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TALBOT ST. CHURCH HAS 660 MEMBERS

Annual Meeting Held Last Night and Satisfactory Reports Presented.

OFFICERS WERE ELECTED

Each Member Last Year Gave the Sum of $3 70 for Missionary Purposes.

The annual meeting of the Talbot Street Baptist Church was held last evening with a good attendance of members present.

The clerk reported a membership of 660 now on the roll.

Reports were received from the secretaries and treasurers of the various church organizations, showing a general advance all along the line.

Amounts raised during the year were:

Church	$5,739 76
Ladies' Aid Society	437 59
Sunday School	457 33
Women's Mission Circle	454 42
Other sources	193 99
Total receipts	$7,283 09

Of this amount $2,440 71 was for missionary purposes (an average of $3 70 per member), a gratifying increase of $400 over last year.

The Officers.

Election of officers then took place, resulting as follows:

Church Clerk—J. B. Campbell.
Associate Clerk—John Holman.
Roll Clerk—Andrew Dale.
Treasurer—Nathaniel Mills.
Associate Treasurer—Melville Dale.
Auditors—A. M. Overholt and H. A. Kelly.

Deacons two re-elected for a period of three years—Carl Miller, W. A. Finch.

Finance Committee—J. W. Westervelt, A. Dale, H. W. Peel, J. Holman, N. Mills, W. A. Finch, A. M. Overholt, J. M. Thomson, and A. J. Clark.

LONDON AND DISTRICT

The Famine Fund.

Mrs. F. A. Steven, 598 Princess avenue, treasurer of the Chinese famine fund, wishes to acknowledge the following donations: Previously acknowledged, $478 85; E. N., Strathroy, $1 50; anonymous, 50 cents; J. D., $2; Methodist Sunday School, Birr, $6 74; a friend, Birr, $1; total, $490 59.

Concert Friday Night.

The concert in the armories on Friday night to be given by the Regimental Chapter, Daughters of the Empire, promises to be a great success. Already there is a large demand for reserved seats, and it is expected that on the evening of the entertainment not a single seat will be left. The programme will be an unusually good one. The funds will be devoted to fitting up a reading room at the armories for the men.

THE STATUS OF WOMAN

Montreal Council of Women Launch a Series of Lectures.

[Canadian Press.]

Montreal, Que., April 19. — Miss Carrie Derrick was the principal speaker at Emmanuel Church last night, at the first of a series of lectures on the status of women, under the auspices of the local Council of Women.

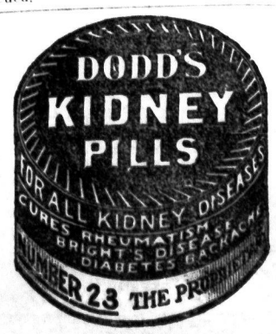
Miss Derrick was greeted with much applause from the women present, when she declared that the whole trend of evolution had been to bring women back to their present state of unrest. She said that women were suffering from the fact that the ideals of women had been created by men, and closed by paying a tribute to the writings of John Stuart Mill, Olive Schreiner and others, for their aid in molding public opinion on this subject.

There were but few men present, and nothing of a sensational nature occurred.

DUKE OF CONNAUGHT OFFERS TROPHY.

Ottawa, April 18.—It is announced today that the Duke of Connaught, Canada's governor-general, has offered a magnificent skating trophy, emblematic of the Canadian skating championship. Further particulars of the gift will be announced later, but the cup will be ready for the next skating championship.

James Rice jumped from the steamer Wauketa, near Sarnia, yesterday, while temporarily insane. He was rescued.



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THE ST. JOHN'S VESTRY

(Continued from Page One.)

Mr. Young as commissioner for the bishop," Mr. Hill answered.

"When was this appointment made?" Mr. Macklin continued.

"Before this meeting," was the reply.

Time's Changes.

The minutes of the previous vestry meetings were read. A touch of irony was given to the occasion, when in the minutes a motion was read, showing the appreciation of the services of the rector, Rev. W. T. Hill, and voting him an honorarium of $100. Many kind references were made to him in the address.

"Things are different now," commented one of the members. "That motion was passed a year ago, and shows we wanted to do the right thing by the rector."

The election of the various officers followed, little discussion taking place on that matter.

