

At Winnipeg Presbytery Dr. Bryce presented a report of the committee on church extension, and asked to be relieved of the convenership of this committee. R. M. Thomson was appointed his successor. The presbytery placed on record its very hearty appreciation of the services rendered by Dr. Bryce, as chairman of this committee since its organization. Rev. Clarence Mackinnon proposed that the presbytery express its deep interest in the mission upon which Dr. C. W. Gordon is about to enter in Philadelphia. The presbytery expressed its hope and prayer that the enterprise would be greatly blessed. The presbytery also expressed its hearty appreciation of the service rendered by Dr. A. G. Sinclair in this city, both in the pulpit of St. Andrew's church, and among his brethren of the Winnipeg presbytery. The presbytery wished him every blessing in the responsible work to which he goes in the Yukon.

#### WESTERN ONTARIO.

London Presbytery will meet in St. Andrew's church, London, at 10.30 a.m., Monday 30th inst.

Rev. Mr. Currie, of Leith, has been preaching in St. Paul's church, Brookholm, with much acceptance.

Westminster church, Mount Forest, now vacant, heard Rev. Wm. Cooper, B. A., of Port Perry, last Sunday.

At the recent communion in St. Andrew's church, Hamilton, there were 39 added to the roll, 16 on profession, and 23 by certificate.

Rev. D. Anderson, B.A., of Burlington, conducted preparatory services in St. Andrew's church, Hamilton, last Friday evening.

Rev. A. D. Menzies, special agent of the Pointe aux Trembles school, has been doing excellent work in the West for that most deserving institution. In St. Andrew's church, Thamesford, his canvass resulted in \$200 being collected.

Rev. S. H. Eastman, Meaford, convener of the General Assembly's Committee on Church Life and Work, would like to hear at once from the Presbytery conveners, so that he may be in a position to prepare his report for the forthcoming meeting of Assembly.

In London Presbytery Rev. J. F. Scott presented the report on church life and work. It seems there are comparatively few people within the bounds who do not attend some church service on the Lord's Day. On the whole, the state of religion is encouraging, but more prayer and effort on the part of all church members is needed.

Commissioners from London Presbytery to the General Assembly are: Rev. Messrs. James Malcolm, Dr. McDonald, Dr. Barnett, H. H. Reid, James Argo; Elders, Jas. Robertson (Glencoe), Rev. A. Stewart, (New St. James', London), Jas. Patterson, (Thamesford), and Messrs. John McLean (West Lorne), John R. Cameron, (Wallacetown), and the elder of Melbourne and Riversdale.

At the recent meeting of Hamilton Presbytery, when the subject of Church Union was before the court, Sir Thomas Taylor spoke strongly in opposition. He did not think a body like the Presbyterian Church should sink its individuality. Rev. Mr. Muir and Rev. Mr. Cunningham also declared themselves against the movement, the latter claiming that the lack of competition among the ministers would tend to indolence, particularly in the smaller places, and that the results would not be as good from one large church as from three smaller ones.

On a recent Sunday evening, Rev. J. U. Tanner preached for his brother at Dundee Centre, Que.

#### DOUKOBORS DEFENDED.

The Montreal Witness has been interviewing Dr. J. T. Reid, of that city, who spent several months amongst the Doukhobors, with the view of ascertaining the credibility of certain wild reports of their doings at Fort William. Dr. Reid has much to say that is good of these much misunderstood settlers. In part he told the Witness:

"Concerning the fanaticism of the religious maniacs at Fort William it is not necessary to defend them, for even their own people in the Doukhobor colony condemn them just as emphatically as we do.

"The report of the Fort William jury concerning conditions amongst the fanatics there is ostensibly authentic and reliable, but it is only just to the Doukhobor people, as a people, that remember that religious fanaticism is a form of insanity; that, therefore the Doukhobor fanatics at Fort William are just as irresponsible for their acts as are the inmates of our insane asylums, and that for their insane action the Doukhobor people as a people are no more deserving of censure than are Anglo-Saxons for the results of the eccentricities of Christian Scientists, Divine healers, and other erratic forms of religious fanaticism.

"With reference to the charge that Peter Verighen, leader of the Doukhobor people, is so despotic as to forbid them the use of certain articles of diet, I may say that the physical condition of the people is that which physicians describe as 'well nourished'—a condition which indicates proper and sufficient food.

"A people with such ideals of liberty as successfully resisted the persecutions of the Greek Church and the despotism of the Russian State, are not likely to suffer from the alleged despotism of any one man. Peter Verighen knows his own people too well to attempt despotic measures, even if he were inclined to do so.

