

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

The semi-annual meetings of the great Committees, Home Mission, Augmentation and Foreign Missions, have been held, and the usual report given out. What a bare thing it is! There is as little resemblance between the meagre report of the work of any one of these committees, and the actual spirit of the work, as there is between the warmth of a coal fire and its reflection from a brass surface. There is a tremendous amount of thought and planning and mental force crowded into these two days. If there is not some well-defined policy little is accomplished; and the members scatter with the feeling that four-fifths of the time was wasted, and into the remaining one-fifth was crowded the work that should have been deliberately done. After one such meeting it would not be possible to secure the attendance of almost every member of the committee, as was the case with at least one of these work-centres this autumn.

If those who report for the press could catch some of the spirit of the meetings and transmute it into the "copy" it would awaken the church quite as effectively as a stirring speech. But reports are usually written as afterthoughts, and in moments when the brain is struggling to remember at what hour the train leaves, or what important engagement should claim attention while the report is being written.

We are glad to notice the spirit of reciprocity shown by the Manitoba College staff. During their summer session the Eastern Presbyterians have gladly given their services to assist Manitoba in carrying on their theological classes. The session in the Western College is closed before that in Knox College begins. The University College Session, however, is almost coincident with that of our own universities, and many of the Theological Professors have classes in the university also. Yet they are sending us one of their professors for a brief visit, and he will deliver a brief course of lectures in Knox College, and preach anniversary services for one of our congregations while here. And it is said that Dr. Kilpatrick will well represent the Winnipeg College. He is a preacher par excellence.

Another western man has been doing Toronto in his usual vigorous fashion. It used to be said of Rev. J. H. Sinclair, in the town where he worked in the Yukon, that if you wanted to find him you would have to go out and chase around the streets, and you would have to get a smart gait on, too, if you meant to catch him. He brought the same vigor with him to our city, and the reporter who went after him found that he had been to more places in a forenoon than an advertising agent could reach. He is possessed with an idea of which the church will hear more in the future, and upon which, we believe, the church will do some pretty hard thinking. It is the result of his work out there that has burned itself upon his mind during his work among the western men. Had he been a man who merely wanted to fill a place he would never have worked out the scheme he proposes to inaugurate; but he was in dead earnest and something had to shape itself in the course of his work.

There is a stirring among the three bodies who have been solemnly considering the question of selecting ministers for the vacant pulpits in Toronto. Names are being freely mentioned; but in some instances, at least, these are merely the suggestions of a too impatient public, who imagine that the deliberation with which each of these bodies is going about the work is due to sleepiness as much as anything else. Of course the public is not able to penetrate the deep working shaft in which all such bodies carry on operations, and judges merely by surface indications. But there has been movement, an actual movement on the part of at least two of these bodies during the past week, and results will be eagerly awaited.

The Presbyterians have not met in Ministerial Association yet, but it is stated that they will come together on Monday next. Unfortunately the President is in Germany, otherwise we presume the members would have been called together a fortnight ago, as has been usual in years past. The opening meeting will probably be taken up with the election of officers and the adoption of a programme for the year.

It is proposed to hold a Conference upon the work and the best method of prosecuting it, in connection with the November meeting of the Presbytery of Toronto. The Committee met last Monday and formulated a plan for conducting it, which will be announced as soon as possible.

Western Ontario.

Rev. Colin Fletcher, of Thames road, preached in Caven church last Sunday morning, Rev. Mr. Martin going to Grand Bend.

Rev. J. W. C. Bennett, B. A., will be inducted to-morrow into the charges of Fisherville and Fairbank in the Toronto presbytery.

At the manse at Tempo on Monday evening Rev. Robert McIntyre was made the recipient of several presents by the members of his congregation.

Rev. J. S. Henderson, Hensall, will preach anniversary sermons in Knox church, Belgrave, next Sunday. He will also lecture in the same place on Monday evening.

Rev. Frank Ballantyne, of the Wortley road, preached in Knox church London, in the absence of the pastor, Rev. J. G. Stuart, B. A., who officiated at Newbury.

Prof. Ballantyne, of Knox College, Toronto, occupied the pulpit of St. Andrew's church, Guelph, at both the morning and evening services, and the large congregations were delighted and edified.

By the will of the late Mrs. Garner, of Chatham, Rev. Dr. Battisby is given \$1,000, St. Andrew's church and the Public General Hospital are each remembered for \$1,000, and the Home for the Friendless for \$500.

Communion services were conducted at Knox church, Stratford, Sunday morning, when Rev. H. H. McPherson preached a practical sermon, in which he dwelt upon the vital question of becoming a member of the church.

The services at the Presbyterian church, Cumnock, on Sunday, were highly appreciated. They were conducted by Dr. T. W. McMullen, of Woodstock; and the service on Monday night was a grand success, the church being crowded.

On Sunday last Mr. R. Reid, Berlin, rounded up his seventeenth year as superintendent of St. Andrew's Sunday School. This is indeed a record to be proud of. He still holds the position and his friends hope to see him continue such for many years to come.

The Rev. R. E. Knowles, Galt, has been so unfortunate while in Scotland as to meet with a second accident. While making his way to his carriage, with the aid of his crutches he was knocked down and painfully hurt. This mishap will not delay his return, but will retard his recovery.

Mr. Thomas Wilson, son of Mr. D. D. Wilson, the esteemed elder of Seaforth, goes to India, in company with Rev. Mr. Wilkie, the well-known missionary, and will practice dentistry there. The Expositor says: "He is well up in his profession, and being a clever, exemplary young man, he is sure to do well in that far off country."

