

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 congregation of St. John's French church met for the first time on Sabbath, the 12th inst., in the lecture room of their new building, corner St. Catherine and Cadieux streets. The room though not finished was seated with chairs, well heated and comfortable. At the morning service the congregation turned out in full force and the services were of a most interesting and inspiring character. Every face was lit up with joy and gladness and the hymns of praise were sung as coming from grateful hearts. The pastor, the Rev. C. E. Amaron, spoke from the words of Christ, "Ye are the light of the world" and pointed out the mission of the Christian church and especially of such a church as their own. At the evening service the room proved too small for the congregation that assembled. A great number of Roman Catholics crowded into the building and listened with interest and attention as well as respect to the sermon preached by the pastor and to the touching words of Rev. Dr. Chumpey. Several lingered for a long time after the service to converse on religious topics with the workers in the church, and many were heard to say: "We will come back next Sunday." The first Sabbath in the new church augurs well for the future of this interesting congregation.

THE annual intercollegiate debate of the theological colleges in the city took place on Friday evening, the 10th inst., in the David Morrice Hall. The Rev. Dr. Barclay occupied the chair. After a chorus had been sung by the Wesleyan College students the chairman made some remarks on the advantages of such meetings as a factor in the education of the students and as bringing different institutions into closer touch with each other. The chairman's address was followed by a debate on the following subject: Resolved that legislation is more effective than moral suasion in uprooting the masses. The affirmative was taken by Mr. F. J. Day, B.A., of the Congregational College and Mr. A. J. Bolton of the Wesleyan College, the negative by Mr. T. A. Sandler, B.A., of the Presbyterian College, and Mr. W. W. Craig, Diocesan College. The judges were the Rev. Principals MacVicar, Harbour, Shaw and Henderson. They decided in favor of the arguments for the negative.

THE annual meeting of Erskine church congregation was held on the 15th inst. The report of the first full year in the new church showed the congregation to be in a most flourishing condition. The expenses had increased somewhat but the revenue had likewise increased and the year closed with a balance on the right side of \$150. The income for ordinary purposes was \$10,450.08. At a meeting of the Ladies' Aid Society held two days previously, Mr. and Mrs. Mowatt were presented with a costly lamp and a valuable cushion respectively.

THE annual meeting of the Montreal West church was also held on the 15th inst. The pastor Rev. G. C. Pidgeon presided. The treasurer's report showed a large increase in receipts over the previous year but a deficit of \$128 was still found on the year's work. In every other respect the reports were most encouraging. The Sunday school has nearly doubled and over \$50 raised for missions and other purposes. The Ladies' Aid Society had raised \$1,256. The C. E. Society had increased its membership and raised \$17 for the Human Mission. The Communion roll had grown from thirty to forty-six. Altogether this young congregation shows signs of vigorous life.

THE Rev. John McCarter has re-opened on an independent basis the Jewish Mission in this city which was dropped in May last by the Foreign Mission Committee of our church on the retirement of Mr. G. A. Newmark. Mr. McCarter is a Presbyterian minister who has labored in South Africa with the Rev. Andrew Murray and at several places in Eastern Canada. Having come to reside in the city and feeling something ought to be done for the Jews he has opened a night school for teaching them English, and conducts a service on Sabbath afternoon in English and German.

The attendance so far has been encouraging.

THE congregation of Kirkhill in the Presbytery of Glengarry held its annual meeting on New Year's Day. Encouraging reports were given in from all the different organizations and official boards. Contributions to the schemes will be some \$200 in advance of last year. This speaks well for the prosperity of the congregation in view of the fact that farmers experience considerable difficulty in realizing on their products. The Rev. M. MacLennan is one of the most efficient among the younger ministers of the church.

THE church at Dunvegan was crowded to the doors on the evening of the 13th inst. to take leave of the Rev. R. McLeod on his departure for Huron congregation, Rip. The large assembly showed the esteem in which he is held, not only in Kenyon but also in the neighboring congregations. The Rev. M. MacLennan of Kirkhill, and the Rev. J. Cormack of Maxville briefly addressed the meeting. They expressed their personal regret at losing a worthy co-prosbyter and also extended their sympathy to the congregation to which Mr. McLeod had ministered for a period of five years. After Mr. McLeod had spoken a few words of parting an opportunity was afforded the large number of friends present to bid farewell to him and his family. The living stream began to flow and it was fully half an hour before the last had said good-bye. Dunvegan is one of the best Gaelic charges in the church. Gaelic is still the prevailing language and is likely to be for some time to come. English, however, is quite popular at least with the young people. A man equally at home in both tongues will be required to fill the now vacant pulpit.

British Columbia Notes.

DR. CAMPBELL conducted a special service on Sabbath, January 5th, in First church, Victoria, for sailors going to the fishing on coasts of British Columbia, Japan, and to Behring Sea. The service was very interesting.

MR. HARRIS, a Methodist preacher, preached to voters in Central church, Victoria, on the first Sabbath of January.

UNION has called the Rev. J. A. Logan, of Chilliwack, as its pastor.

