

# The Canadian Churchman and Its Editor

Rev. L. N. TUCKER, D.C.L., London, Ontario

I COUNT it both a pleasure and a privilege to be allowed to introduce to the readers of the "Canadian Churchman" its new editor, Mr. R. W. Allin, who should enter upon his important task with the hearty goodwill of all the members of the Church. And in doing so I may perhaps be allowed to say a few words.

The "Canadian Churchman" may fairly be called one of the established institutions of the Church. It is one of the few Church journals that have survived the past generation. It has been one of the chief organs of the Church during a period of remarkable extension and development. It is capable of rendering still greater service in the future than it has done in the past. To lengthen its cords and strengthen its stakes is to render an important service to the Church.

It is to be feared that Churchmen in general do not fully realize the value of a good Church paper, if we may judge by the number of families where a Church paper is unknown. Such a visitor would seem to be essential to the vigorous life and growth of the Church. In a vast and thinly-peopled country like ours, families, parishes and even dioceses lead a very isolated life. Distance, bad roads, inclement weather and other causes make attendance even on the weekly services of the Church difficult. Parishes are brought into contact with their neighbours only at long intervals. Even dioceses can know but little of the larger life of the Church that lies beyond their boundaries. They are very liable to become self-centred, stagnant and pessimistic. Their attachment and loyalty to the Church have a tendency to become traditional and perfunctory. And the best way of remedying this defect is the widespread circulation of a good Church paper.

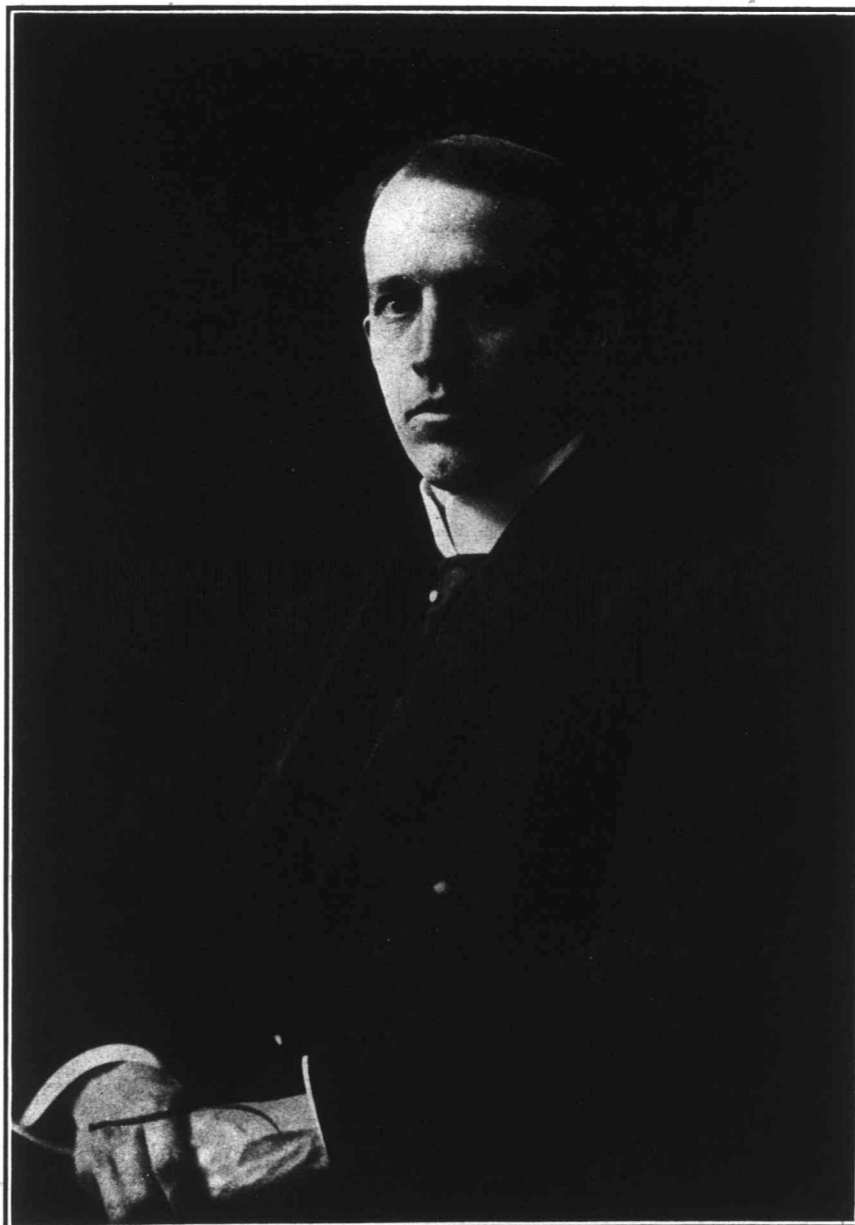
It may not be out of place to mention some of the most salient features that should mark such a publication. It should, in the first place, contain abundant information regarding the most important events that take place in our parishes and dioceses. This more than anything else serves to bind the various sections of the Church together, and make them realize the unity and power of the whole body. Knowledge is the best cure for discouragement, and the best generator of enthusiasm. A bird's-eye view of the work of the whole Church should be placed before the eyes of all its members; and this can only be done through the medium of a Church paper.

