

Ministers and Churches.

OUR TORONTO LETTER.

There was a practical illustration of Church (we hope also Christian) Union in this city on Friday last. A bill to abolish the tax exemptions hitherto enjoyed by the University, Churches and Seminaries of learning was to be discussed by the Municipal Committee of the Legislature, and an opportunity was given to those opposed to the bill to present their case. These appeared to be legion. His Lordship, the Anglican Bishop of Toronto, took the lead in the movement, and with him were representatives of the Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist and Congregational Churches. It must have been a formidable array that filled in to the Council Chamber and completely surrounded the hapless committee-men.

The measure originated with the Toronto City Council, which is being driven to unhappy expedients to rid the city of the many of the stone dragon behind Eaton's. There seem to have been few to advocate this particular measure. Even the member under whose name it was entered, hastened to say that he favored it as the member for the constituency, but had no sympathy with the principle of the bill. The City Solicitor and the City Council spoke in its favor, and against it were a startling array of priests, presbyters, and people to whom the committee lent a willing ear.

According to newspaper reports the first item—the taxing of University lands—was disposed of, practically without debate; the second—taxing of Church property—with but little debate; and the third—the taxing of incorporated Seminaries of learning—after considerable debate. In all the vote was practically unanimous against the principle of taxation of these.

Would it be possible to unite all those who smiled encouragement upon each other on Friday morning, in the promotion of some great reform? We believe it will yet be possible.

Deputations to the Legislature have been rather numerous of late. There have been press notices of at least three deputations from the Lord's Day Alliance to committees of the Legislature, and we believe, on one occasion to the members of the Government. It is necessary to be active in this work. Strenuous efforts are being made to break down the restrictions to labor imposed by the Lord's Day Act, street car corporations, professing only a desire to meet the clamorous demands of the people, and an entire freedom from purely selfish motives, are seeking by all legitimate means, to secure permission to carry out the people's wish, and break the Sabbath. But the greatest enemy of the Sabbath is not the more or less open demand of the dividend-seeking corporation; it is rather the insidious infiltration of an irreverent sentiment, that is, dulling the conscience to the sin of Sabbath breaking. It is only a drop to-day, and another to-morrow, but the drops follow with painful persistency, and each is surcharged with a sediment of sin, which it deposits in its passing.

A spin before breakfast on Sunday, a spin by the way of the park, with a companion, to hear a famous preacher on Sabbath evening, a ride in the cars on Sabbath afternoon, just to allow the friend who is spending Sunday with you an opportunity to see the city, or to take the friend in the evening to hear the best quartette in town—these are like the things, apparently trivial, and one does not feel the worse for them. But one is the worse, and the community in which one lives is the worse, for just such insidious little evils. To check this latter evil is becoming the great problem, not for an Alliance, but for Christian people.

Our street congregation is anxiously waiting for Tuesday, when it will be known whether their call to Rev. R. Atkinson will be accepted.

The Church of the Covenant expects soon to worship in the new building on Roxborough avenue. The old site is for sale, and the old name is to be discarded. Statisticians will please not conclude that another congregation has become defunct in Toronto. It has only outgrown its old suit.

Dr. Parsons has not yet been able to preach to his congregation since his illness. It is said that he will find a few weeks rest necessary before resuming his duties.

Westminster loses an active, though undistinguished member of its session in the death of Mr. John Arbuthnot last week. Mr. Arbuthnot has suffered much from asthma, but was in his usual health until recently. The end came quickly and peacefully, and it was peace.

The Senate of Knox College is called to meet on Wednesday evening, April 5th next, to deal with the results of the examinations and other business. The Board will probably meet on Thursday afternoon and evening, the academic meeting in the afternoon in Knox College, and the evening meeting in Central Church at 8 o'clock. The Alumni Association will meet on Thursday afternoon at the close of the academic exercises, to receive the report as to the con-

tinuance of the Goforth Fund, and other business. It is expected that Rev. Prof. MacLaren and Rev. William Patterson will be the speakers at the evening meeting.