A successful thankoffering meeting was held at Belgrave, Mrs. Hall in the chair. The principal feature of the afternoon was the address of Miss Chase, B.A., returned missionary from India, who gave a very graphic description of the work being done in India, and closed with an earnest appeal to the workers in the home land. The collection amounted to \$19.

The new St. James' Presbyterian Sabbath school, London, had their examination royally in Scripture memorization, catechism and Sabbath school lesson for the past quarter. The examiner reported that the answers were exceptionally well given, and has handed in the following list: Jennie Brown 99 per cent, Blanche Munroe 98, Stuart Brown 96, Mercille a Simpson and Albert Simpson 95, Ethel Rymill 94, Everett Howare, Alice Ward and Winnie Brown 93, Pearl Garden 92, Horace Baker 89, Arnold Baker 87, Gladys Baker 84, Ella Upshall 81, Annie McLeod and Isabella Simpson 70.

Rev. James Menzies, M. D., Presbyterian missionary, late of Chang Te Fu, Honan, China, addressed a large and interested audience in the Presbyterian church, Ailsa Craig, on a recent evening. The meeting was under the auspices of the W. F. M. S., being the annual thanksgiving service. The offering amounted to about \$32. Dr. Menzies is quite hopeful of the mission work in China, believing that the present disturbed condition will eventually be followed by larger opportunities for the advancement of Christ's kingdom in that land. He credits the statements recently made in the press, that some 50,000 native Christians had sacrificed their lives, but believes that "the blood of the martyrs will again become the seed of the church."

At the recent meeting of the Home Mission Committee, in Toronto, it was announced that MacKenzie and Mann had donated free sites for churches all along the line of the Canadian Northern extension to Prince Albert. The gift is a personal one from the big railway contractors,

Eastern Ontario.

St. Paul's Congregation, Hawkesbury, raised \$502 for the Century Fund.

Rev. J. U. Tanner, B. A., Lancaster, was visiting his parents at Windsor Mills last week.

Rev. W. S. McTavish, B. D., Deseronto, was guest at St. Paul's manse, Bowmanville, last week.

Last Sabbath Rev. G. A. Woodside, Carleton Place, and Rev. R. Young, Pakenham, exchanged pulpits.

Rev. James Rattray, M.A. of Eganville, and Rev. Mr. McLaren, of Lanark, exchanged pulpits last Sunday.

As a result of a visit from Rev. M. H. Scott, the Russell congregation contributed \$750 to the Century Fund.

Rev. Prin. MacVicar, D.D., Montreal, preached in the Presbyterian church, Vankleek Hill, a week ago last Sabbath.

Rev. Prof. Ross, Montreal, was the preacher in St. John's Church, Brockville, last Sunday. The occasion was the opening of the lecture room.

Rev. Murray Watson, who for two months has been filling the pulpits of St. John's and St. Andrew's churches, Almonte, returned to his home in Montreal last week.

Rev. Orr Bennett, Hawkesbury, and Rev. H. D. Leitch, St. Elmo, were in Vankleek Hill last week cataloguing the books in the fine library of the late Rev. John MacLeod.

Rev. Dr. Waits, Knox Church, Owen Sound, announces a series of fortnightly Sunday evening lectures for young people. The subject last Sunday evening was: "Is it never too late to mend?"

Rev. James McLeroy, who for the last fourteen years has been Presbyterian minister at Poland, is about to leave for a new field of labor in Hastings county, with L. Amiable as his headquarters. Rev. Hugh McLean, of Sharbot Lake, will be his successor.

Communion was dispensed in Burns church last Sabbath. Rev. Mr. McKellar, pastor, was assisted by Rev. Mr. Gollan of Dunvegan, and Rev. J. U. Tanner of Lancaster, in the preparatory services. Rev. Prof. Scrimger of Montreal, preached twice on Sabbath.

Rev. Solomon Mylne, a former pastor of St. Andrew's church, Smith's Falls, who has lived for the past seven years in California, is visiting his old friends in Smith's Falls. The Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew will this week celebrate the 50th anniversary of his induction.

Mr. T. C. Brown, who has been in charge of Fairfield East, during the past few months, preached his farewell sermon last Sunday evening, and has returned to Kingston to resume his studies in Queen's University. While in charge of this station Mr. Brown won the esteem and confidence of a large circle of friends, who now unite in wishing him every success in his future career.

The lecture given at Avonmore on Tuesday night by Rev. W. D. Reid, of Montreal, on the Land of the Living, was a decided treat. The reverend gentleman is above the average as an orator. He holds his audience well. The singing of A. F. Dey and J. Hudson, of Finch, and musical selections of Miss Mattice, of Duluth, were much appreciated. The Ladies' Aid Society are to be congratulated on the success of their venture.

Rev. Prof. Ross, of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, preached the anniversary services of Black's Corners congregation last Sabbath morning and evening. In order to give the St. Paul's congregation at Franktown the opportunity of worshipping with its sister congregation on the auspicious occasion, the services at St. Paul's were dispensed with for the day, with the result that Black's Corners church was crowded with attentive listeners of the eloquent professor.

The Rev. Jonathan Goforth, says the Orillia Packet, has been very busy since his arrival in Canada. He conducted the services in Orillia Presbyterian church a week ago last Sunday. In the evening he described in a thrilling manner his experiences of his fellow missionaries and himself among the enraged Boxers. His address was a complete refutation of the charges so freely made that the missionaries are responsible for the outbreak, and that they had acted in a cowardly manner in leaving their fields of labour.

St. Paul's congregation, Franktown, Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew, contemplate the erection of a new church to replace the old place of worship, built some thirty years ago in that village. Some \$3000 are already subscribed, the aim being to build an edifice to cost about \$4000. Six years ago a brick manse costing about \$2500 was built for the pastor, Rev. A. H. McFarlane,