

WINNIPEG AND WEST.

In the Capital of the Prairie Province Presbyterianism continues to flourish. Not only does growth mark the experience of the older congregations, but new ones are being constantly added. The story told in the annual reports is most encouraging and will help to stimulate to even better work and more systematic offer in the future.

The financial statement of the Elmwood congregation showed a balance in bank of \$19.59.

The Franklin Congregation at its annual meeting extended a call to Rev. Mr. McVicar, of Brandon, late of Finch, Ontario. The pulpit has been vacant since the resignation of Dr. Woodside.

The total receipts amounted to \$23,524.56. In this connection Rev. Dr. Du Val made grateful acknowledgment to the congregation for their gift of \$1,000 towards his trip to Asia Minor, which added to the above would make the total \$24,524.56.

St. John's (Rev. J. P. Phillips Jones, pastor), reports a membership of 260. The total receipts for the year were \$3,227, and there remained a balance on hand of \$361. The mortgage debt amounts to \$2,990, and the property is valued at \$10,000. The building was enlarged in 1908.

Norwood Church (Rev. Alex. McTaggart) reported receipts of \$2,223.16; expenditure, \$2,058.91; leaving a balance of \$164.25. The following were elected to the board of management: Messrs Whelpley, A. Smith, A. Elliott, H. Fowler, C. C. Falconer and Dr. Munro.

At the annual meeting of Kildonan Church, it was agreed to increase the minister's salary by \$200; and a presentation was made to James Harper, who for 45 years has been treasurer of the church. The gift, a handsome combination oak desk and bookcase, was delivered with an illuminated address by Robert MacBeth on behalf of the congregation.

St. Paul's (Rev. Chas. H. Stewart, pastor), increased the minister's stipend by \$200, making it \$2,000. Ten old managers were retained and the following new ones elected: G. Ross, A. A. Findlay, J. Clark, J. Schofield, H. Sutherland, W. H. Wood, Jos. Houston, and J. Easton. Auditors Fitzgerald and Corbett were re-elected as were also the trustees, C. Laidlaw, M. Rogers and J. Corbett.

Westminster Church in annual meeting decided to increase Rev. Mr. Christie's stipend to \$4,000. The receipts amounted to \$17,333.72, and there was a balance of \$86.40 on hand after paying \$200 on the mortgage debt. The handsome sum of \$8,755.86 was contributed by the congregation to the mission, educational and other schemes of the church. The congregation is looking for a site upon which to build a new church.

St. Giles (pastor Rev. W. A. Maclean) reports that 77 had been added to the membership during the year which left a roll of 490 after removals had been made. The total receipts from all sources were \$13,548.70, which are the largest in the history of the congregation. Arrangements are being made for the fitting celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the congregation on 20th March next.

The membership of St. Andrew's is now 709; additions to the roll during the year were 66. The session report paid a high tribute to the work of Rev. Prof. Perry as interim moderator, as also a like tribute to the worth of Rev. Mr. Macmillan, whose loss was keenly felt. Referring to Rev. Mr. Macmillan, the report says: "His removal was a source of regret not only to the congregation to which he ministered so acceptably during his six years' pastorate, but to a large circle of friends in the west, where he was known both as a faithful servant of the church and a public spirited citizen." The total receipts from all sources were \$11,895.35, about \$200 less than the expenditure.

At the thirty-eighth annual meeting of Knox Church, under the chairmanship of Mr. Wm. Whitte, the payment of balance on \$25,000 mortgage was announced and this was followed by the burning of the legal document. The session report indicates that 42 had been removed from the roll by letter, 17 by pruning, six by death, while 107 had been added. 35 by confession and 72 by certificates, making the present membership 850. Twenty-three infants and one adult had been baptized.

The beautiful Sunday school annex to Augustine church was recently opened with special services conducted by Rev. Dr. C. W. Gordon, of St. Stephen's. Rev. Dr. DuVal offered an opening prayer, and the song portions of the service were accompanied by the orchestra. The sacrament of baptism was administered to a baby girl by Rev. Dr. Wilson, assisted by Rev. Prof. Balrd, D.D. This annex is described by the local press as architecturally in ecclesiastical style and in its conformation to utility as perhaps the finest Sunday school building in Canada and has cost \$32,000 for its erection.

St. Stephens (Dr. C. W. Gordon, pastor), reports receipts of \$8,515.31, and expenditures of \$7,691.05, leaving a balance of \$824.26. This was for church maintenance. The balance on account for other organizations was \$1,450.13, while the total receipts for all purposes was \$14,227.60. The missionary association reported a balance of \$3,441.40, the brotherhood a balance of \$25.25; the benevolent fund a balance of \$21.45; the basement fund a balance of \$66.43; the W. F. M. S. a balance of \$428.65; the mission band a total of \$68, \$34 of which will be given to foreign missions and \$34 to home missions; and the Sabbath school a balance on hand of \$2.56. Total number of members on the roll on Dec. 31, 1909, 768; number of families, 214; number of single persons, 255; baptisms, 20.