On the completion of that order of business, Mayor Beattie made a strong plea for peace and harmony in the congregation.

"This is the first privilege I have enjoyed of attending the vestry meeting of the Church of St. John the Evangelist," said his worship. "Some think that I should not be here at all, because, comparatively speaking, I am a newcomer. I would not be here if the circumstances were ordinary. But matters touching the rector are to be discussed, and as Mr. Hill is the chief attraction for me at the Church of St. John the Evangelist, I am at least entitled to a hearing when so important a matter is being discussed. I am not contentious.

Anxious For Peace.

"I am most anxious to bring about a happy solution to the unhappy difficulties surrounding us. The eyes of not only our own congregation, but of the city; yes, in fact, of the whole country round about, so wide has been the publicity given to our troubles, are upon us. Other denominations are watching the outcome, and they will judge whether the work being done here is Christian or not. I would like to see the unhappy divisions removed. I want to see harmony prevail. If we speak calmly, we can arrive at a solution. It is necessary to refer to the differences existing. I submit that they do not amount to a great deal. We should look at them straight. They have resulted, however, in advertising our church in no creditable way. I feel that as this was our trouble, the newspapers should not have given so wide publicity to it.

"The difficulty arose some time ago, when Professor Jeakins, the assistant, was given notice of dismissal. The rector in so doing was acting well within his authority. Many think, and perhaps rightly, that he acted hastily in not consulting his vestry. However, that was not done. That was the beginning. It grew somewhat, and then the newspapers took it up. A settlement might have been arrived at, were it not for this fact. I again state that the papers should have refrained from discussing the question. Much was printed that gave a wrong bias to the whole question."

Only One Question.

"Following this the trouble has grown and grown. There is only one question, and that is whether or not the vestry should have been consulted. That should have been done.

"Shortly after the difficulty I made every possible effort to bring about an amicable settlement. I tried to discover what would satisfy those opposed to the rector, and was informed that nothing short of a restoration of conditions prior to the dismissal of Mr. Jeakins would satisfy them. This is impossible. In the first place, if Mr. Jeakins had any self respect, he would not come back to this church. In the second place, the bishop would not allow him to come back even if he were willing. In the third place, Mr. Jeakins has been appointed to another parish. What is the use then in striving for something that cannot be attained? Would it not be better to arrive at some other solution of the trouble?

Would Have an Assistant.

"While I believe Mr. Hill is capable of looking after the needs of the parish, and performing the whole duty in connection with it, I am sure the rector would be willing to have an additional preacher here. As we cannot get Mr. Jeakins, let us unite on some other man. If we cannot pick the man tonight, let us pass upon the principle and secure the man later. No appointment must be made without consulting the vestry, nor can the assistant be dismissed without consulting us. I have advised Mr. Hill to accept that, and I feel he is willing. I have talked the matter over with Bishop Williams, and it is agreeable to him, in fact, he advises that course. It would be a great pity to go into the merits of the case tonight. Let us throw the mantle of charity over the past, and work together for the good of the church. Let us be charitable. Let us act up to the principles taught us. If we work together in harmony, the church will prosper as it never has before. I urge the solution offered to Mr. Hill from the bottom of my heart. I beg of you to accept it. We must have harmony."

Out of Order.

Mr. J. C. Butler and Mr. Ross Clarke then introduced the first resolution:

"Be it resolved that this vestry will not be responsible to the rect any stipend not now agreed upon by this vestry."

"What does this mean?" asked Mr. Hill.

"Simply what it says," answered Mr. Butler. "It needs no explanation."

"Does it mean that the vestry will not agree to pay the usual stipend to the rector?" asked Archdeacon Young.

"Precisely," answered Mr. Butler.

"Would it not be the proper time now to pass the wet sponge over the past?" suggested Mr. Young. "What are the highest interests of the congregation? I think they are for peace."

"Is Mr. Young in order?" asked Mr. Henry Macklin.

"I am not in order, but I want to suggest that we try and come together in some amicable arrangements," declared Mr. Young.

"The motion is ultra vires," Mr. Hill informed the vestry. "It is out of order. The vestry is empowered to deal only with the salaries of subordinate officers, and cannot deal with the rector's stipend. The amount of the rector's salary in a self-supporting congregation is a matter of contract between the vestry and the bishop, and cannot be abrogated without the consent of the incumbent. I object to that, and consequently rule the motion out of order."

