

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

During the past week the Foreign Mission Committee has held its semi-annual meeting in Toronto. Indeed we might call this the annual meeting, for in importance it is equal to all other meetings of that committee held during the year. In addition to the ordinary business claiming attention the sad news was confirmed that Dr. Mackay of Formosa is indeed seriously ill. The malady from which he suffers has taken a malignant turn, and the end is only a matter of a brief time. Dr. Mackay has been such a power in Formosa that the first effect of this sad intelligence is paralyzing. How shall we fill his place? But if it be true that in a very short time his place will be empty, and there seems no reason to hope for anything else, then that place has been filled and he who was chosen for it enters into well earned rest. No other will step into the vacant place, but others will take up the work where he left it off, and carry it forward from that point. Even Dr. Mackay would not have continued as he began, and would have found it necessary to adapt himself to new conditions. He has done magnificent preparatory work, work that perhaps no other could have done. He has prepared the way for his successor, who may even now be ready to carry on the work.

Even though we know this a feeling of sadness comes over us when great men fall out of the ranks. We have come to depend upon them and cannot see how the work shall go on when they drop it. And Dr. Mackay has been a great man, and is a great man. When one remembers the conditions under which he began work there three decades ago, and notes the conditions under which he leaves it, one is conscious of contemplating a nineteenth century marvel. Even Uganda and the New Hebrides are dwarfed before it. For the work in Formosa is peculiar in this that it is carried on by native Christians, and though even the head be taken away the work is so firm a foundation that it will move on as before. We are told that the native Christians are greatly agitated at the sad news. That is natural, but the work will go on. There will be no cessation in it.

The representative of the National Council of the Free Churches of England, the Rev. J. M. G. Owen, visited Toronto last week. This organization is a union of the forces of several of the strongest Nonconformist Churches in England, and Mr. Owen hopes to effect similar organization of the forces of the sister churches in this country. It is felt that there should be a union of forces to battle with common foes, and to secure aggressive movement upon points where all are at one. The question of temperance, for example, of the observance or the preservation of the Sabbath, the proclamation of the simple Gospel to all men, and especially the effort to reach the non-church goer amongst ourselves; even the spread of the Gospel in the newer parts of our own land, on all these there might be co-operation, and if there were such working together, our work would be most effective. The movement has been most successful in England, and the Methodist, Baptist, Congregational and Presbyterian Churches are combined in it there. The primary work is the preaching of the Gospel, and the great simultaneous Mission, that has been so marked a feature of the religious life of the late winter months, owes its origin largely to this Free Church Movement.

Another important meeting held during the last week is the annual meeting of the Young Men's Christian Association. There have been meetings at other centres also. From all of them there is the same report. The past year has been a most successful one, one of the most successful in the history of the Association. The Toronto President, in speaking of the work among young men, deplored the lack of interest they seemed to feel in the Church. There are evils lurking in the path more thickly than ever before, and when the young man turns with averted face from the Church, and when, as is too often the case, the home influence is not Christian, there is need for the strengthening of the Y. M. C. A. It will need all its added strength to meet and combat the foes of the young man to-day.

Still another congregation has decided to call. The Queensville church, one of the prettiest rural charges, though weak numerically in the Presbytery will call Mr. McArthur at the June meeting of the Presbytery. Mr. Mc-

Arthur is a graduate of the present year, and took a good course in Knox College. He enters upon his work in Queensville at a beautiful season of the year, and ere the winter closes down will have taken the measure of his field, and mapped out his work. There are still four charges within the Presbytery that are without pastors, and four will be settled before mid-summer.

The Rev. John Kay, M. A., lately minister of Deer Park congregation, has received a unanimous call to Norwich, and has decided to accept it. Mr. Kay is in the fullness of his ministry, though he may be past the dead line of fifty. We commend the wisdom of the congregation that chooses for its pastor a man of such mature judgement. It stands to reason that experience should count for more in the ministry than in any other calling in life. Too often it stands for less, and congregations excuse any amount of rawness in the youth fresh from College rather than call a man among whose hairs the grey is showing. There will be a reaction, and we are glad to see that here and there is a congregation that chooses the best man available whether he be thirty or sixty. We congratulate the Norwich congregation.

Eastern Ontario.

Rev. Geo. C. McLean, of Aberdeen, Scotland, was the preacher in St. John's church, Almonte, last Sabbath.

Rev. Donald McLean of Arnprior, Ont., spent some days last week at the home of his brother-in-law, George Munro, North Main street, Lancaster.

The Rev. J. J. Cochrane, M. A., of Barrie, conducted the services at Victoria Harbor on Sunday evening last. His discourse was listened to with great attention.

Rev. D. D. McLennan, of Apple Hill, occupied the pulpit of the Presbyterian church, Maxville, on Sunday. Rev. Mr. Cormack preached at Apple Hill and Gravel Hill the same day.

Anniversary services were held in Knox church, Owen Sound, on Sunday last, being conducted by Rev. John Kay, M. A., of Toronto. A well attended entertainment was held on Monday evening.

Some months ago Knox church, Perth, secured the services of Mr. C. C. Forsyth, as organist and choir leader, and it is now an established fact that the church managers have acted wisely in securing such an able leader.

A very pleasant time was spent at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Greig, Almonte, on Tuesday, by some of the ladies of St. John's church, on the occasion of an informal reception to Mrs. W. McKenzie, well and favorably known when she resided there, her husband, the late Rev. W. McKenzie, being pastor of St. John's for a long time.

