

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.

The city has been favored during the past week by a visit from Dr. Graham Taylor, Professor of Christian Sociology in the Chicago Theological Seminary. He was brought here specially to give a brief course of lectures on the subject of Sociology to the students of the Congregational College. But in addition to preaching in the City Churches he also gave several public or semi-public addresses on his special topic during his stay. Prof. Taylor is no theorist merely, but gives a practical object-lesson of his views at home by actually residing in one of the poorest districts of Chicago and making his home the centre of a large circle of Christian activities for the benefit of his neighbors. He has an average of about 1,200 people under his roof every week, and has recently undertaken gratuitously the pastorate of the only English Protestant Church in the district in order to save it from extinction. He has not found it necessary to elaborate any new theology to secure results. He is quite satisfied with an honest attempt to apply the theology we have. There does not as yet exist in Canada any pressing need for much of such work as he is trying to do in Chicago. But it is well to study and follow these movements so that we may be ready to apply the methods recommended by experience when the need does arise. One pressing home problem at the present time is the organization of missions among the scattered farmers of the prairie and in the mining centres of British Columbia or the Klondike.

The annual meeting of the Quebec Alliance for the prohibition of the Liquor Traffic was held last week in the Y.M.C.A. building and was fairly well attended by delegates from the country as well as from the city. A strong resolution was passed protesting against the granting of permits for the sale of liquor in the Yukon district or on the routes thereto, and this resolution was ordered to be sent to the Government. Measures were also taken for the effective organization of the province for the approaching plebiscite on the Prohibition question. Unfortunately this Alliance is wholly English and Protestant in its composition so that it is hardly in a position to influence the opinion of the great majority of the population in the province. The result here will depend on the attitude of the Roman Catholic Church. What that may be is not definitely announced as yet, but there is no reason to believe that it will recommend its adherents to vote in favour of the principle. Only a few of the clergy are themselves total abstinents and they are not likely to support a measure which would make the wine on their tables illegal, however willing they might be to remove all temptation from the way of their people.

The annual meeting of the Pointe-aux-Trembles Alumni Association was held at the schools on the 25th ult. and brought together a goodly number of the former pupils. The chief address was that given by the President for the year, the Rev. S. Rondeau, on the subject of "Education." The financial statement of the Association showed a small balance on the right side. The membership fees, after defraying necessary expenses, are devoted to some object connected with the schools. In past years the library has received the benefit. They are now negotiating to provide a gymnasium for the girls school corresponding to the one already existing for the boys. Practically it is found difficult to arrange the work of the schools so to enable the two sides of the institution to use it at different times. There is but one staff of teachers and both boys and girls take the same classes.

The annual report of the Jewish Mission in the city has just been issued. This Mission is conducted on a non-denominational basis, but the missionary, the Rev. John McCarter, is a Presbyterian minister, who has devoted himself to the work with a self-denying zeal that is always all praise. The Jewish population of the city is given at 9,000. This may be a little above the mark

but there is no doubt they are rapidly increasing. They have now four synagogues. There are a few men of great wealth among them but the bulk of them are poor, having come hither to escape from persecution in Russia. The missionary has access, more or less free, to about seventy families. Not many of them as yet are prepared to attend any religious meetings, though a few do so, but there is a readiness to accept of religious literature and to converse on religious subjects. The missionary is assisted in his work by Mr. Susskind, a Hebrew Christian from Germany, and by one or two volunteer lady visitors. The total amount expended on the mission during 1897 was \$934.43. Much of this has had to be collected by the missionary himself in Montreal and elsewhere. If he were free to devote his whole time to it, the work might be considerable extended.

The annual report of Erskine church issued a few days ago shows that the congregation raised during 1897 about \$22,300. Of this nearly \$12,000 was for its own work, the remainder over \$10,000 was contributed to various religious and benevolent objects. This does not take any account of the contributions made by individuals to local charities or non-denominational societies. It is well known here that most of these are mainly sustained by Presbyterian money.

OTTAWA NOTES.

The Presbyterian ministers of Ottawa and vicinity met fortnightly for the discussion of themes vital to religion in general, and to the interests of Christian work in and about the Capital in particular. Rev. Dr. Moore is president and Rev. J. A. Macfarlane is secretary. At the meeting held on Monday, Feb. 28th, Rev. E. Seylay read an exhaustive paper on "French Work," with special reference to that of his own field in Ottawa and Hull. After discussion of the paper, a committee consisting of Revs. M. H. Scott, of Hull, E. Seylay, and J. A. Macfarlane, was appointed to examine and report as to how the work could be more successfully prosecuted. The committee will consider the advisability of holding Cottage meetings at different points in Ottawa and Hull; of utilizing Zion church, Hull, (Mr. Scott's church) for a weekly French prayer meeting on Tuesday or Thursday of each week; and, perhaps, in some of these ways more fully interesting the men and women of our English speaking congregations in the work.