The Augmentation Committee meets in the usual place during the coming week.

WINNIPEG AND WEST.

The Rev. Wm. Dewar, of Dugald, resigned his charge this week.

At a meeting this week the University Council re-affirmed its decision to accept the site offered by the Provincial Government near the Parliament buildings.

A new church is to be built shortly at Rosebank, in Southern Manitoba. Rev. Mr. MacBeth lectured in aid of it in Roland last Monday, and on Tuesday lectured at Morris in aid of their special Home Mission Fund.

The Young People's Society of Augustine Church are preparing for a social evening next week. Several of the members are to read papers on Foreign Mission Work, and a free-will offering is to be taken in aid of the same and they are raising to help support a missionary in the Foreign Field.

Rev. E. B. McLaren, of Vancouver, stayed over a day or two in Winnipeg on his way to the meeting of the Home Mission Committee in Toronto. Mr. McLaren is an encyclopedia on British Columbia Mission work, and is an enthusiast on the future of that Province. He is to take a service in Augustine Church here on the way back.

An interesting discussion is going on in the newspaper of the Labor Party in Winnipeg to the part that ministers and churches should take in solving social problems. Besides several anonymous contributions, letters have appeared from Rev. R. G. MacBeth, of Augustine Church, and Mr. William Small, an elder in St. Andrew's. The discussion will clear the air and lead to a better understanding all round.

The proposed amalgamation of the Home Mission Committees, East and West, is a move in the direction contemplated by some of us a few years ago under the name of a General Committee of representatives from the several committees and boards that receive and disburse church funds. Perhaps an Assembly Committee on estimates would be the first step, but in any case it would be an advantage to have less diffuseness than is incident to the existence of so many independent and unrelated Committees and Boards as we now have.

In the meantime Foreign Mission Work is not being neglected in the Western Churches. The W.F.M.S. of the Winnipeg Presbytery held its annual meeting during the past week and had a very pleasant and profitable gathering.

Knox, Westminster, St. Stephens, and Augustine Churches, Winnipeg, are undertaking special work in connection with supporting missionaries in the Home field. This will be in addition to ordinary contributions. There is no doubt that immigration is coming our way with a rush this year, and that the church is going to have a harder fight than heretofore to keep abreast of the incoming peoples. There are some who question the wisdom of such enormous expenditure in the Klondike, when there are such large and increasing areas of foreign population still to be reached with the Gospel. The ideal would be to get money enough to meet both emergencies.

Rev. Principal Caven, as president of the Ontario Lord's Day Alliance, has issued a special call to the people of that province to observe the week beginning April 3 for Sabbath observance. The call says the present is a most critical time, and fraught with momentous issues affecting the Lord's Day in Canada.

The Rev. Robert Wallace, of Toronto, for many years pastor of the West Presbyterian Church, and one of the best known of the older generation of Presbyterian ministers, who died at his residence, 402 Huron street, in his 79th year, was born in the North of Ireland in 1820, and came to Canada in 1829. At the opening of King's College, Kingston, in 1842, he was one of the first students. He joined the Free Church movement in 1844, and became one of the first students of Knox College, Toronto. After pastorates at Keene, Ingersoll and Drummondville, he was inducted in November, 1867, into the charge of West Presbyterian Church of that city, and gave there twenty-three years of efficient and successful service, leaving the church in 1890 one of the strong Presbyterian churches of Toronto. During the last nine years Mr. Wallace has lived in retirement, enjoying a well-earned rest. Mr. Wallace leaves to mourn his loss a wife and a son, the Rev. Prof. F. A. Wallace, D.D., of Victoria University.

MARITIME PROVINCES.

Hampton, P.E.I., has called Rev. G. C. Robertson of Cavendish.

Rev. J. H. Chase has resigned the charge of Onslow owing to ill health.

