

## Church News

[All communications to this column ought to be sent to the Editor immediately after the occurrences to which they refer have taken place.]

### Montreal Notes.

The services at St. Giles' Church, Rev. I. R. Dobson, pastor, were of special interest last Sunday, for although the congregation has been worshipping in the building for a month past, this was the formal re-opening after the completion of the recent extension and other improvements. The preacher in the morning was the Rev. A. J. Mowatt of Erskine Church, and in the evening the Rev. Dr. Mackay of Crescent St. Large congregations were present on both occasions. In the evening especially the capacity of the building was taxed to the utmost. The work of reconstruction was begun in June last, at which time the church held about three hundred. The present edifice will hold nearly six hundred and besides is comfortably finished and furnished. The appearance of the interior is especially pleasing. The seating is something new for church edifices in Montreal, opera chairs being used of a movable kind, serviceable for both church and Sunday school purposes. The growth and progress of St. Giles' Church is worthy of note. What is now an active, self-supporting church of two hundred and twenty-five members, had no existence six years ago. The Sunday-school for this year has an average attendance of about two hundred and twenty-five teachers and scholars. The church, since its organization as a congregation two years ago, has drawn no help from any fund or other church. The work of enlargement and extension, however, has been generously helped by devoted friends in the city. The re-opening services will be continued next Sunday when the Rev. Mr. Flock will preach in the morning and the Rev. Prof. Ross in the evening.

A change was quietly introduced in Stanley St. Church last Sunday which possesses considerable significance as showing the trend of things in public worship. It is probably known to most of your readers that this congregation was organized a little over twenty years ago as an anti-organ church, being composed of members of Erskine church who were dissatisfied with the introduction of instrumental music into public worship at that time by the action of a large majority. In order to guard against any such violence to their convictions in the new organization it was provided that no such change should ever be introduced in its worship unless the congregation was absolutely unanimous in agreeing to it. As a result of the combined change of membership and change of view during the intervening years it was found by a vote taken a few months ago that there was a practical unanimity in favor of the change and no active dissent. An organ was accordingly placed in the church during the summer and was used for the first time in the services last Sunday. By an undesigned coincidence, owing to illness in the family of the pastor, the service in the morning was conducted by Dr. Scrimger who was moderator of the session at the time of its organization and preached the first sermon to the new congregation. There is now no Presbyterian church in the city in which instrumental music is not used in public worship.

The evangelistic services which for several weeks were held in Taylor Church have now closed, but a new series is in progress under Evangelist Gale at Point St. Charles. The Methodist, Congregational and Presbyterian churches have all united to make them successful, and the interest is steadily deepening. The topics presented are such as aim first of all at the quickening of spiritual life in the church members. If this end is gained the churches cannot fail to exercise an increased influence on the whole community. Happily there is no extensive alienation of the masses of the people from the churches. All are readily accessible to religious workers, and already largely responsive to their efforts.

The Sunday School Union of the Province is making a vigorous effort to increase the efficiency of the work being done, especially

in the country districts. Mr. G. H. Archibald, the travelling secretary, who is a graduate of the Springfield training school, is indefatigable in his zeal, holding local conventions and teachers' institutes wherever these can be arranged for with good effect. Last Monday morning he addressed a large meeting of the Ministerial Association on the Home Department of Sunday School work, and steps have been taken for the organization of a normal class especially for the advantage of theological students. As the future ministers of the churches will have largely the shaping of the Sunday school work in their congregations their thorough equipment is felt to be a matter of the greatest importance. If this experiment proves successful it may lead to something more extensive and more systematic in the future.

Miss Leyden, of Almonte, who a few weeks ago was appointed by the Foreign Mission Committee to the 'Central India Mission sailed by the "Parisian" for Liverpool on her way to the field. As she had resided for some two years in this city and was well-known to a considerable circle, especially in Stanley St. church which she attended, a number of friends gathered at the steamer to see her off, and wish her a pleasant voyage. Her early resolve to devote herself to this work was due to a missionary address delivered in her native church by Dr. Macdonald, of Dundee, Que., then of Carleton Place. Dr. Macdonald very appropriately took part in the designation service held in St. John's church, Almonte, on the 18th Sept. last.

### North-West Notes.

A manse is being erected at Selkirk for the new pastor, the Rev. J. M. Gray.

Mr. W. J. Small, B.A., the principal of the Birtle Indian Mission school, is spending a month's holiday in Ontario. The Government has recently expressed its approval of this school by increasing the grant so as to provide for 40 pupils instead of 25 the formerly authorized number.

The Rev. Andrew Chisholm, of Rapid City, has returned to his congregation after spending the summer in Scotland. He heard many famous preachers but the man who impressed him most was the Rev. Hugh Black the junior minister of Free St. George's, Edinburgh. His literary power and his ability to touch and sympathize with the needs of the present are conspicuous features which struck Mr. Chisholm.