Ottawa has long worried itself over the question of a contagious hospital. The questions that have perplexed the residents of the Lumber City have been—Where will we build the hospital? and How shall it be conducted when built so that Romanist and Protestant may share alike in its control? First of all the medical men had their say about the site. Then the Provincial Health Officer had his say, and he objected to Porter's Island, the site chosen by Ottawa medical men; and on which, in cottage style, the buildings were erected though not quite completed. That was four years ago. Then the nuns came forward and made an offer to the city. They will complete the buildings, and conduct the hospital and be nurses to all classes and creeds for as much money yearly. Then the Anglican Guild of this city had the floor and passed an opinion. On Monday morning the Presbyterians concluded that their views on the subject might be worth enunciating. So a committee consisting of Rev. Dr. Moore, D. M. Ramsay, and J. A. Macfarlane, was appointed to look into the whole question of 'Hospitals' in Ottawa, and to report at next meeting.

Last Templeton has been supplied by the ministers of Ottawa with regular Sabbath services since New Year. The Presbytery of Ottawa is desirous of making a strong effort to have D. J. Scott, of the graduating class in the Montreal Presbyterian College, settled there in the spring. Mr. Scott did a great work there last summer and the Ottawa brethren think he is just the man to place in that field, which has never before had a settled pastor. The whole surrounding country seriously needs more careful pastoral oversight than it could possibly receive from summer supply followed by a winter vacancy.

GENERAL.

At a meeting of the Brucefield congregation held recently, it was decided to postpone the building of the Sunday school room for the present, the majority of those present thinking it wiser to wait a year or two and then re-build the church, making a basement and other improvements.

The congregation of St. James' Presbyterian church London, have decided for the present to retain the old site and call for a pastor, though ready to sell the church if a satisfactory price can be secured.

Rev. Henry Crawford, Presbyterian minister at Dublin Shore, Lunenburg, after forty years service, is to retire from active ministerial work. He will make his home with his son, Rev. J. W. Crawford, Mashore Bay.

At Orillia on Sunday the 27th inst the Rev. Dr. Robertson, Superintendent of Home Missions, delivered two stirring appeals in behalf of the Home Mission work in the West. He dwelt upon the duty which the East owes to the West, to assist in providing the means of grace for the settlers during the days of their weakness, and on the wisdom from a national and patriotic standpoint of having our vast Western heritages filled with a God-fearing people. He mentioned many incidents, illustrating the need for greater effort, the fruitfulness of the field, and the danger of neglect, and made a strong appeal for more men and money, for the work. There were large congregations at both services.

A joint meeting of the Bothwell, Florence and Sutherland's Corners, appointments, was held in the Presbyterian church Bothwell, recently to take steps towards calling a minister.

A despatch from Vancouver, B.C., says that Rev. Mr. Grant, who recently left for the Klondike, arrived at the White Pass Hotel just in time to save the life of a woman who was dying simply for want of medical attendance.

The congregation of the Presbyterian church at Scaforth, has decided to provide an assistant for the pastor, Rev. Dr. McDonald for the summer months. The assistant will probably be a student from Knox College.

A pleasant feature of the anniversary services at Melbourn church was the presentation of an address and a purse containing \$25 to the pastor, Rev. R. Stewart. The Sabbath services were conducted by R. N. Lindsay, B.A., who preached morning and evening to a large congregation. At the Monday evening social four clergymen, representing four denominations, gave short addresses, each taking as his subject the history, tenets and missionary enterprise of his own Church.

Rev. R. E. Knowles, pastor of Stewarton church, Ottawa, has accepted the call to Knox church, Galt.

The total contributions to the Klondike Mission Fund received by Rev. Dr. Warden amount to nearly \$4,500.

The Rev. Geo. Cuthbertson, Clerk of Sarnia Presbytery, conducted preparatory services in Alveston on the 25th inst. At the close of the very impressive sermon twenty were received as members of the Church, six by certificate and fourteen by profession of faith. The seating capacity of the new church was severely taxed at the evening service on the following Sabbath.

Rev. H. C. Sutherland, of Carman, Man., who recently announced his intention of tendering his resignation has been persuaded not to do so by a deputation from the Session and managers with a petition from the congregation. The congregation has grown under Mr. Sutherland's ministrations until increased accommodation is now a necessity, and the congregation will likely either enlarge the present building or erect a new edifice in the near future. On Thursday evening last, about fifty children, who comprise the Junior Society of Christian Endeavor, of which Mr. Sutherland is superintendent, took possession of the manse, and presented him with a beautiful gold chain and an appreciative address.