

Ministers and Churches.

OUR TORONTO LETTER. The Balance Sheet.

Toronto Presbyterians come as near being satisfied in these days, as any good Presbyterian will allow himself to become. The annual meetings are being held, and the showing for the year is uniformly good. Of course the green visaged men will remind us that we are not to look on the outward appearance, but, on the whole, we are not afraid to go deeper. It has been a good year. The blessing of God has manifestly rested upon our Churches.

Knox Church reports all current liabilities met, and a floating debt of \$2219 wiped out. The total receipts for the year were \$14,043.72, of which \$2,788.50 was for missions. After a pastorate of 20 years Dr. Parsons will retire from the active pastorate of Knox Church and from the active duties of the ministry. He has served many years, and is now beyond the three score years and ten. He will still retain his status as "pastor emeritus," but a younger man will assume the active duties. Nothing is being said of the sale of the present property, but, we believe, the project has not been dropped. The present membership stands at 520. It is proposed to give to Dr. Parsons a retiring allowance of \$200 per annum.

Old St. Andrews, after meeting an unusual expenditure reported a balance of \$110.87 to the good. It is significant that the open plate collections in this Church have increased by 25% during the year. The new organ recently put in, is a decided advantage in the service of praise, and more than sufficient has been subscribed to pay for it. They are a social body of Christians in Old St. Andrews, and finished the annual meeting over a cup of tea. Does the congregation reflect the spirit of the man who leads it? Certainly no more genial or hospitable soul can be found, even in the manses, than the minister of Old St. Andrews.

St. Paul's Church is working quietly, but persistently and with success. There are big sisters to East and South, yet she pluckily holds her own, and better. She became independent in '99. The Augmentation Fund has helped her formerly, but six months ago, she said,—"Thank you. I can stand by myself now!" She walks very cautiously yet, but very erect, and her members keep splendid step. There are 231 members on the roll here, and after meeting all expenses, reports a balance of \$35.17. Rev. G. R. Fasken is to be congratulated.

Another bright little congregation lies just west of St. Paul—viz. Dovercourt, where Rev. S. Carruthers has infused a good share of his own enthusiasm into the people to whom he ministers. They too resolved to stand alone last year, and dropped an Augmentation grant of \$200. In spite of this a balance of \$261.90 to the credit of the congregation is reported. The year has been an exceptionally encouraging one, and pastor and people rejoice together.

Westminster reports a membership of 730, having added 96 during the past year, 51 however, were removed, leaving the net gain 45. They began the year with a deficit, and, though this has not been entirely cleared off, it has been materially reduced. The total revenue for the year was \$12,750. The congregation hopes to pay off \$10,000 of its Church debt during the current year. Session and minister, Rev. J. Neil, work well together.

St. John's Church, Rev. J. McP. Scott, has an enviable record for liberality especially toward the foreign mission work. Statistics sometimes lie. Those for St. John's Church would indicate that matters have been standing still, which is far from being the case. The work has been very much alive, but the net results seem small. The present membership is 323. A marked feature of this congregation's work is its fine Sabbath School, with a membership of 622.

St. Andrew's Church reports an excellent year, even though Rev. Armstrong Black, the new minister,

has been but a few months with them. They have reduced the mortgage debt of \$2000, raised \$1,783 for missions, met all current expenditure and report a balance of almost \$700. This congregation has repeatedly suffered from false statements in the newspapers, and one is glad to know the actual facts are so encouraging.

West Presbyterian Church reports a good year too. There is a comfortable nest egg of \$201 with which to begin the new year. The roll now numbers 855 members, and there are 650 in the Sabbath School. All parts of the work are reported in good condition, and the wheels run smoothly.

Bonar Church, under Rev. Alex. MacGillivray, has reached a membership of 235. Here too there is a surplus, after paying all expenses, and paying \$500 off the Church debt. The large Sabbath School of 459 taxes the working capacity of the congregation to the utmost. Already the younger generation are looking to the increase of these burdens, for 114 of them have begun a sinking fund, reaching in one year the respectable total of \$214, for the purpose of building a handsome church when they shall take their place at the Managers' Board.

Knox will gravitate towards the familiar College hall next week. The Conference of the Alumni begins on Monday next, and ends with a grand dinner on the following Friday. The programme for this year is an excellent one, and if the dinner be anything like last year, and if said that it will, the close of the Conference will leave a good taste in the mouth of the children of Knox. Her sons should make a point of coming to see her next week.

Old St. Andrews was crowded to the doors on Sabbath evening last. Dr. Milligan was stating the problem of the Book of Job. He thinks God raised up this writer, and gave him the germ of his drama in the history of Job, that he might expel a false belief by the true doctrine. The writer of the Book of Job was the Luther of his time. We do not wonder that men are in the majority, and young men are more numerous than the old, in Old St. Andrews. The man who speaks to you thinks, and he makes you think. Not always as he does, but this does not keep you from going back to hear him.

EASTERN ONTARIO.

