

CHURCH
WORK

Ministers and Churches

NEWS
LETTERS

OTTAWA.

Rev. Dr. Milligan of Toronto, will conduct the anniversary service in the Stewarson church on Feb. 23. He will lecture on Monday evening on the subject of "Tact". A great treat is in store for all who can attend the Sabbath services as well as the lecture on Monday evening.

The annual meeting of Stewarson Presbyterian congregation, held on the 15th, revealed a condition of affairs exceedingly creditable. Every branch of congregational activity indicated progress. The membership increased from 410 a year ago to 553. The building fund showed a balance on hand of \$1,035 available for reduction of the mortgage debt—\$30,000. During the past three years the congregation has cleared off debts of about \$9,000. The board of management showed total receipts of \$5,296 and closed the year with a balance on hand of \$326. All the congregational societies closed the year with credit balances. The total receipts from all sources amounted to \$11,835. And last but not least, the congregation unanimously endorsed the proposal of the board of management to increase Rev. Mr. McIlroy's salary by \$400—from \$1,600 to \$2,000. Before the close of the meeting, the building committee formally handed over the keys of the new church to the trustees of the congregation.

Rev. Dr. Armstrong presided at the 34th annual meeting of St. Paul's Church, and Mr. W. J. Irvine acted as secretary. The various reports, with one exception, indicated progress and prosperity. The exception referred to was the report of the Sunday school superintendent, Mr. E. S. MacPhail, who made the following comparison: "In 1906 there were 133 pupils; the average attendance was 91; there were 43 boys among the students; the teachers were 16 in number. In 1907 there were but 110 pupils; the average attendance was only 75; 32 boys attended and there were but 12 teachers. In every class there has been a decrease. This should be attended to by parents, who should see that all their children go to Sunday school and go regularly." The report of the temporal committee showed receipts amounting to \$4,700 and expenditure \$4,666. During the year the church was renovated. Twenty new members joined the congregation. The mission treasurer reported \$403.85 given to missions, which is \$50 more than last year's contribution. The receipts of the Ladies' Aid for the year amounted to \$192 and the balance of cash on hand is \$30. The difference had been expended on various worthy objects. The financial returns of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society amounted to \$203.22, which is the largest sum it ever collected. In slight recognition of her devoted services in the auxiliary Mrs. (Dr.) Armstrong was presented with a life membership certificate. The report of the Sunday school treasurer showed a balance of five cents on hand. The receipts were \$159.93, and the expenditure \$159.88. Messrs. G. R. Davis, C. H. Thorburn and W. G. Charleson, the retiring members of the temporal committee, were re-elected by acclamation and Mr. Geo. A. Lindsay was acclaimed treasurer. Votes of thanks were tendered the lady collectors for their diligence, the Ladies' Aid Society, and kindred societies. Especially hearty thanks were tendered the choir and Treasurer Lindsay.

The past year has been one of the most prosperous and successful in the history of Bank street church. The total receipts amounted in all to \$11,134.37, or an increase of \$1,248.43 over last year. The treasurer's statement presented by Mr. W. E. Gowling, showed the loose collections to amount to \$903, and by envelope \$5,600.95, a total from congregation of \$6,504.90. The session report indicated that the membership at the beginning of last year was 619, and to this number 48 new members had been added, 27 by confession of faith, and 21 by certificate, making the total number on the roll at the present time, 667. On December 31, the membership for the school and bible classes stood at 370—166 girls and 111 boys, and 55 teachers and officers. The average attendance was 356. Attendance at the Chinese school was somewhat smaller than in the previous year, owing to the opening up of other schools. The collections amounted to \$62.44, which was sent to the support of a native missionary in China. The total receipts as presented by the treasurer, Mrs. M. Y. Brown, were \$158.21, and the balance on hand was \$94.33. The Young People's association was in a very prosperous position, with receipts amounting to \$1,329.58. A large consignment of books and magazines had been sent to some of the mining camps at Cobalt. A generous sum was also given towards the support of a missionary at Kamsack, Sask. There is a balance on hand of \$502.75. The Girl's F. M. Society, the Home Mission Auxiliary, the Ladies' Aid, and the W. F. M. Auxiliary all presented satisfactory reports. The following officers were elected:—Treasurer, Alfred D. Stewart; treasurer of mission schemes, W. A. Fraser; managers, three years, J. Garrow, J. Graham, W. E. Gourley, R. S. Simpson and J. M. Young; two years, W. A. Fraser.

