to which the remains had been previously removed. The building was completely filled by public bodies such as the Mayor and Council, and labour organizations from all of which resolutions of kind sympathy had been sent to relatives of the deceased. All of them were members of the Orange Society, and an immense procession composed of members of the Orange and many other societies, marshalled by Acting Chief of Police Stewart followed the hearse containing the bodies of the men to Mount Pleasant cemetery, where all were interred, along streets lined by thousands of sympathetic citizens. The loss of property to P. McIntosh and Sons and others involved, chiefly the Street Railway Co., and Gowans, Kent and Co. will amount to \$300,000, a considerable part of which is covered by insurance.

Filling the place in Knox College left vacant by the lamented death of Prof. Halliday Douglas will not be easy. Although two meetings of the College Senate and Board have been held, no agreement has been reached about any name before the College authorities. In case of failing to make an appointment in time for the College opening, Rev. Dr. Kilpatrick of Winnipeg will be invited to conduct the classes in Apologetics for the first time. At the regular monthly meeting of Toronto presbytery, Rev. Alex. Ewing and Rev. Henry Graham were received, and Rev. Charles Boskey, formerly pastor of Zion Congregational church, will be received at its next meeting which will be in September. Revs. R. C. Tibb, clerk of presbytery, and J. McDuncan were placed on the roll of presbytery and admitted to the full rights of membership. Rev. John Wilkie D. D., and Rev. D. Miller of Puce presented presbyterial certificates and their names were placed on the roll. An appropriate resolution of sympathy with the son of the late Rev. Principal Grant in his bereavement was passed, as was also one in connection with the death of the late Prof. Douglas. Some time was spent in devotional exercises in connection with the illness and happy recovery so far of the King. The sederunt was closed with the singing of God save the King and the benediction.

A representative meeting was held recently in the Y. M. C. A. building, at which it was decided to invite Prof. W. R. Newell of the Moody Institute, Chicago, to conduct next winter beginning in October, a series of weekly bible classes to be held in Massey Hall, which has been secured already for Tuesday winter evenings as the meeting place for the classes. They are to be interdenominational, and the purpose is to teach the English bible, not from a critical standpoint, but accepting it as the Word of God. These classes will no doubt be very largely attended and ought to issue in much good. It would also be a good thing if in a large city like Toronto, where there are many interested in the study of the bible from a critical standpoint if some one in every way thoroughly competent by scholarship and sound judgment could be procured to conduct classes along that line. They too, if wisely led might be productive of much good in removing difficulties, clearing away misapprehension, and establishing not a few whose faith has been shaken by misapprehension and partial knowledge.

On Sabbath 6th inst., the Christian Alliance convention which had been in progress for some days in Munro Park, was closed. A collection was taken up in aid of its missionary work which

is carried on in several parts of Asia, and in almost all the countries in South America. Rev. Dr. A. B. Simpson, President of the Alliance, in the morning gave a missionary address, and a collection taken up at the close amounted to \$5,158 which at the evening service was increased so as to make up a total of \$5,600, probably the largest single collection ever taken in the country at any religious gathering. More than a score of the best missionaries in the service of the alliance, Dr. Simpson said, are Canadians. Most of the regular congregations in the city are now very much thinned out by holiday seekers, some of the ministers have left, and soon nearly all the settled pastors will be seeking and enjoying rest, and laying in we trust successfully a fresh stock of health and strength to meet future demands. We see it recommended in some quarters that much out-of-door preaching might be done with the best results within the next two months. This is an excellent suggestion, and great good might be done if it were taken by all the religious bodies, and street or out-of-door preaching arranged to be held systematically in many quarters of the city at the best time, and at the best places to catch the multitude.

The number of "Fresh Air outings" for the benefit of various classes, aged people, poor working mothers, and sickly or delicate children is increasing from year to year. Many of them are in full operation and large numbers who otherwise would never get it, are now enjoying the advantage of a week or fortnight in the country, drinking in full draughts of pure fresh air, and being regaled with the most nourishing food. In this connection it is a pleasure to notice the opening a week ago Sunday of the Free Hospital for Consumptives at Gravenhurst. This is one of the most beneficent kind of charities as the doors of the hospital are intended to be open for all who cannot afford to pay anything for treatment. The building is in a charming location near the shore of Muskoka lake, is admirably arranged and filled up. It cost \$20,000 half of which has been contributed by Mr. Gage and half by the estate of the late Hart A. Massey both of this city. It is the first of its kind in the Dominion, and with one exception, on the continent. There is no endowment for its support, and its donors and the association are putting faith in the large heartedness of our Canadian people to provide the funds necessary for its maintenance. Only two conditions are required for maintenance: (1) That the applicant is in the early stage of the disease; and (2) that he can pay little or nothing at all. Happy are they who have the ability and who, out of pure motives, have the heart so to save their suffering fellow-creatures.

