

Church News

[All communications to this column ought to be sent to the Editor immediately after the occurrences to which they refer have taken place.]

MONTREAL NOTES.

January is the month in which the annual meetings of congregations are for the most part held and, except in one or two instances, the reports so far as known at this date show that Presbyterianism in the Montreal district is fully holding its own. In some cases there is marked advance. St. Paul's church shows a most satisfactory financial condition as the result of the past years work. Not only has all the cost of the installation of the electric light been provided for, but the increased expenses of the church have all been met and the year closes with a balance on the right side. Eskimo church reports an income of \$10,477 and a small balance on hand. It has increased its appropriation to the service of praise by \$300 for the coming year. Its principal missionary society shows a revenue of nearly \$6,000 to be allocated among the schemes, with three other organizations in the church still to hear from. Montreal West reported a small deficit but it was promptly wiped out by a collection taken on the spot and a balance left on hand. Melville church Westmount, which has been so suddenly and unexpectedly bereaved of its pastor the Rev. John McGillivray, had just voted to increase his stipend by \$200 and decided to proceed with the erection of a new church building.

The same satisfactory showing is made at other points in the Province. There are only a few Protestants comparatively in the city of Three Rivers. The Presbyterian church is the strongest in the place and it is stronger now than for many years past, under the able pastorate of the Rev. I. R. MacLeod. The average attendance for the past year has been nearly double what it was five years ago. For the first time in a decade the ordinary revenue was sufficient for the expenditure though a considerable amount had been spent on necessary repairs to the church and manse. The average contribution per family towards the ministers stipend was \$22, but they have undertaken to raise for the coming year \$30 additional, relieving the Augmentation Fund to that extent. For all purposes they gave \$40 per family. The Sunday school is in a flourishing condition and every part of the church's work shows signs of prosperity.

A year ago attention was called to the fact that there was not a single vacancy within the bounds of the Presbytery of Montreal. At the present time there are five vacancies in charges that have had settled ministers. Four of these have been occasioned by death. The call from St. Thomas to the Rev. Mr. Drummond of Russelltown is likely to create a sixth, while there is a rumor of still other changes in the near future. On the other hand the charges of Beauchemin and Chateaugay, and at Howick and Riverside, and of Victoria church, Montreal, are likely to give calls in a few weeks with the hope of early settlement.

With a view to bringing into closer relationship the parents of the scholars who attend Sunday-school and the officers and teachers of St. Matthew's Presbyterian school, the former were invited to a social gathering in the lecture hall of the church recently, where they were met by the superintendent and the officers and teachers of the school. Addresses of an appropriate nature were delivered by the pastor, the Rev. W. R. Cruikshank and Dr. F. W. Keller.

The Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Ameron returned from Britain by the Numidian and arrived in Montreal last week. Owing to the unsatisfactory state of his health while away his mission was less successful than was anticipated, but he succeeded in obtaining in various ways about \$2,000 towards the debt on St. John's church. Should the state of his health permit he hopes to raise some portion of the balance by a personal canvass in Canada. The case is an urgent one and calls for speedy action if the church is to be retained for the use of the congregation.

GENERAL.

Rev. Mr. Munroe, pastor of the Presbyterian church, Antigonish, was presented lately with a cheque for \$100 by his congregation.

The Rev. L. J. McLaren, Belwood Ont., was presented with an address by the members of the United congregation of St. John's and Mimosa.

The Rev. John McLeod was presented with a purse of \$150, and an address by the members and adherent of the Presbyterian Church Vankleek Hill Ont.

Rev. George Cathbertson, of Wyoming, has returned from Chicago greatly improved in health and has resumed his duties as pastor of the Presbyterian church at Wyoming.

The induction of Rev. S. S. Burns, B.A., to the pastorate of the Presbyterian churches of Stirling and West Huntingdon took place at St. Andrew's Church Stirling, on Jan 12th.

Rev. J. L. Small was inducted into the pastorate of the Presbyterian church of Keewatin on Jan. 11th. The ceremony was impressive. Rev. Mr. Murray addressed the minister and Rev. Mr. Nairn the congregation. There was a large congregation.

The anniversary services in connection with St. Andrews Church Carlton place were observed on Sunday Jan. 10th. The Rev. Dr. Campbell, of Erskine Church Ottawa was the preacher on this occasion and delighted his hearers with his very eloquent and able sermon.

A service of praise was held in the Bloor St. Presbyterian Church Toronto on Jan. 18th. The service which was given under the auspices of the choir of the church was a most interesting and beautiful one and was thoroughly enjoyed by the many lovers of music present.

Miss Margaret McKellar of the Canadian Mission, Central India, expects to leave for Canada about the middle of February. She will sail from Calcutta Feb. 24th, from Hong Kong March 17th, from Japan April 16th, and arrive at Vancouver April 29th by S. S. Empress of China.

Rev. E. A. McCurdy, Mrs. McCurdy and Raymond McCurdy, of Trinidad, formerly of New Glasgow, arrived at St. John, recently, from the West Indies. Mr. McCurdy is to supply Rev. Geo. Carson's pulpit in Knox church, Picton, for the winter, the latter having gone to Trinidad on a vacation for the winter.