The Presbytery of Winnipeg met on the 2nd of October and accepted the resignation of the Rev. Alex. McFarlane of Dugald. Representatives of the congregation were present who expressed great esteem for Mr. McFarlane and regret at the prospect of his removal. They proposed that the field be divided in such a way as to lessen considerably the amount of service required of Mr. McFarlane. But Mr. McFarlane whose strength has been reduced recently by an attack of typhoid fever, pressed his resignation on the ground of ill-health and the pastorate was dissolved.

On the recent departure of the Rev. John Hogg, of St. Giles, Winnipeg, for a six months holiday, his congregation made him a present of a purse of \$120.

The Winnipeg Executive of the Foreign Mission Committee has arranged for a conference of missionaries, teachers and other Indian mission workers to be held in St. Andrew's Church, Winnipeg, on the 5th, 6th and 7th of November. The object is stated to be "to ask for God's blessing on the work of evangelizing and educating the Indians, to compare the results of one another's experience, to discuss the methods which have been found most successful and to become better acquainted with one another and with the Committee." Papers are to be read on such subjects as "The Education of Indian Girls," "Helping the Home Life on the Reserve," "Preaching to Indians," "What is the best use to make of the clothing sent by the W.F.M.S.," etc., etc. The discussion of papers is to be varied by a public missionary meeting on Thursday evening and by a social meeting under the auspices of the local auxiliaries of the W.F.M.S. on Friday evening.

The first anniversary services in connection with the opening of St. Andrew's

Presbyterian Church, Lacombe, Alberta, N. W. T., were held on the 11th inst. The morning service was conducted by the Rev. John Fernie, ordained missionary in charge, and his sermon from Num. x. 12, was on "The changes in the wilderness." Owing to some misunderstanding about the unusual hour of meeting at 11 a. m., the attendance at this service was small.

At the evening service, the sermon was preached by the Rev. E. J. Cheguin, local Methodist minister, from John xvii. 21, on "The unity of the churches." At this service, held at the regular meeting hour, the attendance, although the church was not quite full, was very good, indeed. At both services, special collections to aid in the extinction of the debt of about \$170, which still remains on the church were made. Vigorous efforts are, with the energetic assistance of the Ladies' Aid, being made to clear off the debt by the end of the year, so that 1897 may be begun free from all liability in connection with the building.

### General.

Rev. Alex. Robertson, pastor of new St. Andrew's Presbyterian church, New Glasgow, has received a unanimous call to the Presbyterian church at St. John's, Nfld.

The Rev. O. J. Cameron, of St. John's church, Brookville, has received a call to the Fourth Presbyterian church in Boston, Mass.

Rev. E. F. M. Smith, has received a unanimous call to Lucan and Granton congregations.

The London Presbytery met last week and sanctioned a call from Dutton to Rev. James Little of Darnoch, in Owen Sound Presbytery. The call was practically unanimous. Salary to be \$1,100 and two months vacation.

Rev. Wm. Burns preached on Saturday, Oct. 10th, in Knox Church, Ayr, and presented the claims of Knox College. He also officiated on Sabbath morning and evening.

Rev. Mr. Scott moderated a call for St. Andrew's Congregation, Almonte, to Rev. R. J. Hatcher, M.A., of Toronto.

Rev. R. H. Cameron of Cranbrook has accepted a call from the Presbyterian congregations of North Easthope and Hampstead. He will be ordained and inducted in a short time.

It is expected that our new Presbyterian Church Whitewood Man., will be ready for occupation in about six weeks.

Rev. Mr. Rondeau has resigned the pastorate of the Presbyterian Church at Sudbury. He goes to his former home in Quebec.

Pictou Presbyterians have called Rev. Clarence McKinnon, a native of Hopewell, and now of Middle Stewiacke.

Rev. Mr. McPherson, pastor of Presbyterian Church, Petrolia, has been appointed Moderator of the Sarnia Presbytery.

Rev. E. W. McKay, Madoc, was inducted into the Presbyterian Church on Tuesday Oct. 13th. Principal Grant and Rev. John Mackie took part in the service.

Rev. Mr. Wishart, who has been superannuated from the above church, was its pastor for 40 years, during which time he erected thirteen churches in his district, and all of them are out of debt.

Rev. James W. Falconer, late of Newport, N. B., was inducted into the charge of the First Presbyterian Church, Truro, on Oct. 14th.

Rev. J. H. Graham, of Watford, was on the afternoon of October 13th, inducted as pastor of the Avonton and Carlingsford Presbyterian congregations. The services were held at the Avonton Church, Rev. M. L. Leitch, of Stratford, presiding. Rev. John Kay, of Milverton, addressed the minister, while the people were addressed by Rev. J. W. Cameron, of North Mornington. In the evening a tea meeting was held, speeches being delivered by a number of clergymen and others.

At a meeting of the Ottawa Presbytery a call to Rev. Mr. Bennett, of Metcalf and Russell to the congregation of Hawkesbury, was passed. He will be inducted into his new charge on Nov. 12th. Rev. Dr. Moore, Rev. Dr. Armstrong and Rev. J. McFarlane were appointed to have the East Templeton school property duly transferred to the Presbytery.