A large number of the members of St. Andrew's church (Lanark town hall) mission, met Tuesday evening to hear the report of the delegates who attended the Synod meeting in Montreal. After the report was presented it was unanimously decided to continue the mission until the Presbytery took action according to the deliverance of the Synod, when another meeting will be called to discuss the question.

The St. Elmo church has been thoroughly renovated, and two class rooms added for the convenience of the Sabbath School; and the church now presents a very attractive appearance. Last Sabbath Rev. James Hastie, of Cornwall, conducted anniversary services; and on Tuesday evening Rev. Dr. McKay, of Crescent church, Montreal, gave his popular lecture, "The First Invention," to a large audience.

The Rev. J. W. McMillan, M. A., of Lindsay, one of the strong young men of the church, has been unanimously called to Fort Massey church, Halifax, in succession to Rev. Alfred Gandier, now pastor of St. James Square, Toronto. St. Andrew's, Lindsay, will not give up Mr. Macmillan very willingly, as the church has already furnished three pastors to large city congregations, viz.: the Rev. J. Allaster Murray, to St. Andrew's, London; Rev. Dr. McTavish, to Central church, Toronto; and, more recently Rev. Dr. Johnston, also to St. Andrew's, London. Mr. Macmillan is greatly beloved in Lindsay; and should he decide to accept the tempting invitation from down by the sea many outside his own congregation and denomination will regret his leaving.

Western Ontario.

The Rev. E. C. Currie, Delhi, has been called to Burn's Church and Moore Line.

New Zealand with a death-rate of less than 12 per 1000 a year, is the most healthy of all the British Colonies.

Lord Roberts never wearies of preaching temperance to the Army. He speaks no doubt, from the fulness of an Indian experience.

Dr. Marion Oliver of Indore, Central India, arrived home (Avon bank) on Wednesday of last week, having taken some time on the way visiting friends and points of interest.

Rev. M. N. Bethune, Aylmer, has tendered his resignation to London Presbytery, which was received, and the congregation is to be cited to appear for its interests at next meeting.

The red brick house on the property of Rev. Dr. Thompson, Cromwell street, Sarnia, is being pulled down. It was one of the old landmarks of the town, and was formerly the home of the late Hon. Alexander Mackenzie.

Rev. Mr. Milloy, West Lorne, a venerable minister, now in his 80th year, and who has always enjoyed the respect and affection of his brethren and people, has resigned, and the Presbytery of London accepted the resignation.

Rev. J. B. Mullan, Fergus, conducted the services at Chalmers church, Guelph, last Sunday, preaching enjoyable and interesting discourses. Rev. Mr. Glassford was preaching re-opening sermons at Union Presbyterian church, Georgetown.

At the London Presbytery Mr. John McLean, elder from Rodney and New Glasgow, and Mr. Eli Davis, from North Street Church, Westminster, Mr. James Meek, from Port Stanley; Mr. Thomas Baty, Westminster; Mr. D. A. McNab, from Chalmers church, Dunwich, were added to the list of commissioners to the General Assembly.

At London Presbytery Dr. Proudfoot made a statement as to his resignation from the chair of homiletics and pastoral theology in Knox College, and the Presbytery of London asked the Presbytery to apply for permission to place his name on the aged and infirm ministers' fund and to retain his name on the roll of the Presbytery.

Mr. Hugh Munro, B. A., of Toronto University and Knox College has been unanimously chosen to be assistant to Rev. Dr. DuVal of Knox church, Winnipeg. St. Andrew's congregation, probably the largest in Winnipeg, is also moving in the direction of securing an assistant to Rev. Joseph Hogg. Both these ministers have done yeoman service for the church in Winnipeg and throughout the prairie province; and none too soon is the heavy burden being lightened for them.

Rev. D. Y. Ross, M. A., has entered on the sixth year of his pastorate in St. George. Last Sabbath anniversary services in connection with the happy event were conducted by Rev. J. B. Mullan, of Fergus, both morning and evening. These services were greatly enjoyed by all present. On Monday evening a very dainty tea was served in the manse to a large number of people. This was followed by an entertainment in the church, over which Rev. Mr. Ross presided. The feature of the evening was the address by Mr. Mullan on "Our National Emblem and How we Got It," which was not only interesting and instructive but very amusing.

There are in the presbytery of London, 37 pastoral charges, comprising 56 preaching stations. Of these, 5 received aid from the augmentation fund, and 2, Chalmers Church, London, and St. George's, received aid from the First Church, London, and St. George's received aid from the First Church, London, and Knox, London, and St. Andrew's, London, respectively. There are no mission stations. The congregations are made up of 4,823 families, as against 3,873 in 1899, an apparent loss of 50 families. Communicants number 8,371, as against 8,215 in 1899 an increase of 156. There were added during the year on profession of faith, 320; by certificate, 383; otherwise 211; total of 722.

The fifth annual meeting of the London Presbytery's Young People's Societies was held at Glencoe last week where a number of reports and papers were read. At the evening meeting the retiring president, Mr. J. H. Barnett, Kintyre, delivered an address and introduced the new president, Rev. J. Wilson, Glencoe, who presided. A report of work during the year was given by Rev. W. M. Kay, Dorchester, and its reception was moved by John Currie, Bel-