The treasurer of St. John's Church, Hamilton, reported receipts of \$4,848.15, and expenditures \$52.30 in excess of this amount. The total amount raised by the various organizations was \$7,556.81.

Presbyterian Church, Paris, (Rev. R. G. MacBeth, pastor). The principle of raising money by free-will offering is adopted in this church with most excellent results, the total income being about \$1,000 in excess of the year preceding. Revenues from all sources about \$7,200.00. An increase is shown in ordinary revenue and a marked growth in giving to missions. The church building was completely renovated during the year and is very handsome and comfortable. Four new elders were added last year and the membership increased by 34. All the organizations are flourishing.

TRAINING MODERN MECHANICS.

Just as Canada is a great melting pot for the making of men, taking in the raw aliens, immigrants, and moulding them into Canadian citizens, so have the big railway shops become training schools for boys. The boy just out of school, who becomes an apprentice in a railway shop, is, within a very short time, turned out an intelligent useful citizen, capable of earning good wages in any country.

By sending a postal card to the Superintendent of Motive Power, Grand Trunk Railway System, you can secure, free, a handsomely illustrated book on "Training Modern Mechanics."

RE-OPENING OF HOWICK CHURCH

An occasion of unusual importance and joy to the membership of the Howick Presbyterian Church was the formal reopening of the building last Sunday after extensive repairs had been made. The church stands to-day as one of the most up-to-date church buildings in Canada. A broad cement walk leads up to the main entrance. As work is being finished, it leaves nothing to be desired. The electrical fixtures are rich and beautiful, the auditorium

is finished in beautiful style, and the choir room and pastor's vestry are models of convenience and comfort. Outside the handsome appearance of the edifice lends dignity and charm to the village in which it is situated.

The Rev. Dr. W. D. Reid, pastor of Taylor Church, Montreal, was the preacher at the re-opening services, and delivered two forceful and eloquent sermons, which were much appreciated by the large congregations that filled the church to the doors for both. At the evening service he was assisted by the Rev. George Whillans, of Georgetown. The choir was assisted by Miss Bennett, of St. Paul's Church choir, and by Mr. Walter A. Shanks, leader of the choir of the Huntingdon Church. Dr. and Mrs. Shanks, leaders of the choir, are to be congratulated on the excellence of the music rendered, through their efforts largely, the praise services of the day having been rendered memorable ones.

Brief Historical Sketch.

The history of the Riverfield and Howick Presbyterian churches are interesting. The Howick church was first opened as a mission, looked after by the pastor of the Riverfield congregation.

The birth of the Riverfield church dates back to 1845, when services were first held in the school house by several missionaries from Massachusetts. The little group of worshippers were first organized into a congregation by the Rev. James Feltes in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Canada in 1848. At that time a frame building was erected on a piece of ground given by the late James Houston. Here the congregation met for worship until 1870, when they moved into the present stone church.

In the year 1850 the Rev. James Feltes returned to Scotland, and the Rev. William Troun was the next minister for four years after he left. The Rev. John Milne next took over the pastorate for five years, after which a call was given to the Rev. Alexander Young, of St. Thomas, Ont. He was inducted to supply Riverfield and Ormstown, but after one year he found the distance too far to supply both stations on the same day, and the presbytery relieved him from Ormstown. A preaching station was opened by him in Howick in the year 1860 under the name of English River and Howick congregational. The Rev. A. Young, receiving a call from Calvin Church, Montreal, left on January 1, 1867.

The Rev. Charles M. McKeracher was the next pastor. Mr. McKeracher was born in Aberfeldy, Perthshire, Scotland, in 1827; was a graduate of Edinburgh University, taking theology at the Free Church College, Edinburgh, and a post-graduate theological course at Princeton Seminary. Not only was he a man of scholarship and culture, but a man devoted to his God and people. During his ministry, which covered twenty-nine years, the two churches were built. The stone church at Riverdale was opened for services in 1870, and Knox Church, Howick in 1871. Mr. McKeracher died in 1897 and is still survived by his widow, three sons, Grant, now in the west; the Rev. William, of Montreal; George, in the west; and Mrs. (Rev.) Wallace, of Corunna. After the much lamented death of Mr. McKeracher the congregation called the Rev. J. W. McLeod, who remained as their pastor for seven years. Mr. McLeod, who is still active in the West, is one of the strong preachers of the present day.

The Rev. John Kellock, M.A., was then called, and a man of marked energy, he remained for five years. He was succeeded by the present pastor, the Rev. R. T. Ballantyne. English River and Howick congregation is in many respects a model congregation in their missionary zeal.

The manse in which their minister lives is one of the best, if not the best, in the Presbytery of Montreal, either in the city or country. It is a large brick building equipped with all the modern conveniences of a city home, and this year a telephone was installed.—Montreal Witness.