

# Ministers and Churches.

## OUR TORONTO LETTER.

Shall the property of the church and of the college be taxed? The Toronto clergy have been considerably exercised over this question during the past week. The cause is found in a bill, of which notice has been given, in the Ontario Legislature, proposing to tax the land upon which the educational institution and the church reside. Considerable difference of opinion seems to exist respecting the real purpose of the bill, and some difference, though not to so great an extent, upon the principle of its application, should it become law. It may share the fate of another proposed reform, which was allowed to lie till it had drawn the fire of all interested parties, and then was quietly withdrawn. The abolition of exemption is gaining some ground, but it will be into the twentieth century a decade or two before the voice of the people demands it.

A deputation of those interested in the preservation of the Lord's Day waited upon members of the Government on Wednesday of this week to protest against the granting of the proposed change in the Lord's Day Act, which will allow street cars to be run upon the Sabbath, under certain conditions. The Ontario Council ask for the measure, and the Ontario Lord's Day Alliance has taken up the case, and is vigorously fighting it. On the one hand are wealthy and powerful corporations, on the other is a body of Christian men appealing to the Christian conscience, but backed by no wealth, and actuated by purely unselfish motives. Which will win, self or altruism?

It speaks well for the Christian sentiment of our people that contributions for religious enterprises begin to rise when there is an upward tendency in business confidence. Dr. Warden reports the contributions to the Schemes, as, with three exceptions, in advance of last year. At least one of these is explained by the fact that legacies are not included in the amount reported. It is true that the better contribution is partly to be accounted for by the fact that the agent has persistently kept the need before the church, and has furnished a comparative statement monthly of the contributions. That stands to his credit, however, and is, we believe, a large factor in more prompt remittance, and it may be, more liberal contributions. The people will respond if they know why they are asked to contribute. But that is not all. There is greater ability to give, and this manifests itself in increased giving. That is not always the case, but the old is passing, giving place to the new, and the new is better in this instance.

Individual church reports, too, are encouraging. Deer Park, for instance, has recently cleared off its entire floating liability of upwards of \$2,000. Parkdale has approved an increased expenditure for a Sabbath school building of \$10,000, yet has so reduced its mortgage indebtedness as to add only about \$2,000 with the new expenditure. Doubtless many other congregations could tell of easier breathing because oppressive burdens have been removed.

There will be a determined effort made to retain Rev. D. C. Horne as minister of the Parkdale Presbyterian Church. The congregation voted to grant him an extended leave of absence—two years even—if he would agree to return to them at the expiration of that time. That will be one of the propositions presented to the Presbytery on Tuesday next, and it will be for that court to say whether such an arrangement would be in the interest of the congregation.

Several Toronto ministers have received severe shakings from gripe this winter. Rev. John McEwen, the Presbytery's hospital visitor, is carefully picking his way about the streets after two weeks' attack. Rev. J. A. Clark, of Cowan Avenue Church, though a young man, is only out after a week of it. Rev. J. W. Bell, of Port Credit, who resides in the city, has been laid aside for three weeks, but is again about. Rev. J. A. Macdonald, editor of the Westminster, and his business manager, have both been confined to their rooms, and are not out of the toils yet. Rev. S. R. MacClements, the popular minister of Chalmers' Church, has been several days absent from his pulpit, but is steadily at work again.

It is stated that the bill to permit of the sale of Knox Church building and site has practically passed the Legislature, and rumor tells that an advantageous offer has been received from a well known firm, but the deacons know how to keep their own counsel. They have given no information, though conjecture is busy.

The afternoon session of the Benaiah's Christian Endeavorers on the 25th February was presided over by the president, Rev. J. H. Connell, of Ormstown. Mr. Allan urged upon the meeting the importance of attendance upon the Dominion meet in Montreal. The secretary, Miss E. B. Goodall, reported fifteen societies in the Union, having a membership of 250 active, 120 associate, and 23 honorary. The election of officers resulted in Rev. J. H. Connell being re-elected president; Miss E. B. Goodall, secretary; and William Odell, vice-president; junior superintendent, Walter Gowen.

## THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN

### WINNIPEG AND WEST.

(While our correspondent's notes were on the way, the electric current conveyed the sad news of Dr. King's death to waiting friends all over the continent.—Editor.)

Rev. M. C. Rumball, of Morden, has left for Clinton, Ont., where his mother is seriously ill. He is expected back in about six weeks, accompanied by his wife and family.

Principal King is recovering very slowly from his late severe illness. It is not at all likely that he will be able to take up the college work for some months yet. Professors of eastern colleges will probably take hold of the summer session with Prof. Baird.

The Students' Volunteer Band in Manitoba College are anxious to support one of their own members in the foreign field. They have raised considerable amount themselves, and are being assisted by the Young People's Societies in Knox, Westminster, Augustine and Point Douglas Churches.

In the absence of the Rev. J. C. Herdman, Mr. Brunton, Presbyterian missionary, conducted the services in Calgary Knox Church on Sunday. In the morning he took for his text the 14th chapter, and was listened to by a large and attentive congregation.

The recent plebiscite on prohibition, which eventuated in a vote of more than five to one in Manitoba in favor of prohibition, is bearing fruit. One county after another is taking hold of local option, and it is also likely that the local Legislature will be pressed for stringent enactments as to the sale of liquor.

Two prominent clergymen of Portage la Prairie recently attended an Adventist meeting there, and considerably upset the position taken by the lecturer. The openness of these people to attack is a great temptation to the intelligent, though as in some other cases, an attack is a good advertisement for the error.

They do things on a liberal scale in British Columbia. We are told that the session of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church recently entertained a banquet, about 120 guests being present. At the conclusion of the supper a capital hour's entertainment.

The Presbyterian Church at Minnedosa was burned down last Sabbath morning, just before the hour for service. As the church had been built in "boom" days, away from the centre of the town, in an "annex," the burning is a blessing in disguise, as a more central location can now be chosen. In the meantime Rev. W. J. Herbinson, the pastor, will hold services in Pearson's Hall.

Special services of an evangelistic nature are being held at many points in the west. In most cases the Protestant churches in the several places are uniting in the meeting. Several meetings have been held in Winnipeg recently in connection with the question of tuberculosis in milk and meat. Some of the meetings have been quite lively, inasmuch as there is difference of opinion in regard to the extent of infection from these world-defiling substances, however, all over the world and constant one. The sacredness of human life demands the fullest investigation into everything that wars against it. In this connection we would ask the scientists to remember that the saloon is more murderous than the cow, and ought to engage more attention.

### WESTERN ONTARIO.

Rev. John Currie, of Belmont, filled the pulpit of St. Andrew's Church, Glanworth, on Sunday.

The Rev. Dr. Smith, of Kingston, conducted the pre-communion services in Knox Church, Stratford, last week.

Mr. Angus H. McGillivray, B.A., of Knox College, Toronto, preached at Burgoyne and Dunblane on Sunday last.

Rev. R. P. Mackay, secretary of the Presbyterian Foreign Mission Board, has been preaching missionary sermons at Sessford.

Rev. A. T. Colter, M.A., preached his farewell sermon in the Presbyterian Church, Comber, last Sunday morning to a large congregation.

The Rev. J. B. Malen, of Fergus, owing to illness, was unable to take the post assigned him at the induction of Rev. M. C. McLaren, at Alma.

At the recent annual meetings of the Presbyterians of Grand Bend and Corbett it was found that both have prospered. At Grand Bend the treasurer has on hand \$85 which is to be used for church needs next summer. This amount is left after paying for enlarging and repairing the church. At Corbett \$20 was paid, the last debt on the church. They have also decided to add to the stipend and repair the church.

Rev. John Moir preached in the church at Burgoyne last Sabbath.

At preparatory services conducted in King Street Church, London, by the pastor, Rev. Thomas Wilson, fifteen new members were added to the church.

