

He graduated in arts at McGill and in theology at Knox College.

He ministered at Prescott and Belleville, and in 1879 accepted the pastorate of the Northern Congregational church, Toronto, returning, however, to the Presbyterian fold some three or four years ago since which time he has ministered at Gravenhurst, Ont. He was quite a figure in the religious life of the province. A clear thinker, a scholar, and a ready speaker, he combined many elements of strength in the pastorate. He had a facility as a writer and contributed freely to the religious press of the province, thus reaching a wide constituency. While in Toronto he identified himself closely with several movements which his ministerial brethren inaugurated and was an influential member of the Ministerial Association. He was a public-spirited man, a good type of the citizen-pastor and a most estimable man.

ONTARIO PROHIBITION CONVENTION.

The forthcoming Convention is looked forward to as possessing more than usual interest. The prohibition movement, or cause, is in such a condition that decided action is believed to be necessary at once, and no step will be left untried in order to arouse the Christian sentiment of the country. The arrangements made for the gathering are of the usual description but the "Call" has a ringing tone which indicates the grave anxiety of the Executive Committee, as to the future.

The Committee believes it to be hardly possible that the Dominion Plebiscite can be delayed later than the summer of 1898; there is only time enough for thorough preparation. The Ontario legislation enacted last session, it is stated, fell far short of what ought to have been reasonable and right in the enactment of progressive temperance legislation. The term of the Legislature will expire inside another year, and this fact, together with the failure of the present members to fairly represent public opinion on prohibition, makes more imperative than ever the duty of planning to secure the election of an Assembly that can be relied upon to carry out the will of the people, by the enactment and enforcement of such efficient restrictive legislation as is within provincial jurisdiction. The committee will place this view before the Convention.

In no country in the world is temperance sentiment stronger than in Canada. Nowhere has the sentiment been more definitely expressed. Yet the liquor traffic still holds its ground, working continued moral and material desolation and death. The situation demands more determined and aggressive action on the part of Christian citizens, so that minor considerations and unworthy machinations may not be allowed to interfere longer for the protection of an evil that public opinion has so emphatically condemned. The approaching convention will be the seventeenth annual meeting of the Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance. It will be comprehensive in its character and we hope more fruitful in practical results than any prohibition gathering that has preceded it."

The determination to launch a popular agitation will be found in these extracts from the official circular, and it is to be hoped the objects aimed at will be attained. We observe that all Church congregations and Young People's Societies are entitled to representation.

THE HIRSCH FUND.

The present day interest in the Jews may fairly be said to have its source in the missionary spirit and appeals of McChesney and the sainted Banars. For more than half a century the interest then aroused has been growing and is shared by the churches in all the English speaking countries. God's chosen people have a special claim on the Gospel,

and it is but natural that those who have experienced the blessings of Christianity should hold in high regard the claims of the people through whom the Messiah came.

Baron Hirsch's munificence on behalf of the down-trodden waifs and strays of his race received a welcome from Christendom no less sincere than was the feeling of sorrow and indignation caused in the civilized world by the cruelties perpetrated on these helpless people by Russian Barbarism. Hirsch did much in his lifetime for his needy people and his widow has supplemented it by a most generous donation for the furtherance of the same benevolent designs. She has given one million dollars to aid the destitute Jews of New York, and the first instalment of that gift, amounting to \$400,000 has just been paid over to trustees who are to administer it. Of this latter sum, one hundred and fifty thousand dollars is to be applied to the erection and endowment of a manual training school for Russian and Roumanian Jews, and the balance is to be devoted to the improvement of the condition of the needy residing in the overcrowded tenement district on the East Side. This is to be accomplished by inducing families to remove from their present places of abode to larger and healthier ones, the difference in rent being paid out of the fund; also, by affording a change of condition and environment for such Jews as are mechanical or agricultural in their tastes, advancing money for farms for the latter and enabling the former to take up quarters in suburban towns which offer the facilities they need. The progress of this philanthropic work will be watched with great interest, not only because it is designed to ameliorate the lot of the Jews but also as an experiment in practical, social reform. The result may show how the lot of the poor may be brightened and a means furnished whereby the wrecks of life's battle may be restored.

Puro at the Fountain.

Referring to the "hospital grant" made by the Toronto Street Railway of its first Sunday earnings, an Orillia correspondent forcibly argues that it is high time the church looked more closely than she sometimes does now, "into the source and motive from which money for 'God's work' comes."

The Leaders Leaving.

The holiday season has fairly opened and among the first departures to be noted are the Moderator, Rev. Dr. Moore who goes to Ireland, the land of his birth, for a brief trip, accompanied by his brother; Rev. Dr. Caven has also left for Britain; and Rev. Dr. Robertson has gone west to the Kootenay and other British Columbia mining regions, where his presence will do much to encourage the workers at the camps who often labour under hard conditions.

The New Australian Constitution.

The recognition of God in the constitution of Federated Australia, is agitating the Australian mind at present. At a convention recently, it was decided not to make any reference to religion in the draft constitution, but this is held by many to have been an unnecessary concession to the secular feeling abroad in the land. Great Britain and the United States are cited as examples to be followed, and it is pointed out that recognition of God is made now by the colonies, on their coins, in their courts of justice, in the official speeches of the Governors, in all government proclamations, in the death sentence of criminals, and in other ways. Let us hope the good sense of the people will prevail and that the recognition of the Deity will have due place in the new constitution.

* FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS:—Any one desiring copies of the Foreign Mission Report for distribution in congregations, will please apply within the next two weeks; only the number applied for will be printed.—R. P. Mackay.