

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

June, or the clerk of the weather for the month has, according to the opinion of the public generally, treated us, if not shamefully, at least in a way we did not expect, or perhaps deserve, in giving us so much uncomfortably cool weather. According to the Observatory reports the average of heat has been 23 degrees less for June than for the past sixty-two years. In this matter there is no redress, so we take what we get and strive to be thankful. But as if to propitiate grumblers, Dominion Day was for holiday making almost perfect, beautifully clear atmosphere so pure it was a life to breathe it, and comfortably hot for all kinds of out-of-door excursions and sports. There was no general public official celebration, so everyone was left to enjoy the day according to his own sweet will. Fortunately there are always a large number of well disposed, self-sacrificing citizens, who are willing under the name of games, and sport to work themselves half to death and perspire ad libitum to please their fellow citizens. There was no lack of these fine fellows on our Dominion's natal day, and the island and our parks and other places not far from the city, supply never failing resorts for all Toronto's pleasure seekers. Thousands of old and young, and of all classes thronged to them and made them gay with life, and motion, and colours and to ring with laughter and noise and music. At evening the great majority sought their homes happily tired, but satisfied and glad, especially fathers and mothers, to get home all safe and well. It was hardly possible that such a day could pass, and so many thousands escape without anything untoward to sadden some home and hearts. One drowning accident, and so far as we have seen only one, happened, that of a young lady, whose father is at present absent in Europe. Like so many of those accidents, with a little better knowledge and care it might have been avoided. Heat has come at last, and the exodus from the city of everybody who is anybody has begun. Every train going Muskoka-ward especially, being filled and on Saturday crowded. Your correspondent has only got so far as the station yet, and the last one he saw there hurrying to catch his train was Rev. Murdock MacKenzie, Honan Missionary. He deserves, and we hope he may get a good quiet rest.

How's the King? was the question an early morning traveller by street car to his work asked a fellow-passenger, a stranger evidently to him, but who had a morning paper in his hand. The King, his sufferings, his brave endurance, his fight for life, the anxiety of the Queen and royal family as they kept watch by the sick room in that royal palace, has been uppermost in everybody's mind for the past week. The simple, natural, genuine, mutual affection among all the members of the family of our King and Queen, have been very beautiful to witness and we venture to say has endeared them more to the hearts of their people the world over, than all the pomp and pageantry of the intended coronation doubled and trebled possibly could. It is a sublime and touching spectacle, these millions of loyal praying people, sending up to Heaven their earnest petitions for the King's life. It has pleased God so far to spare him, and let us still pray that his recovery may continue till it is complete. It is a most interesting indication of not only the thoroughly humane, but truly human character of our people, that, during last week this province from end to end was roused to anxiety, and our newspapers in this city devoted for days columns of their space to record the heroic exertions, at great risk to their own lives, made by a few unknown common men, to rescue from death only one fellowman entombed at the bottom of a deep well. After efforts, continued for days, of a kind the most unique, and the memory of which will long live in the neighbourhood, the rescue was effected from an entombment of almost one hundred hours. Brave as the victim and all the parties were, the reaction in the case of the rescued man threatens to be almost more than he can come through. We are glad to see, for they deserve such honor, that the Royal Canadian Humane Society, will see that such noble self-sacrificing daring and courage will be publicly acknowledged. The high character and truly Catholic spirit of the general assembly just passed, appears to have been so prominent a feature of it, as to have struck the mind of others be-

sides the clergy. An admirable article in, probably our leading daily paper, gives to it in this respect a well-deserved prominence and high commendation. As the days go by and one tribute after another appears from different pens to the character and attainments of our late Professor Douglas, the greater does our loss as a church caused by his early death grow in its magnitude. It will be the earnest desire and prayer of all who love our church, that the Board of Knox College may be guided and enabled to find one who shall prove himself to be a worthy successor.

The International Sunday School Convention which was held lately in Denver was attended by Rev. R. D. Fraser, the editor-in-chief of our Sunday School periodicals. He brings home a good report of the convention. On the Lesson Committee entrusted with the selection of the series of lessons are three from Canada, Rev. Dr. Potts, Chairman of the Committee, Rev. Mr. Rexford of Montreal, and Principal Patrick of Winnipeg who is additional to the number of Canadians who have usually been on this committee. The next meeting of the convention which will be held in 1905 will be in Toronto.

No great victory for social or any other reform was ever won without long, hard and determined effort, and the leaders in the Prohibition Temperance movement are showing the qualities that deserve and finally win success. A new organization on behalf of this cause has just been formed as the result of a convention lately held in London, Ontario. This is to be called "The Temperance Legislative League." It is frankly and avowedly political in its object, so far as prohibition is concerned. This battle must be fought out it says, in the arena of practical politics. Its purpose is an aggressive movement in practical politics for the election of representatives favourable to the enactment and enforcement of legislation that will be as restrictive of drinking facilities as the power of the legislative body will permit. It is to support any candidate or party favourable to its aims, and oppose all who are unfavorable. Its membership is to consist of such as will sign a covenant to do this, and pay one dollar yearly to the funds; and of those who are simply enrolled as sympathizers and supporters. They do not call themselves a third political party, but it looks very like that, and though this party may be an exception, a third party has not as yet in this province accomplished very much.