Rev. E. W. Mackay, B.A., of Madoc, conducted the opening exercises. After the sermon, Rev. Mr. Burns was formally inducted as pastor by the Rev. T. J. Thompson, M.A., of Belleville, Moderator, pro tem, who afterwards addressed the minister. Rev. D. McPhail, of Picton, then addressed the congregation.

Rev. J. Hood, one of Manitoba's college graduates was ordained into the ministry and inducted into the charge of the Presbyterian church, Elkhorn Man., recently. Rev. Mr. Henry, of Brandon, Rev. Mr. McQuarris, Pipestone, and Rev. W. McKenzie, jointly conducted the service, which was a most impressive one.

At the close of a very pleasing entertainment given by the children of the Sabbath school of St. James Church Mainville the pastor, Rev. G. MacArthur, after announcing that ten of the children had recited the Shorter Catechism correctly presented them with diplomas neatly framed. The pastor in turn was presented with an address and a beautifully framed photograph of the senior class and their teacher Mrs. Ransons.

The annual congregational meeting of the Wellwood Station of the Wellwood and Brookdale congregations was held in their Hall on Tuesday last. The Treasurer presented a report showing the total receipts for the year \$375.00 which fully met all liabilities. After some discussion it was resolved to erect a new church building during the present year, and a committee was appointed to carry out this decision, the said committee reporting a subscription of \$300.00 towards the cost as having been promised before the meeting was dismissed.

Rev. D. J. Fraser was inducted into his new charge at St. Stephen's church, St. John, N.B., on July 14th. Rev. W. W. Rainnie opened the service, after which Rev. J. K. Bearistio preached from the fifth chapter of Corinthians. The form of induction was then read by Rev. Mr. Rainnie, after which Rev. Mr. Fotheringham delivered the address to the new pastor. Following this was an address to the congregation by Rev. J. T. Sutherland, of Sussex. At the conclusion of the service the ladies of the congregation presented Mr. Fraser with a gown, cassock and collar.

The third anniversary of the opening of the new building occupied by the First Presbyterian Church, London, was held on Jan. 17th by special sermons and collections. Rev. Prof. George L. Robinson, Ph.D., of Knox College, conducted both morning and evening services. His sermons were listened to with wrapt attention. Rev. W. J. Clark, the pastor, had asked the congregation to place \$1,000 on the plates in aid of the building fund. The actual amount contributed for the purpose was \$987, which will be increased so as to easily cover the amount desired.

PRESBYTERY OF STRATFORD.

The Presbytery of Stratford held a regular meeting in Knox Church, Stratford, the 12th of Jan., 1897. The attendance of both ministers and elders was good.

The following are the principal items of business of general interest, viz.:—
1. Mr. J. D. Ferguson, B.A., minister of Burns' Church, E. Zorra, and Brookdale, was chosen moderator of Presbytery for the next official term.

2. According to notice given last regular meeting, Mr. Bradley moved in substance, that congregations receiving inductions shall only pay the expenses of such presbyters attending, or have an active part in the ceremonies. A committee was appointed to consider this matter and report next meeting.

3. Dr. Moore of Bank St. Church, Ottawa, was nominated unanimously for the moderatorship of next General Assembly.

4. Remit No. III. of last General Assembly was considered. The principle of the overture was approved of. Remit No. VI. was left over to the March meeting. Committees were appointed to consider, respectively, Remits Nos. V and VI, and bring in reports next meeting. (Remits Nos. I and II. had been disposed of last meeting, as follows:—No. I., approve of reduction of representation from 1-4th to 1-6th; No. II. disapprove of any change from the system in use.)

5. The clerk's salary was advanced to \$125 for the year commencing in Sept. 1896.

6. Next regular meeting in Knox Church, Stratford, March 9th, at 10.30 a.m.—W. M. McKibbin, Phy. Clerk. Millbank, Jan. 15th, 1897.

PRESBYTERY OF KAMLOOPS.

The Presbytery of Kamloops met in Vernon, B.C., on Wednesday, Dec. 30th, 1896, at 10.30 a.m. The moderator, Rev. T. S. Glassford, of Donald presiding. There was a fair attendance of members. A petition was read from the session of Nelson congregation, and sent by the authority of the congregation, requesting that their status be raised from a mission station to that of a self-sustaining congregation. After consideration by the Presbytery it was moved and agreed that the Presbytery recognizing, with gratitude to God, the progress which the Nelson congregation has made, grant the prayer of the petitioners to have the congregation raised from the status of a mission station to that of a self-sustaining charge, that power be given them to moderate in a call to a minister, and that Rev. T. S. Glassford be moderator of session during the vacancy.

The resignation of Rev. A. McVicar was read. Mr. McVicar stating his reasons to be that the congregation at Nelson might have more freedom in the selection of a minister. Mr. McVicar's resignation was accepted and the following minute adopted. "In accepting the resignation of Mr. McVicar the Presbytery desires to express its high appreciation of his work during the per-