

Western Canadian Church Notes

Presbyterian

[By J. Richmond Craig]

The spirited protest against "Undue haste in the translation of ministers from one charge to another," at last Presbytery meeting held in Chalmers Church, was refreshing. It was also in good time, and in good place. We are altogether too accommodating, when other Presbyteries come out after our best men. Of course, if a man wants to go, we should let him go, but his release should be granted, according to the "Blue Book," and not according to the dictates of the congregation calling him. That a warning should be sounded at the same time that such undue haste was liable to lead us into the by-paths of Congregationalism, was however surprising. Many of us think we have been meandering, off and on, in these "dangerous" ways for quite a while.

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We are, nevertheless, strictly Presbyterian, in some things. One of the Kail-yaird men writes somewhere of "The man in our Presbytery who moved the resolutions, and who never moved anything else." Westminster Presbytery has men who move resolutions. It has also men who do not. The resolutions at last meeting were to the point, though somewhat belated, and have had a salutary effect upon our constituency. It was high time that attention should be called to the degrading and demoralizing influence of the so-called Sunday Evening Recruiting Concerts in the city. It would be interesting to find out (if it were at all possible) just how many recruits such gatherings procured for the forces. Also the calibre of such recruits, if any.

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On the other hand, one of our Presbyterian Churches has, during the last month, placed on its honor roll the names of over thirty young men who have joined the colors as a direct result of the minister's appeal to the people. And they are all men of whom any church might well be proud.

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A young and promising student, after preaching in a famous divine's pulpit, ventured to ask the "beadle" what he thought of his "effort." "Well," replied the canny sermon-taster, "It was splendid, but you would have done better if you had begun just where you left off." This criticism might well apply to some of the halfhour talks that are being given at the Presbytery meetings on educational topics. They are all excellent, but somewhat elementary. Almost every minister has taken off the top sod: we want to hear from the man who has gone deeper down.