There has just been held here lately the yearly meeting of a very quiet, but deservedly respected body of people, "The Friends." While, like so many, not satisfied in all respects with the Referendum, they are going to give it a hearty support. Their meetings have evidently been interesting. With them as with so many others, their Sunday Schools are not affecting all that could be desired. Their chief educational school is Pickering College, situated in the village of Pickering, and doing good work. Mr. Samuel Rogers stated his intention of giving to it \$500.00 annually for five years, and Elias Rogers agreed to take care of a debt of \$16.00. Home and Foreign Missions received due attention, and visiting members were present from the United States and Britain.

The Christian Alliance was last week holding a convention from day to day in Munro Park. The chief speakers present were Rev. A. B. Simpson, Prof. W. R. Newell of Chicago, and Dr. Henry Wilson of New York City. Last Sabbath was the day of their great meeting and a large collection was expected.

Rev. Dr. Milligan left on Dominion Day for what may now be regarded as almost his annual trip across the Atlantic for a holiday. The Sabbath evening before he left he completed his series of lectures, on which he had for a considerable time been engaged, on the epistle to the Hebrews, and which, as some of his other series have done, were attended by large congregations.

The resignation of Mr. James Hughes of his position of inspector of the public schools of the city, which has been for some time pending, has at last taken effect. His services in the capacity of inspector have been very valuable, and an earnest effort was made to retain his services, which might have been successful, but he found that he could not be relieved from an engagement he had entered into and which he felt himself in honour bound to fulfill.

It is noted as an evidence of the growing importance of Toronto as a commercial centre, that its custom's receipts for the year ending June 30th are \$697,360 more than for the year 1901.

Estimated Requirements for 1902-1903. (WESTERN SECTION.)

The following is a statement of the amounts required for the current year, on behalf of the Schemes of the Church. It is intended to guide Presbyteries and congregations in the amount at which they should aim, as well as in the appropriation of their contributions. It is very desirable that Presbyteries should, at an early meeting, give special attention to this matter, and take such steps as will secure from every congregation within the bounds, generous help:—

Schemes.	
WESTERN SECTION.	
Home Missions.....	\$ 102,000
Augmentation of Stipends.....	30,000
Foreign Missions.....	80,900
Woman's Foreign Missionary Society	\$6,300
French Evangelization (including	
Pointe-aux-Trembles	
Schools).....	35,000
Colleges, viz. :—Knox.....	11,000
Queen's.....	5,500
Montreal.....	5,000
Manitoba (exclusive of amount	
from Synods of Manitoba and	
British Columbia	2,600
Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund (over and above Ministers' Rates and Interest from Investments).....	15,000
Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund (over and above Ministers' Rates and Interest from Investments).....	13,000
Assembly Fund.....	7,000
	\$ 363,300

The congregations in both Eastern and Western Sections of the Church contribute for French Evangelization, Manitoba College, and the Assembly Fund; the amounts named for the other Schemes are for the Western Section alone.

An average contribution of one cent per day from every member of the Church, will not only provide the amount required but will enable the larger committees to extend their work and largely increase the staff of missionaries, etc. Cannot this average be reached in every congregation of the Church?

Mission stations, as well as congregations, are enjoined to contribute to the Schemes of the Church. This will be found helpful to them as well as to the work.

Where Missionary Associations do not exist, the Assembly has appointed collections to be taken up during the current year as follows:—
French Evangelization...Fourth Sabbath of July
Assembly Fund....." "August
Colleges....." "Sept.
Widows' and Orphans' Fund Third "Oct.
Home Missions....." "Nov.
Manitoba College....." "Dec.
Augmentation Fund....." "Jan./03
Aged & Infirm Ministers' Fd " "Feb.
Foreign Missions.....Second "March"

Quite a number of congregations fail every year to contribute to one or more Schemes of the Church. The Assembly has more than once instructed Presbyteries to take this matter into consideration, and endeavor to secure the organization of an efficient Missionary Committee in every congregation and mission station within their bounds, so that a contribution may annually be obtained for every Scheme.

The Scheme which seems at present to receive less than its fair share of attention and pecuniary aid is that of the Ministers' Widows' and Orphan's Fund, the claims of which I would urge upon all Sessions and congregations.

Nearly two-thirds of the entire contributions for the Schemes of the Church are received during the last two months of the ecclesiastical year. This renders necessary the borrowing of money to meet salaries and other disbursements, entailing heavy expenditure for interest. To obviate this, congregations are recommended to forward their contributions quarterly. The Assembly instructs congregations to forward all money prior to 28th February. Special attention is called to this. The books will close promptly then, and only those contributions that reach the Church Offices here before six o'clock on the evening of that date will appear in the accounts of the year, and in the detailed statement of receipts to be submitted to next General Assembly. Please let your missionary Treasurer know this.

ROBT. H. WARDEN.
PRESBYTERIAN OFFICES, TORONTO.
July 2nd, 1902.