The Presbyterian Church, Hastings, intends holding anniversary services on Sabbath, Feb. 18th.

Rev. Jas. Bryant, of Richmond, conducted the services in the Glebe Presbyterian Church, Ottawa, last Sabbath.

Rev. W. S. Smith, of St. Paul's Church, Middleville, has been chosen Moderator of the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew.

The annual meeting of St. Andrew's Church, Perth, was held Jan. 8. The church appears to be in a very flourishing condition.

The annual meeting of the Portsmouth Presbyterian Mission held their annual meeting on Jan. 18. The reports were all very encouraging.

Rev. Mr. Rattray, pastor of the Eganville and Lake Doré Presbyterian congregations, was presented with an address and a purse of money.

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Middleville, has had a most encouraging year. Reports show that all branches of the church work have been well kept up.

Rev. A. S. Grant preached last Sunday morning in St. Andrews Church, Almonte, and in the evening in St. John's church, in the interest of the Century Fund.

Rev. John Hay, of Cobourg, has decided, much to the regret of his congregation, to accept the call from Renfrew. Mr. Hay will preach his farewell sermon on Jan. 28.

The call from the congregations of Oliver's Ferry and Port Emsley to the Rev. Mr. Crombie, licentiate, has been accepted, and his ordination and induction arranged for early in February.

Last Sabbath the new Sunday School of St. Andrew's Church, Lindsay, was dedicated. Rev.

R. Johnston, of London, the former pastor, assisted Rev. J. W. MacMillan, the present pastor.

The annual meeting of Zion Church, Carleton Place, was held on Jan. 10. The chair was occupied by Rev. A. A. Scott, the pastor. The reports were adopted with many expressions of satisfaction.

St. Andrew's pulpit, Belleville, was occupied last Sabbath by Mr. Potter, of Kingston, home missionary to the sailors between Toronto and Montreal. Mr. Potter gave a very interesting account of this serving work.

The anniversary services of St. Andrew's Church Carleton Place, were held on Jan. 14. Rev. Dr. McDonald, formerly pastor of the congregation, but now of Dundee, conducted the services. On Monday evening a very enjoyable social was held.

The annual meeting of St. John's congregation, Almonte, was held on Jan. 17. The session report shows the membership to be 331, while the managers' report shows an increase over last year, and there is a balance on hand of \$41.36. At the close of the business, the ladies served refreshments, and an enjoyable hour was spent in social intercourse.

WESTERN ONTARIO.

Rev. R. J. M. Glassford, of Guelph, preached anniversary sermons in St. Mary's last Sunday.

Secretary Rodgers of the Y.M.C.A. preached in Erskine Church, Hamilton, last Sunday morning.

Rev. R. Douglas Fraser preached for St. Andrew's Church, London, in the Auditorium last Sunday.

The anniversary of Knox Church, Hamilton, was held last Sabbath when Rev. H. A. McPherson of Acton preached at both services.

Rev. Dr. Campbell preached in Chalmers Church Guelph, last Sabbath morning, and Rev. Alex. Grant, of St. Mary's, preached in the evening.

At the annual meeting of St. John's Church, Hamilton, it was shown that things are in a very flourishing condition. The treasurer's report showed a surplus, and there are 494 communicants.

The annual meeting of Knox Church, St. Catharines, was held on Jan. 17. The treasurer's report showed the finances of the church to be in a flourishing condition. The following were elected as trustees for a period of three years: I. Marshall, C. O. Borrowman, A. Hodge and D. Robertson.

Last Sabbath the First Presbyterian Church, London, held its anniversary services. Rev. D. K. Drummond, of St. Thomas, preached both morning and evening. The first offering of the congregation for the Century Fund was made and amounted to \$2,703.24. This offering was entirely voluntary no canvassing having been done. Three more collections of the same nature are to be taken up, and the sum aimed at is \$8,000.

The annual meeting of Knox Church, Binbrook, was held Jan. 19. The financial report showed a balance on hand to the credit of the congregation. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: secretary and treasurer, Mr. Arthur Flock; board of management, Messrs. McBride, McKinnel, Arthur and Marr; trustees of parsonage property, Messrs. Wright and Brown; ushers, Messrs. Moore and Wilson; librarian, Mr. John McBride. The meeting was brought to a close by an hour spent in partaking of refreshments and in social intercourse.

NORTHERN ONTARIO.

Rev. J. J. Cochrane, of Barrie, preached in the several appointments of the Bradford charge on Jan. 14.

Rev. Win. Gau'd, returned missionary from Formosa, gave a missionary address in Willis Church, Jarrett's Corners, on Jan. 19.

The annual meeting of Chalmers church, Flesherton, was held Jan. 18. The session report showed the present membership to be 135. The report touchingly referred to the long and painful illness borne by one of the session members, Mr. Joseph Blackburn, and also expressed gratitude at the restoration to health, of Mr. A. S. VanDusen. The treasurer's report showed the congregation to be in a good condition financially. It was reported that \$750 had been subscribed to the Century Fund, and \$300 was added by those present at the meeting.