There was a large attendance at the congregational meeting of Cooke's church, Kingston. The chair was occupied by Rev. Dr. MacTavish, and Mr. James McCulla acted as secretary. The report of the session showed that fifty-nine members had been received during the year, and sixteen dismissed, leaving a net gain of forty-three. The total membership is now 356. The manager's report showed that substantial progress had been made. All accounts have been paid, and there remained in the treasury, the sum of \$109. This amount was, upon a unanimous vote, added to the pastor's salary. Reports were received from the Victoria Guild, the Ladies' Aid, the W. F. M. S., the Presbyterian Guild, Sunday school and Olive branch of the mission Band. All these organizations are in a flourishing condition. The contributions for the year amounted to about \$4,600. The contributions to missions have more than doubled within the past two years. Messrs. J. A. Newman and E. J. Anderson were elected managers and R. M. Douglas, treasurer. Votes of thanks were tendered to A. W. Dunlop, who has served as treasurer for eight years, to Mrs. R. J. Dinck, treasurer of the Ladies' Aid, J. A. McCulla, the official secretary, the choir, and the organist.

The Ladies' Aid and Young Ladies' Assisting Society of St. Andrew's Church, Chatham, Ont., raised last year the handsome sum of \$1,600. It is needless to say that both societies contain a number of devoted and energetic women who are not afraid of work, and know how to do it.

HAMILTON NOTES.

Rev. Neil Leckie, of Lonsdaleboro', preached in Knox Church on Jan. 12th inst.

Rev. Robert Laird, M.A., representing Queen's University Endowment Fund, was in our city last week.

Sabbath school institutes are shortly to be held in Hamilton and Simcoe. Rev. J. C. Robertson, the genial general secretary of S. S. work, of Toronto, will be in charge.

St. Andrew's Church, of which Rev. J. A. Wilson is pastor, has decided to introduce Individual Communion cups. St. Andrew's closed the year with a membership of 806.

Rev. J. E. Menancon of Quebec is in the city canvassing for the Building Fund of the Point aux Trembles school. He has already been heard in Erskine. St. Andrew's, St. John's and McNab Street Churches.

McNab Street Church had a fairly good year, and the manager's statement showed a balance on the right side. The total receipts were \$5,317.95. During the year \$1,848.69 was contributed for missionary purposes.

Annual meetings recently held show 1907 to have been a most successful year for Presbyterians in Hamilton. Increases in pastor's salary were made at both St. Andrew's and Erskine—the former to \$1,900, the latter to \$2,000.

Erskine Church (Rev. S. B. Russell, pastor) showed receipts of \$4,518, with a slight balance on hand. The pastor's salary was increased by \$300.00. The amount raised for missions was \$684. The membership is 775, a gain of 69. The financial report of the Central church showed that there had been raised for general purposes during the year \$10,122, of which \$553 was still on hand. For missions \$3,000.00 had been raised.

At the annual meeting of Knox church a letter was read from Rev. Dr. Nelson, who recently resigned the charge, asking payment of \$600, the difference between \$2,500 per year offered in the "Call" to him and \$3,000 "unofficially" promised in a letter written by someone in the congregation. The meeting very properly declined to consider the claim. This congregation is in a healthy condition, financially and otherwise. The membership is reported as 1,246, and the total receipts for the year \$11,416.32, leaving a balance, after paying all claims, of \$554.29.

At the annual meeting of St. James' congregation, London (Rev. T. H. Mitchell, pastor), the minister's salary was increased to \$1,900. Owing to the difficulty in finding sittings for new converts it was announced that it would soon be necessary to "throw the seats open."

The annual christian entertainment in connection with the Sabbath School of the Presbyterian church, Raymond, Alta., came off on Monday evening, the 23rd Dec., and proved a grand success, numerically, intellectually and socially. An interesting programme was rendered consisting of songs, recitations and dialogues by the children, who performed their respective parts with great credit to themselves and to their teachers. Dr. Rivers, the popular mayor of the town, gave an appropriate address and Miss McCullough a humorous reading. The musical selections by Miss Laycock and the Misses Cullett were much appreciated. The gifts distributed by Santa Claus were both as regards quantity and quality all that the children could desire. The pastor, Rev. John J. Cameron, occupied the chair.