"The prevailing prejudice against a peculiar but worthy people, whom we do not yet understand, makes mountains out of mole-hills, and starts tea-pot tempests.

"In addition to all this is the fact that amongst politicians there is an inclination to make of the Doukhobors a political football. The goal in sight, the struggle of the game becomes less conscientious, and as a result the readers of newspapers are at times regaled with sensational exaggerations.

"And as to their premeditated disposal of the dead body?"

"That, too, is quite probable. From religious maniacs we may expect only the irrational—but in the Doukhobor colony there is no such sacrifice. The most solemn and impressive—the most reverent funeral services I have seen and heard, have been Doukhobors' funerals."

"And with reference to the report that they are about to leave Canada?"

"That, too, applies only to the few fanatical pilgrims at Fort William, who are on their way to a seaport.

"While it is true that there is in the colony a keen disappointment at the alleged non-fulfilment of promises made at Ottawa concerning land tenure, the Doukhobors as a people are making permanent homes in Canada. They have built lumber mills and flour mills. They make the best brick made in the west. Not satisfied regarding long distances from Yorkton and Swan River Hospitals, Verighen's secretary has recently told me that they need a hospital in the centre of the colony. From a material standpoint they are making commendable progress towards a permanent residence in Canada.

"And as to the reports of their alleged free-love and vice?"

"That report also refers only to Fort William fanatics—who with erratic ideals

of liberty may probably abuse liberty into license.

"The report that they are at times clad only in fresh air and sunshine is quite true, but this is not from obscene motives but from their fanatical desire to show their freedom from the conventionalisms of what they call man-made laws. The life of a Doukhobors' village is pure and chaste. Tolstoid and Tchertkoff bear similar testimony concerning the chastity of the life of the Russian Doukhobor village. Prof. Mayor of Toronto University, and Lally Bernard, of the 'Globe,' who know the Doukhobors well, testify along similar lines."

#### BRIEF WESTERN NOTES.

##### The West Land.

Prince Rupert townsite lots will not be put on sale before September.

Preparations for the synod meeting of British Columbia and Alberta in April and May are beginning.

At Indian Head a brotherhood for the advancement of Bible study and vital religion has been organized in St. Andrew's church.

A Ruthenian Catholic bishop for the West, as recently appointed, will not stem the tide of Protestantism among these sturdy foreigners.

Rev. J. H. White, M.A., has been inducted at Ladner. Rev. J. W. Woods, de conducted worship, while Rev. A. J. Mc Gillivray addressed the minister, and Rev. J. A. Logan the people. Congratulations are due the people of the Delta for their speedy and wise choice of a minister, thus obviating the dangerous and oftentimes disastrous delay of a vacancy.

Church Union was considered at a banquet of Presbyterians, Methodists, and Congregationalists in Winnipeg last Friday. After full discussion three resolutions were passed: "That from an economic standpoint, the proposed union of churches was expedient." "That the union of these three churches will result in increased and better efficiency in all missionary work." "That union is certain to greatly increase the efficiency and power of the Christian forces for social progress."

#### ORANGEVILLE PRESBYTERY.

Commissioners to General Assembly Orangeville Presbytery are: Ministers, D. T. McClintock, L. W. Thom, H. Matheson, G. Ballantine; Elders, J. A. McDonald, Priceville; E. W. McCulloch, Grand Valley; two to be sent from sessions at Claude and Maxwell.

The Presbytery lost one family, gained sixty-five members, increased \$9,936.00, in givings for all purposes. Debt paid off, \$3,052.00; value of property increased, \$2,290.

Reports for the year were discussed. Sabbath schools gave opportunity of much helpful discussion. Church Life and Work also came in for due consideration.

Caledon East becomes self-sustaining under the careful ministry of H. Matheson and the vigor of J. H. Edmisten, Augmentation Convener.

Rev. G. W. Rose, recently settled at Alton, is seriously ill. Presbytery arranged to give his people a month's supply.

Waldemar is in fine shape since the induction of L. W. Thom. Self-sustenance is looked for here soon. The grant at Corbetton was reduced to \$200. Camilla and Mono Centre is vacant. The Moderator is Rev. J. R. Bell, Laurel.

Remit on travelling expenses to Assembly was sent back to an increased committee to prepare a scheme to be considered at next meeting, which will be held in Orangeville on Tuesday, May 5th., at 10.30 a.m.

Standing Committees for the year were appointed, and the regular work of reviewing the year done.