

## Church Life and Work

### *A Notable Tribute to a Vancouver Minister*

If ever a minister was given reason to be proud, that happened in Vancouver on the last Tuesday of this month of October, when the call from Chalmers Church, Toronto, to Rev. J. W. Woodside, M. A., at present minister of Mount Pleasant congregation, came before the "Presbytery of Westminster," as the Farthest West Court of the Presbyterian Church in Canada is called. Mr. Woodside is the present Moderator of the Presbytery, and after the other business was disposed of, he left the chair that the call might be dealt with.

Genial, hearty, sometimes it may be a little bluff and plain-spoken among his brethren of the Church and kindred work, the Pastor of Mount Pleasant congregation received such a public testimonial from many representatives of his Vancouver charge as has probably seldom been equalled and never surpassed.

The appeals made before the Presbytery might fairly have been reckoned "a second call" to Mr. Woodside by his church. They spoke eloquently for minister and people alike. They revealed that Mr. Woodside had not only entered very fully into the life of his people, but had proved himself an excellent organizer and supervisor of the various departments of church life and work. A deputation of fifteen attended the Presbytery and seven or eight voiced the feelings of the congregation.

Rev. Professor Pidgeon having been requested to present the claim of Chalmers Church, Toronto, suggested that "the tide had turned," and that whereas the West had hitherto been drawing from the ministerial ranks in Eastern Canada, the East was now seeking some of the best men in the West.

Mr. Thompson, the Session Clerk of Mount Pleasant congregation, opened the case for the Vancouver charge, and in urging that Mr. Woodside be retained in his present position, made a strong speech characterised by wit and humour as well as earnest appeal. Mr. Thompson's speech incidentally revealed that the calibre and work of the Mount Pleasant church officials generally must have contributed not a little to the success of the minister and congregation.

Several other gentlemen representing various organizations in the church, also spoke with emphasis and native eloquence. They included "the youngest elder" of the church—who is indeed a young "elder"—and the choirmaster, mention of whose office led one minister to remark that that was the first time he had heard of a choirmaster coming forward to urge that a minister be retained.

The pleas for retention of Mr. Woodside in Vancouver were closed by one speaker from a group of ladies present and her remarks were not less pointed and forceful in their appeal.