Cutting the Salaries.

Mr. J. E. Johnson and Mr. G. Theobald then introduced the following resolution:

"That whereas the rector of this church has been served with a written request signed by 67 male members of this congregation (a copy of which was also sent to the bishop), asking for his resignation, and, whereas, the said rector has refused to comply with the request, and also in view of the fact that Canon 23 'On the Discipline of the Clergy,' makes it very difficult for the congregation to rid itself of a rector with whom it has no sympathy, and for whom it has lost respect, without resorting to the extreme measure of refusing to pay him we therefore fix the salary of the present rector, while he obstinately continues to hold the office, at $1 a year."

Hisses from one part of the room greeted this motion.

"I abide by the finding of the commission," declared Mr. Hill. "I have no intention of resigning. I rule this motion out of order for the same reason that I ruled the former motion out."

"I appeal against the ruling of the chair," insisted Mr. Johnson.

"There is no appeal except to the bishop," retorted Mr. Hill.

"Have we nothing whatever to say regarding the salary?" asked Mr. Henry Macklin. "It looks to me as if we had nothing to do but pay."

The Rector's Salary.

"I do not wish to enter into any discussion regarding this matter," answered Mr. Hill. "The salary of the rector cannot be reduced unless the bishop, congregation and the rector agree to it. You can go to the bishop with any proposition along that line if you like."

"Can the congregation pass any such motion?" asked Col. Fisher.

"No, the bishop must give his assent," answered Mr. Hill.

"There is no trouble increasing the rector's salary," was Mr. R. K. James' opinion. "You are simply hiding behind the canons of the church instead of discussing this question as it should be. That has been the trouble all along. That is the reason there is no chance of settling this difficulty. Mr. Hill constantly takes advantage of technicalities instead of meeting us frankly, and discussing every question on its merits."

"I have accepted increases, but always with the consent of the people," said Mr. Hill. "I was the first rector to have my salary reduced at my own request when the church needed the funds. That was made at my own suggestion, too."

"Yes, and it was more than made up to you after," explained Mr. Johnson. "You left the room when we suggested a raise of $50, but when we made it $100 later, you remained present, and put the motion."

As the motion was declared out of order, Mr. Oliver Ellwood and Mr. Henry Macklin introduced a resolution of appreciation to Rev. Professor Jeakins.

It was as follows:

Professor Jeakins.

"That this vestry desires to place on record its unqualified appreciation of the services rendered by the late assistant preacher (Rev. Professor C. E. Jeakins), during his connection with this church, and our deepest and most sincere regrets that the contentions at present existing between the rector and the members of the congregation, should have been precipitated during the term of his appointment, whereby he has been subjected to much unjust public notoriety and criticism, and further,

"That Rev. Professor Jeakins carries with him to his new field of labor the unbounded confidence and esteem of the members and adherents of the Church of St. John the Evangelist."

It was carried by a large majority.

A Lull.

A letter from Mr. E. C. Guillemont, people's warden, was read, saying that owing to the death of his brother, he was unable to attend the meeting. A resolution of condolence was introduced by Mr. H. B. Archer, and carried by a standing vote.

This caused a lull in hostilities, but they were shortly resumed, when Mr. T. F. Kingsmill, jun., introduced a resolution, refusing to accept the finding of the commission named to inquire into the trouble.

"Bishop Williams has sent Rev. Mr. Young to find out our sentiments with respect to the findings of the commission," explained Mr. Kingsmill. "When he hears the resolution I am about to introduce, there will be no doubt as to our feelings."

It was as follows:

Object to Finding.

That this vestry wishes to place on record its entire disapproval of and dissent from the finding of the commission appointed by the bishop to inquire into the difficulties between the congregation and its rector. We object to the finding on Clause 1: "That the rector, under his canonical right, was justified in dismissing the assistant," although he had given his promise to the church wardens that he would retain his services for another year. To the laity it seems to be more Christianlike to keep a promise than to contend for privilege. As to Clause 2 the finding is: "that it might have been expedient for the rector to consult his wardens and vestry, but he did not do it," so it seems to be presumptuous for the people to think they have any rights. Their finding on clause 3 is absurd when it says, "that the demand for the restoration of the assistant preacher is the ignoring of the canonical authority of the bishop."