Much interest is felt in several quarters over an attempt being made by our city council, to squeeze out of existence it is alleged, a large number of Chinese laundries by imposing on them a tax of \$50.00. It is the Chinese question of the coast in a slightly different aspect. It appears hard to be taxed first to be allowed to come into the country, and after that taxed to be allowed to work at their ordinary employment. The Chinese have many warm and strong friends, and it is to be hoped that they will so influence public opinion and the council that they will get fair play and be subjected to no wrong or injustice.

Mr. Jas. Hughes, Inspector of Common Schools for the city, whose resignation I have referred to has withdrawn it, and it is understood that his services under improved conditions, will be retained.

Petitions have been sent to the government from his home in the States for respite of the sentence of Rice, now in jail here, for the murder of a constable who was taking him to prison a year ago. It is not likely that they will be granted, and in that case he will pay the last penalty of the law on Friday first. He has been ministered to by Rev. Mr. Hall, city missionary, and has asked for and received baptism.

Rev. J. Steele, B. D., of Powassan, exchanged with Rev. John Garroch, B. A., of Mattawa, last Sabbath.

Babcock and Dunsford have decided to call Mr. W. C. McIntyre, licentiate, a recent graduate of Queen's.

Rev. A. H. Scott of Perth, intends making a trip to Norway, as a delegate to the World's convention of Y. M. C. A. Association, to be held in Christiania, from the 20th to the 21st August.

Western Ontario.

Anniversary services were conducted at St. Andrew's church, Mt. Brydges, of which Rev. R. W. Leitch is pastor, on June 29. The pastor addressed the Sabbath School in the morning, and at 2:30 and 7:30 the pulpit was occupied by Rev. W. J. Knox, of Stratford.

The regular meeting of the London Presbytery was held at the First Church, Westminster, on Tuesday last. In connection with the meeting there was held in the evening a mass meeting in the interests of the schemes of the church. Able and interesting addresses were given by members of the presbytery, and suitable music was furnished by the choir.

On Monday of last week an exceptionally interesting meeting was held at Ailsa Craig. The congregation of this church has volunteered to give \$500 to the support of Rev. J. A. Bruce, B. A., of Toronto, who is about to go to China to engage in missionary work. The presbytery decided, therefore, that it would be appropriate to have Mr. Bruce's designation meeting at the Ailsa Craig church. The presbytery held their adjourned meeting there Monday night. Rev. Mr. Geddes presided, Rev. A. W. Craw, B. A., of Ilderton preached the sermon, Rev. Dr. McKay preached to the missionary, and Rev. A. Henderson, of Appin, to the people.

This was the first time that the Presbytery of London has met at Westminster, but Dr. McCrae will not have to coax very hard to get them to meet there again. Dr. McCrae is the fortunate pastor of one of the finest rural churches in all Canada, and it would be impossible to say which appreciates the other more—the pastor or his people. The reputation for prosperity and hospitality that the congregation enjoyed in such marked degree while Rev. Mr. Sowers was pastor, has been maintained during the present pastorate, and the church has gone on increasing in well doing. The reception that was given the members of the presbytery yesterday was an illustration of the way that the First Church has won its name through all the London district.

On Saturday night the managers of the First Presbyterian Church, Messrs. Archibald McPherson, Ed. E. Reid, C. G. Jarvis, W. C. Allan and Dr. J. N. Wood, went to Rev. W. J. Clark's house and completely surprised him by presenting to him a purse of \$200. Mr. C. G. Jarvis was spokesman, and said that at the approach of the holiday season they thought they would like to show tangible expression to their warm affection for him. He said that this gift was voluntary upon the part of the congregation, and was given privately and quietly as a token of their warm regard for him and their appreciation of his services. Mr. Jarvis added that he would like to be able to tell Mr. Clark the many kind things that had been said by the subscribers.

Rev. J. Lovell Murray, of Haynes avenue church, St. Catharines, has been invited by the International Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association to go as one of the Foreign Secretaries to India and has accepted the invitation. The work of the Y. M. C. A. in India, which is largely among the students, is most important owing to the large number of students who are in attendance upon the universities in that country. Mr. Murray is well qualified for the position, having served for two years as General Secretary of the Y. M. C. A. of Toronto University. His resignation was dealt with at the meeting of the presbytery this week and the Haynes avenue congregation, where he has ministered for two years and a half, part with him with much regret. The post assigned to Mr. Murray is Bangalore, the capital of the Province of Mysore, Southern India.

Montreal.

The Rev. J. Myles Crombie was inducted on Monday evening last week, as pastor of Victoria Church, Point St. Charles. A meeting of the Presbytery was held beforehand, the Rev. Mr. Osley acting as moderator. The Rev. E. A. McKenzie, of Point St. Charles, presided over the public induction, and the Rev. Mr. McLaren, of Lachine, preached the sermon, taking as his text Platte's words: "What I have written, I have written." The Rev. J. L. George, of Calvin Church, gave the address to the minister, and the Rev. Mr. Osley took to the people. A very satisfactory meeting of the elders and managers of the church was held afterwards. The new pastor enters on his duties with every prospect of success.