Rev. Dr. J. K. Smith, of Toronto, a former pastor of Knox Church, Galt, is filling the pulpit of that congregation during the absence of Rev. R. E. Knowles.

At a special meeting of Zion Church, Brantford, the salary fixed for the new minister was \$2,400 per annum. This is the same as was given to the late Rev. Dr. Cochrane.

The Rev. Robert McIntyre, of St. Thomas, delivered his celebrated lecture, "An hour with a Scotchman," in St. Andrew's Church, Glanworth on a recent evening, with Elder J. H. Elliott in the chair.

Rev. Dr. J. A. Morrison, who resigned the pastorate of East Presbyterian Church some seven months ago, to take a course in theological studies at Leipzig and Oxford, will return to Toronto at the end of this month.

Rev. A. H. Drumm, of Port Elgin, was present at a meeting of the Burgoyne congregation, when it was intimated that the people at Dunblane would contribute \$775 per year towards the support of a minister. It was decided to canvass Burgoyne with the view of ascertaining how much could be raised in this part of the united charge.

A largely attended meeting of the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church was held last night. The question of union with the sister congregation of St. John's was discussed, but the majority were of the opinion that the interests of Presbyterianism in Brockville would be better served with two congregations than one. A resolution was passed setting forth that the congregation was ready to proceed with a call to a pastor, and another congregational meeting will be held in due course to take action in that direction.

The annual meeting of St. Andrew's Church, Stratford, was largely attended. Hon. Thomas Balantyne presided, and remarked upon the satisfactory condition of the affairs of the congregation. From the reports, all the societies appear to be in a flourishing condition. The report of the assets and liabilities showed the following encouraging state of affairs: Assets—Church property, \$10,000; cash on hand, \$8.83; accounts due church (about), \$150; total, \$10,158.83. Liabilities—Amount of mortgage, \$1,600; interest on mortgage, \$100; amount of note due Bank of Montreal, \$300; assets over liabilities, \$8,258.83; total, \$10,158.83. The proposal to remove the pillars at present in the church building, to make extensive alterations in the roof, and to redecorate, met with such hearty approval that the managers were empowered to make further enquiries as to cost, etc., and thereupon to lay the whole matter before a special meeting of the congregation.

### Peterborough Presbyterian W.F.M. Society.

The seventeenth annual meeting of this society was held in St. Andrew's Church, Campbellford on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week.

Four sessions were held, all of which were well attended. In the absence of the president, Mrs. Walter Roger, Miss Forsythe, first vice-president, presided, being assisted by Mrs. McPherson, Mrs. McLelland, Mrs. Coleman and Miss Nicholl.

The Presbytery report was presented by Miss McClellan, corresponding secretary. In the absence of the treasurer, Miss Craig, Mrs. (Rev.) Laird read the financial statement, which showed that while some auxiliaries and mission bands had a large increase in funds, others had fallen far behind in this respect.

Mrs. Jeffrey, of Toronto, secretary for Indian work in the Northwest and British Columbia, gave an interesting address on missionary work among the Indians. It contained an account of the development of the work from the time of Rev. James Nisbet, of Oakville, left in 1802, and after spending four years with Rev. John Black at Kildonan, in the Red River settlement, he started off with carts across the country, five hundred miles to Prince Albert, where the first Indian mission was started in 1866. Now there are eight missions and several schools, where Indian children are taught trades. Mrs. Jeffrey's personal acquaintance with the work made her address especially helpful.

In the evening a public meeting was held, Rev. R. Laird, the pastor, presiding. After the opening exercises Mr. Laird, in his usual happy and genial manner, addressed a most cordial welcome to the members of the society.

Mrs. McLelland, of Toronto, gave a most practical address on the important part undertaken by women in missionary work, and the need for deeper interest and greater consecration among Christian women.

A paper on "Giving," prepared by Mrs. Hall of Peterborough, was read by Miss Nicholl, of Norwood, presenting in concise form the Scriptural teaching on this important subject.

The last address was given by Mr. Thomson,