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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON

Manager and Editor.

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, AUG. 23, 1907

Training will tell. Mr. J. B. Lake, a graduate of the Acton Free Press Office, has commenced the publication of "The News," at Powassan, a thriving town a few miles south of North Bay. "The News" is a model of tasteful typography, and, looking at its neat pages, anyone acquainted with the facts can at once see a reflection of Bro. Moore's skilful training. Mr. Lake is a credit to the office in which he served his time, and we wish him every success in his laudable enterprise.

THANKSGIVING DAY DATE.

The idea has been advocated of having Thanksgiving Day on a Monday hereafter, instead of the usual Thursday, as that enables those visiting the old home to have a holiday which could take in the Sunday. We see no objection to this proposal, and some things in its favor. It is something to have the idea of Thanksgiving recognized by the setting apart of a week-day, even if it is not generally observed by religious services. The Sunday previous to the Thanksgiving Monday is the proper time for the religious Thanksgiving services, for the sufficient reason that on the Sunday you reach most people. As to the character of the services, may we make a suggestion as to what to avoid. Avoid making it a day of general complaint and exhortation, as is sometimes the case. A Thanksgiving Day service should make its readings, singings and speakings full of the perfume of thankfulness. Grumbling, whining, criticising, probably do little good at any time. They are absolutely out of place on the one day set apart specially for Thanksgiving.

TURNING THE FURROW.

By Rev. J. P. Gerrie.

November here was the season of turning the furrow. It is the almost universal employment in the country. Tens of thousands are thus engaged. Nor can the service be over-estimated; the food for innumerable multitudes is depending upon it. It is an occupation that concerns more than the plowman, and those immediately depending upon him. His fellow-men everywhere are a factor in the toil. How important that it be carefully and diligently done!

From this furrow in which the agriculturist is engaged we turn to life's furrow in which all mankind are engaged. Vast issues also hang upon this service. It concerns life now and hereafter, time and eternity, the earth and the skies. How pre-eminently important that the turning be made wisely and well. There are characteristics of the turning which will readily appear.

Straight.—One of the first requisites of good plowing is straightness. The inexperienced hand will often get the old plowman to "fear," or make the opening furrow, which becomes his guide. Then, too, the ground is sometimes staked, or the eye is fixed on directing objects so that the furrow may be straight. It is the delight of the good plowman to make it so, and seldom is the end reached without the eye turning back upon the course that has been made. Life's furrow, too, must be straight. Let there be no crooks, nor bends, nor twists. For this a pride is needed, and following the One who came to mark out life's pathway, our course will be straight home to God. Oh that we may be able to look upon such a furrow!

Even. — Another requisite of good plowing is that it be even. There is danger of becoming wide or narrow, shallow or deep. I have seen a little wheel fixed on the beam of the plow to guide the beginner in the matter of depth, and it seems to me that I have seen or heard of contrivances to help in making a uniform width. There is a most needed consideration here for all details in life. Unevenness unfortunately mars almost every service in life. The mechanic, teacher, builder, lawyer, author, all leave its stamp upon their work. Nor is it absent in the development of life and character. Religion is intermittent and spasmodic. There are times of fervor, warmth and devotion, and corresponding times of coldness, indifference and want of zeal. There are seasons of hesitating, listless, grudging service. On that there might be an even furrow of whole-hearted, consecrated service year in and year out to the Lord and Master.

THE PRAYER MEETING.

With the autumn will come in once more the problem of the prayer meeting. Perhaps it would help if we would ask ourselves a few such enquiries as these: What is the prayer meeting for? To what extent does its successes depend on numbers? In what way can be cultivated the habit of simple, direct and honest public prayer, as opposed to that which is conventional merely? To what extent, if any, should the mid-week meeting be an imitation of the usual Sunday services? Is the mid-week meeting worth keeping up? If so, it is worth keeping up for what reason?

ESTIMATED REQUIREMENTS.

Estimated Requirements for 1907-08.

The following is a statement of the amounts required from congregations for the year ending Feb. 28, 1908, on behalf of the Schemes of the Church. It is intended as a guide to congregations and mission committees in the amount at which they should aim in supporting the Schemes, as well as showing the money raised.

| | Estimated Amount | Estimated Re-Communi- cant. |
|--|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Home Missions | \$180,000 | \$0.90 |
| Augmentation of Stipends | 45,000 | 22% |
| Foreign Missions | 122,000 | 60 |
| French Evangelization, including Pointe aux Trembles | 44,000 | 18 |
| Colleges— | | |
| Knox | 9,000 | 04% |
| Queen's | 8,000 | 04 |
| Montreal | 7,500 | 03% |
| Manitoba (Eastern Synod) and Ont. and Que. | 2,500 | 01 |
| Manitoba (Western Synod) | 9,000 | 25 |
| A. & I. Ministers' Fund | 18,000 | 07% |
| Ministers' W. & O. Fund | 15,000 | 07 |
| Assembly Fund | 8,000 | 03% |
| Temperance and Moral Reform | 5,000 | 02 |

The congregations in both the Eastern and Western sections of the Church contribute to French Evangelization, A. & I. Ministers', Manitoba College, Assembly, and Temperance and Moral Reform Funds. The amounts named for the other Schemes are for the Western section alone.

Will not every minister this year take measures to secure an average of six cents per week for the Schemes from every member of his congregation? Multitudes who are now giving \$2.00 a year could as easily give one dollar every month. If the work of instruction and contribution is taken up heartily, and system put into it, we shall add this year twenty-five per cent. to our giving for the Schemes.

There is enough of wealth in our Church, and there are enough consecrated church members to do it, if thought and effort are given to secure the end we aim at. A mere announcement from the pulpit will not do it.

Special attention is called to the following points if we are to obtain the amount required:—

1. Presbyteries should take such oversight of the work as will secure from every congregation and mission station within their bounds a fair contribution for each of the Schemes.

2. In congregations where there is no missionary association in charge of all the Schemes, the Session should see that the congregation has an opportunity given to it to make a contribution for the Schemes on the following days as appointed by the General Assembly:

French Evangelization, Fourth Sabbath, July.
 Assembly Fund, Third Sabbath, August.
 Colleges, Fourth Sabbath, September.
 Sabbath Schools, Children's Day.
 Home Missions (Thanksgiving), Third Sabbath, October.
 Ministers' W. & O. Fund, Fourth Sabbath, November.
 Manitoba College, Third Sabbath, December.
 Augmentation of Stipends, Third Sabbath, January.