

CHURCH
WORK

Ministers and Churches

NEWS
LETTERS

TORONTO.

Glowing testimony of mortgages reduced, generous gifts to missions, congregational expansions and increases in ministers' stipends are revealed in the annual statements read in more than a score of Toronto Presbyterian churches this week. In all of the congregations there was not one but heard reports proving a sound financial condition as the result of the year's labors of pastor and people.

At St. Andrew's Church, King street, the congregation determined to begin the quest for a successor to Rev. Dr. Black in the pastorate of the church. The downtown church this year again reduced its mortgage, which in seven years has been decreased from \$52,000 to \$11,000. Knox Church will give \$1,150 for the support of a missionary at Honan. The congregation will seek a new site, probably in the vicinity of Knox College. Old St. Andrew's congregation reduced the mortgage and gave largely to missions. Bloor Street Church purchased the lot west of the edifice and paid \$1,500 on the debt, and gave in all \$8,000 to missions. The foundations for the new St. Paul's Church are under way, and the congregation increased the pastor's stipend by \$300. Chalmers congregation refused to go into debt for a sorely-needed Sunday school, but will endeavour to raise a building fund. The people of the Central Presbyterian Church increased the stipend of the pastor and the salaries of the organist and church officer and applied \$2,000 on the debt. Erskine Church paid off \$4,000, and Westminster Church congregation showed its appreciation of the pastor by a substantial addition to his stipend.

The membership of West Church is now 1,008, an increase during the year of 105. The total gifts amounted to \$8,945.39, of which \$1,750.42 was for missionary purposes.

Victoria Church, Toronto Junction, reports a year of gratifying progress, the gain in membership being 123, with a present total of 524. The total receipts were \$3,376. Mortgage debt reduced by \$1,000.

The various reports presented at the annual meeting of Queen Street East Church were the most satisfactory in the history of the congregation. The sessions report showed that 60 members had been added to the communion roll during the year, making the present membership 374.

Encouraging reports were submitted at the Southside Church meeting, with the pastor Rev. Wm. McKinley, presiding. There are now 189 members in full communion. Some \$1,856.36 has been raised for congregational purposes during the year, and for missionary and benevolent objects, \$267.00.

The meeting at St. Enoch's was pronounced one of the best in the history of the congregation. The total revenue for the year was \$4,576, as against \$4,017 the previous year. This included \$574 for missions and \$808 raised by the Ladies' Aid Society. The reports from the various societies all showed progress.

The report presented to Westminster congregation showed a membership of 813, and an ordinary revenue of \$8,578.20, a revenue from all sources of \$17,809.47, and the reduction of the church debt by \$2,400. The Board of Management recommended the increase of the pastor's salary to \$3,000. An additional amount of \$6,200 was raised for missions, including the congregational support of a missionary in China.

Gratifying to the pastor, Rev. Alfred Grandier, B.D., and the congregation alike, were the reports presented at the meeting in St. James' Square Church. At the beginning of last year there were 623 names on the roll, to which 121 have been added, making a net gain of 53, and bringing the roll up to 744. The ordinary receipts were \$7,079, and the expenditure \$7,044. The amount subscribed for missionary purposes was the largest ever reported. The pastor accounted for the increase by a special donation of \$500, but even with this deducted the amount is equal to that of any previous year. The total was \$9,380.99, divided among nine objects.

The annual meeting of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, East Toronto, was both hearty and unanimous. Every organization in the church reported activity and a balance on the right side. The membership is now 240. A new departure for this congregation was undertaking the support of a missionary in the Canadian west, at a cost of \$250.00. Messrs. N. McEachern, F. Latham and D. Cameron were elected elders.

The financial statement of the Dunn Avenue Church showed a bank overdraft of \$102.91, but during the past year \$3,000 has been paid upon the mortgage, which now stands at \$18,800. Many permanent improvements, totalling over \$600, were made and the pastor, Rev. J. Logan Goggie, was sent on a deserved trip to Scotland, at a cost of \$550. The total income of the church from all sources was \$14,138.28, an increase of \$1,080 over any previous year.

At the annual meeting of St. John's Church, Rev. J. McP. Scott, presiding, all reports showed a most satisfactory state of affairs. The net increase of members was 58, making the total 452. The ordinary revenue, including that for the building fund, amounted to \$2,883.43, being an increase of \$434.42. The missionary receipts were \$2,048. The total income from all sources amounted to \$5,311.19. The meeting was a most harmonious one, and the work of the pastor for the past year was warmly praised.

A very satisfactory annual statement was presented by College Street Church, the main features of which were an expenditure of \$1,021.81 on account of mission schemes, hospitals, etc., \$500 paid off the mortgage, and, notwithstanding these expenditures, a balance to the credit of the church amounting to \$190.12. The total receipts amounted to \$10,090.75, which, with those for missionary purposes, bring the total to about \$11,000. It was decided to increase the stipend of the pastor, Rev. Alex. Gilray, D.D., \$500, to \$2,500.

EASTERN ONTARIO.

