

The Rector's 25th Anniversary

On Sunday, October 1st, 1911, the Bishop officiated in this church, it being the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Rev. Rural Dean Ridley as rector of the parish. The Bishop preached both morning and evening, his sermons being eminently practical and applicable to the social occasion. With great power andunction his Lordship clearly defined the responsibility and duties of the ministerial office, and the mutual claims of both pastor and people. He paid a very high tribute to the rector, whose work during his long pastorate in the parish had been so very successful, and of his standing, character and influence in the Diocese. Galt was one of the very best parishes and had in every way been foremost in every good work and had sustained a very prominent place in contributing to all diocesan and missionary funds. He heartily congratulated the parishioners on the happy state of affairs, and bespoke for both rector and people continued prosperity. In addition to the spiritual growth of the parish which was all that could be desired, he was extremely gratified to learn that nearly \$120,000.00 had been contributed by the congregation for parochial and other purposes, and all by direct giving, and one fact had just come to his notice which spoke volumes for rector and people, that in connection with the additional outlay for the new Parish Hall, now nearing completion, involving nearly \$150,000.00, the rector had not asked a single individual to sign his name for any amount. He had simply taken their word of honour. Where such harmony and implicit confidence between pastor and people existed, signatures were unnecessary, as one's word of honour was of infinitely more value. It was certainly a unique fact and one which was worthy of being known. The new hall was a thing of beauty and would long remain a monument of the zeal and liberality of the parishioners; and a lasting memorial of their esteemed rector. As a centre of church life it would be invaluable, and therefore this anniversary day was in every way one on which they all had reason to rejoice. The services were very bright and hearty and the church was prettily decorated for the occasion. The following, clipped from the Galt Daily Reporter's editorials, speaks for itself as to the respect and esteem in which the Rural Dean is held by the community at large: "The Rev. Rural Dean Ridley, who has served his parishioners for twenty-five years, can look back upon a well-spent life as rector of Trinity Church. It is not every spiritual adviser who is able to attach himself to his congregation and the community in which he lives as the esteemed Rural Dean, whose ministrations have been of inestimable value to the people under his charge. The reverent gentleman's broad catholic spirit has kept him deeply interested in not only all classes within his communion, but also in the members of other churches. His charity of thought and action and his hearty word of encouragement have done not a little to assuage the distress of scores of citizens. As an administrator he has been a distinct success, the present position of the parish with its beautiful place of worship and a very handsome new Sabbath School, bearing witness to his undoubted leadership. Men of the character of the Rev. Mr. Ridley—and we have not a few in this country—largely assist in moulding public sentiment and public character.