All Church members should be kept in touch with the great religious movements of the day. We are made citizens of the world through the secular press. We should, in like manner, be made citizens of the religious world through our Church papers. There is no excuse now-a-days for any member of the Church to be ignorant of the world-wide movements that are shaping the Church and the world of the future. And this can only be satisfactorily done through the reading of the printed page.

In like manner our Church members should be kept abreast of the plans and doings of the organizations that are at work in the name and on behalf of our own Canadian Church. This would give greater vigour both to the men and the organizations. Intelligent interest is one of the fundamental conditions of representative government.

How can our people take an interest in the work of our Provincial Synods, of our General Synod, of the Sunday School Commission and of the Social Service Council unless they know something about them? And how can they know except through the medium of a Church paper?

Such a paper should be thoroughly Canadian in spirit. Our Church is now complete in its



R. W. ALLIN, M.A.,  
Manager Editor of the Canadian Churchman.

organization. That organization is exactly suited to our local conditions. What we now need is a more vigorous native spirit of enthusiasm and loyalty to make that organization effective. That spirit already exists and is bound to grow. It has already found, and is finding, expression in our Synods and nation-wide organizations, our Hymn Book and Revised Book of Common Prayer. But it needs to be stimulated, guided and made more articulate, by the aid of a wisely edited Church paper. And it must not be forgotten, in this connection, that the Church of England stands for the independent genius and development of National Churches.

And it must be thoroughly Anglican in tone. The Church of England is not only an organization, it is also a system. And we believe that it is the best system for the carrying out of the purposes of God in the world. For it is Scriptural and Apostolic, it has historic continuity, and, under the guidance of the Divine Spirit, it

is free in thought and action. It weaves its meshes around the individual from the cradle to the grave; and yet it is essentially social, not individualistic. In one word, it is a Church and not a sect. And it finds its complete expression in the Book of Common Prayer. This is the basis on which we should work, the platform on which we should unite. Loyalty to the Bible and the Prayer Book, to our history and traditions, should make our Church the most potent influence in our national life and the most effective agency for the working out of the purposes of God in the world.

And in Mr. Allin we seem to have found a man who is eminently qualified to steer the course of the "Canadian Churchman" at this important period in its history. Born in a Canadian home, nurtured under Church influences, trained in the University of Toronto, one of the largest and best of our great seats of learning, of a sympathetic and conciliatory disposition, deeply imbued with the missionary spirit, possessed of a marked literary faculty, with a wide knowledge of the men, the life and the work of the Church throughout the Dominion, having a first-hand knowledge of its needs and aspirations, all that he seems to need, under the Divine blessing, is the loyal support of the Church at large to enable him to make the "Canadian Churchman" one of the most powerful agencies in helping the Canadian Church to accomplish its high mission in the Dominion and in the world.

## WYCLIFFE COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT

OVER five hundred friends of the College met in Sheraton Memorial Hall, on Tuesday evening, April 4th, for the closing exercises of the 30th year of Wycliffe College. The President, Dr. N. W. Hoyles, was in the chair. The reports of Principal O'Meara and the Treasurer, Mr. F. C. Jarvis, showed a satisfactory year in spite of the present stress. The College has met every obligation, and has a balance on the right side. The voluntary subscriptions for the year amounted to \$17,500. (This does not include the interest from the Endowment.) Sixty-two men are on the Honour Roll, and four have laid down their lives in France. Many are the testimonials received of the splendid influence of the Wycliffe men, both combatants and Chaplains, among the soldiers.

Fifteen men were presented to the President for the diploma of the College, and the Rev. J. J. Callan was granted the diploma, in absentia, being Chaplain to the Eighth Brigade, C.F.A., now in England.

A unique feature of the Convocation was the enrolling of the name of the late H. B. Hodge on the list of graduates. He was killed in action in Flanders. Rev. W. H. Fry, who has been studying at the College for two years, is returning to Herschel Island, to resume his work among the Eskimos, and expects to complete his course extramurally. The gold medal for first place in the annual oratorical contest was given to Mr. W. F. Wallace. Mention was also made of the capture by Wycliffe men of the coveted Kerr Trophy, from McMaster University, given by the Inter-collegiate Debating Union. Rev. H. D. Raymond, Financial Secretary of the College for the past four years, and now Vicar of Trinity Church, Barrie, was presented with an illuminated address and a handsome chime clock, by the College Council.

Two splendid addresses by Rev. S. A. Selwyn and Rev. Dyson Hague, which were listened to with great interest, each being an earnest plea for men true and strong, to preach the simple Gospel of Jesus Christ, followed by prayer by the Right Rev. Dr. Lucas, Bishop of Mackenzie River, brought this most encouraging meeting to a close. Apologies for absence were read from the Bishop of Toronto, Bishop Reeve and President Falconer.