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be dispensed in St. John's Church, Cornwall, on the morning of Sunday, Feb. 5th. Preparatory services will be held on Friday evening, 3rd February.

On Sunday of last week the morning service in the Maxville Church was conducted by Rev. J. R. McLeod, of Three Rivers. In the evening Rev. Thos. Bennett, Secretary of the Bible Society, delivered his annual address in the interest of the Society.

The Church of the Redeemer, Deseronto, (Rev. W. S. MacTavish, pastor), enjoyed a year of prosperity. Members received, 35; dismissed 18. Managers reported \$1,751—sufficient to meet running expenses and leave a balance; contributions to the Schemes, \$333; to other benevolences, \$322, a total of \$2,405.

Rev. A. A. Scott presided at the annual meeting of Zion Church, Carleton Place. All the reports presented indicated a healthy condition of affairs. The general fund showed receipts of \$2,250.51, expenditure \$2,221.32, leaving a small surplus on the right side. The contributions for missions were \$1,250 odd, and other funds in equally good condition. The total contributions for the year were \$3,605.

On the 15th inst., Rev. Dr. Herridge preached anniversary sermons in St. Andrew's Carleton Place, taking for his text in the morning, the words: "Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." It was an excellent discourse, and greatly appreciated by the large congregation. In the evening the text was taken from Luke 4, 34: "Let us alone, what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth." The preacher contended that the unclean spirits were still abroad in the world, and that this life was a constant fight between the good and the evil one. The address was interesting, instructive and most pointed. The Herald says: "The services both morning and evening were largely attended, the visitors from other churches in the evening causing even the aisles to be filled."

At the annual meeting of St. Andrew's Carleton Place, Rev. G. A. Woodside, pastor, presiding, the reports presented were of a most encouraging nature, showing the church to be prospering beyond precedent. The general fund showed a surplus of \$140, although the stipend had been raised \$100 a year ago. The total receipts in this fund were \$2,279. The missionary contributions were also on a generous scale, larger than ever before.

At the recent meeting of the Ladies' Aid of St. Andrew's Church, Rockland, the election of officers resulted as follows: president, Miss M. Young; vice-president, Mrs. Moore; second vice-president, Miss S. Ferguson; treasurer, Mrs. James Tweedie; secretary, Miss E. Wyman. A pleasing feature of the meeting was the treasurer's report of the result of the concert given by the "Aid" on January 9th, the amount realized after paying all expenses being \$77.05. This sum the ladies generously voted into the church treasury to be applied towards the liquidation of the debt on the building.

The officers newly elected for the current year of Knox Church Christian Endeavor Society, Cornwall, are: Hon. Pres., Dr. Harkness; president, J. R. Herdman; vice-pres., Miss Carrie Algure; secretary, Miss Tobin; treasurer, Miss Jessie Fetterly; past-pres., Miss Hattie Binnie.

John Street Church, Belleville, A. H. Drumm, pastor. The annual meeting was held on the evening of Jan. 18th. The reports showed earnest and successful work in every department. The death roll of the past year includes some of the oldest and most liberal members of the congregation. The additions to membership were: by profession, 14; by certificate, 9; total number of members on roll, 203. Amounts paid were as follows: ordinary expenditure, \$2,460; reduction of church debt, \$500; schemes of the church, \$742; Presbytery and Synod Funds, and other benevolent objects, \$178; total expenditure, \$3,880.

It was with many misgivings a year ago that the Metcalfe Church undertook to stand alone as a separate and distinct charge. But the optimism of the few was not based upon the sand, but on the solid rock, and was vindicated by the healthy and encouraging reports which the various organizations submitted to the congregation at their annual meeting on the 11th inst. All departments of the work were marked by steady progress. The number of families was 80, with 145 communicants. The amount raised for all purposes, not including the manse fund, which report was incomplete, was \$1,190. The schemes of the church were generously supported, \$162 being contributed. On the 26th May, 1904, the Presbytery of Ottawa inducted into this charge the Rev. S. A. Woods, B.A., of Richmond, and the union has been a very happy one. The congregation purchased a valuable property for a manse and the manse committee are busily engaged in their efforts to meet the demands thus created. The outlook for a splendid year's work is most encouraging, as the congregation are a very loyal people to their church.

LONDON.

Rev. J. G. Stuart, of this city, preached anniversary services last Sunday at Burns Presbyterian Church, Sarnia.

King street church had a good year. Present membership 353; contributed for missions 318.98. The sum of \$1,945.92 was received and expended in the general fund; in the organ and mortgage account, \$848.76. Assets were placed at \$11,500 and the liabilities at \$3,350.

The total receipts of St. James church were \$5,796.30, a gain of \$700 over last year. The various societies in connection with the congregation were reported in efficient condition and doing excellent work. It was announced by the pastor, Rev. Mr. MacGillivray, that a member of the congregation offered a contribution of \$5,000, provided the remainder of the debt \$14,800 is raised by the congregation. The board of management will consider this generous offer. The pastors salary was increased to \$1,000.