REV. D. A. McRAE, of Nanaimo, has been induced to withdraw his resignation and to accept a six months holiday, during which he will travel in Honolulu and California.

OWING to the storm the new church at Burnaby was not opened on December 22nd. The event however came off on the 29th when Rev. E. D. McLaren officiated.

REV. J. A. MATHIESEN, late of High River, Alberta, has gone to Ontario. His ability as Gaelic preacher and his scholarship should settle him very soon.

OWING to the breaking of the dykes Richmond church could hold no service on January 5th.

SEA ISLAND was flooded on January 12th, 1895, and like mishaps although not so serious are being experienced at date of writing, January 9th. The manse of Richmond has been surrounded with water every day since December 29th, and when tide is full the house has to stand in Fraser water, etc., a depth of eight inches. Mr. Buchanan will be glad when this baptism of water is kept in its proper place—the river.

THE unusual heavy snow followed by an unusually heavy rain storm has damaged church attendance of late on the mainland. For several days mail communication from the east has been cut off owing to land and snowslides on the C.P.R. in the mountains.

ZION CHURCH, Vancouver, is raising funds by a dramatic performance entitled, "Among the Breakers," so says the daily press.

SANTA CLARA visited most of our Sabbath schools at Christmas and made the children happy.

ONE of our most scholarly preachers is the Rev. J. Knox Wright, of Spallumcheen, who labors diligently in a large territory and whose occasional visits to the coast are appreciated by the brethren.

CERTAIN gentlemen who belong to a vacant congregation had the temerity (check it should be) recently to write to one of our most respected ministers outside of British Columbia, asking him if he was orthodox, and saying if he could answer in the affirmative he would be called. Dr. Campbell, of

Montreal, might present this to the Assembly as the newest method of procedure towards a call.

Northwest Notes.

THE Rev. T. Underwood Richmond, of the Point Douglas church, Winnipeg, has resigned his charge to accept the care of the Presbyterian church at Bathgate, North Dakota. His Winnipeg congregation parted from him with much regret, and at a farewell social meeting of the congregation, said good-bye to him in an affectionately worded address, accompanied by a purse of money.

THE annual meeting of the Edmonton congregation was largely attended, and was marked by an excellent spirit. The total revenue amounted to \$1,532, of which the very creditable sum of \$124 goes to the schemes of the church. The congregation is making steady progress under the Rev. D. G. McQueen, and is preparing to pay off its debt to the Church and Manse Building Board for the loan on the church.

THE annual meeting of St. Stephen's church, Winnipeg, was held on the 14th inst. There was a good attendance and much interest was shown in the progress of the work undertaken during the year. The church, which was enlarged last year to double its former seating capacity, has been again enlarged by the addition of a room for Sabbath school purposes. The communion roll has grown from forty-six to ninety-six, without counting sixteen additions at the communion held since the New Year. The Sabbath school has grown from 120 to 170, and the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor has changed its constitution and become a Young People's Society. The salary of the minister, the Rev. C. W. Gordon, was increased by \$200. The report of the missionary and benevolent work of the congregation was deferred for a week to be presented at the missionary meeting of the congregation, but it is understood that the contributions to the schemes of the church exceed the large amount of \$500.

THE congregation of Norman (associated with Keewatin) held its annual business meeting last week. The report of the year's work were of a gratifying nature. The Rev. W. McKay, Omand, suggested that the services of an assistant pastor be secured, so that the congregation might enjoy both morning and evening services.

MR. W. J. Small, B.A., has entered upon his duties as teacher in the Birtle Indian Mission School as successor to Mr. Neil Gilmore, who has been transferred to the Hurricano Hills near Indian Head.

THE new building for the resident portion of the Portage la Prairie mission school was opened with a public gathering on the 10th inst. The chair was occupied by the Rev. Peter Wright who spoke of the circumstances which led the Hon. E. Dewdney, late Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to recommend an increase of grant to the school. Music was supplied by the choir of the Presbyterian church, by the children of the school and by several soloists. Speeches were made by the Rev. Professor Baird, who laid stress on the gradual growth of the work in the Portage, and indicated some lines in which it might expand still further. Rev. Professor Hart spoke of the several incidents in the history of the mission and dwelt upon the sympathy and assistance which the school receives from the town and neighborhood. Mrs. John McLeod narrated in a very touching way the details of the early days of the school work, when the confidence of the Indians had yet to be won, and when the school had not yet begun to receive assistance from the Foreign Mission Committee or the Government. The interest was kept up by short congratulatory addresses from Rev. Farquhar McBae, Mr. S. R. Marlatt, Rev. W. Halstead, Rev. R. Hall and Mr. E. Brown. After the close of the programme, coffee and cake were served, and visitors were shown over the building. The work is under the care of Miss Annie Fraser, matron, who has been on the staff for some years, Miss Sara Laidlaw, teacher, and Mr. E. Brown, a merchant of the town, who gives valuable though unremunerated assistance in the Sabbath services. The building has been erected at a cost of about \$1,000, with money supplied by the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. It is a commodious frame building on a stone foundation, heated by a furnace and lit with electric light. On the ground floor are the