The conclusion of the finding, "that the people were unreasonable in demanding the impossible, and that the rector had done nothing to lose the confidence, respect and affection of the congregation," was effectively answered by the men of the church who met as soon as the report of the commission was published and instead of accepting it, showed what they thought of it by sending another demand, signed by sixty-seven (67) men, asking the resignation of the rector before the 14th inst.

Mr. C. H. Elliott seconded the motion. It was carried by a large majority.

"The motion is not unanimous," explained Mayor Beattie. "I do not want the opinion to go abroad that it is."

Oil on the Waters.

Hon. Adam Beck endeavored to bring about a settlement of the difficulty. "I am a newcomer to the congregation," he stated. "I have retained membership here because you were rector. I have not been as closely acquainted with you as many others perhaps, but I as well as my family have admired you, and we still do so. I have had no reason whatever to change my opinion in respect to you and your work. The conditions existing here are deplorable. I regret exceedingly that any such trouble has arisen. I want it clearly understood that I am not for or against any particular party. I want to see harmony prevail. No matter what the outcome, I will remain loyal to this church, and will continue to support it in the future as in the past. However, we should be careful not to do anything that we would regret afterwards. Let us get together, and in some way try to bring harmony to this congregation. You have been for a long time rector here. You have visited the sick, and done many other good works among the people of this congregation. It might be that you have acted hastily. We are all prone to that. Let us not be hasty tonight, but may we calmly and quietly endeavor to come to some arrangement whereby harmony will be restored. Hastiness is a common fault, but we should be above that. Let us do our best to come together."

For Harmony.

"I agree with Mayor Beattie's proposal," declared Mr. Hill. "I am willing to do anything to bring about harmonious relations. I was hasty perhaps, but as Mr. Beck says, hastiness is a common fault. I will meet the congregation in any way possible to end the difficulty."

At this juncture, Mr. A. E. Ferte and Mr. Macklin introduced the resolution reducing the salaries of the organist and sexton.

It read as follows:

"That while the present rector remains, the salary of the organist and choirmaster shall be $20 a year, and that of sexton $10. This action is not due to the opinion of the vestry that either official has been overpaid, for their services have been highly efficient and appreciated. But pending reorganization of the church, we will not be responsible for larger salaries than the above."

"We can get somebody to volunteer to play the organ," declared Hon. Adam Beck. "I will guarantee to make up the difference in the sexton's salary myself."

"We are just as much interested in this church as you are," shot back Mr. Ferte. "We have been connected with it for many years. We have worked and spent both time and money to make it prosper. We have done quite as much as others."

Motion Carried.

The motion was put, carrying 22 to 16. A large number of those present refrained from voting.

"There can be no other object in that motion than to wreck the church," said Mr. Hill. "However, I still stand by the findings of the commission, and refuse to resign."

The election of officers for the year resulted as follows:

People's warden—Ross Clark.
Rector's warden—Stephen Grant.

Select vestry, appointed by the rector—Arthur Smith, B. S. Murray, E. W. Eardley, H. E. Gates, Mayor Beattie, Hon. Adam Beck. Named by vestry—T. F. Kingsmill, jun., C. H. Beard, A. Ellis, H. B. Archer, J. E. Johnson, Frank Lawson.

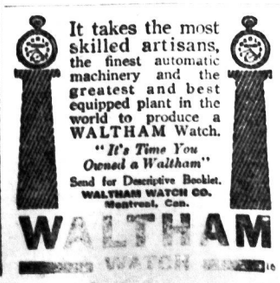
Sidesmen—Col. Fisher, Mayor Beattie, B. S. Murray, L. Graves, J. C. Butler, R. Mitcheltree, J. E. Johnson, L. Loughrey, A. Connor, Dr. W. M. Shoebotham, E. W. Eardley.

Ushers—R. Mitcheltree, J. E. Johnson, R. Callard, A. Wood, H. Lackie.

Vestry clerk—Claude Brown.

Auditors—C. H. Beard, C. B. Edwards.

Mayor Beattie presented the financial statement, which showed a cash balance on hand.



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