Rev. Geo. Fisher, Dalhousie, N.B., preached at Escumac last Sabbath.

Rev. Clarence Mackinnon has accepted the call to Park Street Church, Halifax.

The Presbytery of P.E.I. will apply for leave to receive Rev. R. A. Finlayson.

The Presbytery of Sydney approves of the proposed changes in the statistical forms.

Rev. J. F. Forbes, of Sydney, C.B., is visiting his brother, Judge Forbes, St. John's.

Rev. J. Hawley, of Waterville, N.S., is visiting old friends in St. John's, St. George and Milltown.

The Presbyterian S. S. at Annapolis will give a cantata, "The Pilgrim's Vision," on Easter Sunday evening.

Rev. John Murray has resigned the charge of Shubenacadie. He is a brother of Rev. James Murray, of Erskine Church, Toronto.

Thirty of the young people of Little Narrows, C.B., have won the Assembly's diploma for correct recitation of the Shorter Catechism.

Great quantities of potatoes have been shipped from New Brunswick to Toronto this winter. Fifteen carloads went from Woodstock alone.

Rev. H. A. Morton, of St. Matthew's Church, St. John, is about to resign in order to return to his home in Trinidad. Ill health is the cause.

Rev. D. Henderson, Chatham, assisted at the communion at Campbelltown last Sabbath. Rev. Geo. Fisher conducted the preparatory services on Friday.

Rev. E. D. Millar, of Yarmouth, lectured on Trinidad at Brockville last week. The lecture was illustrated by limelight views and was highly appreciated.

Rev. A. Campbell, of Merigomish, was presented by the session of Thornburn and Sutherland's River, with a purse of \$25 for his services as moderator during the vacancy.

St. Andrew's Church, Chatham, N.B., will expend over \$3,000 in improvements this summer. The church will be raised and a stone foundation built so that furnaces can be put in.

Sydney Presbytery will hold a conference on Church Life and Work next Tuesday, at which the reports of Sabbath Schools, Young People's Societies, Women's Societies, etc., will be discussed. This is a move in the right direction.

The Presbytery of Thuro has appointed the following Commissioners to the General Assembly: Rev. Messrs. Gray, Smith, Dickie, Falconer, McEairn, Thompson, and Messrs. Hugh McKenzie, Elid Dickson, C. P. Blanchard, Robinson Cox, F. P. McElfeigh, Geo. H. Madill, elders.

The Presbytery of P.E.I. has reported on the remits from the Assembly as follows:

1. In re examination of students—disapproves, prefers the present plan.

2. Constitution of Assembly—Approves of reduction to one-sixth.

3. Statistical Forms—Recommends retention of page 332; no distinction between self-sustaining and augmented charges in Form A; the retention of the column for arrears, and approves of the other changes proposed.

Three feet of snow fell in one storm last week in northern New Brunswick. "Breezy, blustering March" has rather overlaid us with his favor this year. One man in Woodstock is, however, grateful for such an abundance of snow. He was stopping at a hotel in the town and his dream became so realistic that he walked out of a fourth story window. Fortunately there was a man on the snowbank in the right place and he merely had the novel and refreshing experience which "may be imagined, but not described."

Last summer one of the electric cars in St. John became unmanageable owing to something wrong with the brakes, and rushed down Mill street at a terrific rate, crushing into a store at the curve on Main street. As it was, only one man, a Prof. Hesse, of Providence, R.I., was hurt. The jolt as the car left the track threw him out, and his ankle was so seriously shattered that the foot had to be amputated. Being an organist he is now unable to ply his usual occupation, for a wooden foot will not serve to work the pedals, and he is suing the company for \$10,000 damages. He seems likely to get a verdict in his favor. From the testimony given in the suit he seems to be a very remarkable man. At ten years of age he played the church organ in his native place, in Westphalia, Germany. He is the ablest organist of the Cecilian mode, now so popular in Roman Catholic Churches in America. His disability, if really permanent, is a public calamity.