

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 Presbyterian Sabbath School Association for the city held its annual meeting in Knox church on the 13th inst. It took the character of a convention with an afternoon and an evening session. At the afternoon session an excellent address was given by the Rev. Dr. A. B. McKay, of Crescent street church, on the teachers' private lesson study. The chief feature, however, was a couple of addresses by the Rev. Dr. A. F. Schaulfler, of New York, who had been secured for the occasion by the committee. He spoke first on the Superintendent and afterwards on the Teacher. His remarks were of a most helpful and stimulating character. The evening session was given up entirely to Dr. Schaulfler, who delivered a most interesting lecture on Palestine as bearing on the present half year's lessons in Luke. The lecture was illustrated by a series of very fine views from the stereopticon and held the audience in closest attention for an hour and a quarter. The attendance both in the afternoon and evening was large, notwithstanding the fact that a severe snowstorm was in progress which made locomotion a matter of some difficulty. Many visitors were present from the country, drawn partly by the fact of Dr. Schaulfler's presence and partly by the fact that the convention was virtually continued the following day under the auspices of the Quebec Sabbath School Union, which represents the whole Province and all the evangelical churches.

THE annual report of the Association which was presented by the secretary, Mr. D. Torrance Fraser, showed that the twenty-six Presbyterian schools under its care in the city and suburbs have 5,475 scholars enrolled and a staff of 585 teachers, a slight increase over the preceding year. The total amount raised by these schools during the year was \$4,371, of which \$3,179 was given to missions. The above figures do not include the Chinese schools which have 270 teachers and 378 scholars. The officers elected for the ensuing year were president, Mr. David Morrison; vice-presidents, Rev. Dr. Scrimger and Mr. A. C. Hutchison; secretary-treasurer, Mr. D. Torrance Fraser.

THE annual social of Erskine church was held on the evening of the 6th inst. and was largely attended by the members of the congregation and their friends. In addition to some choice music, furnished by the choir, the chief feature of the programme was a series of stereopticon views connected with the history of the church. They showed the various buildings in which the congregation had worshipped, the various pastors who had occupied the pulpit, and a large number of the prominent members who had been connected with it, chiefly those who had passed away. The necessary explanations were given in an admirable manner by Mr. Robb, and as the old familiar faces were thrown one after the other upon the screen many a tender and hallowed memory was awakened in the minds of those who had known them.

OWING to a severe and obstinate hoarseness the Rev. Mr. Morritt has been unable to occupy his pulpit for the past two Sundays. He is now sufficiently recovered to resume his work. The services have been conducted by the Rev. Mr. Scott and the Rev. Dr. Scrimger.

ON Sunday last, the pulpit of St. Paul's church was occupied at both services by the Rev. Prof. Ross. Dr. Barclay was absent in Ottawa, where he was the guest of the Governor-General. Lord Haldie, the eldest son of His Excellency has entered the classes in McGill university and is the guest of Dr. Barclay.

British Columbia Notes.

THE annual business meeting of the various congregations in the province have been held. Reports show that successful work has been done in all the branches of church life and work. Notably, the work among the young people, in Sabbath schools and Christian Endeavour societies has come more to the front. In this province the young in a very special manner, are the hope of the church. This may be a relief in the east, it is not so in the far west.

THE financial stringency, which has crippled British Columbia more than the other provinces, has done considerable damage to church finances. It is safe to say that no congregation has escaped loss. Presbyterian churches less than other denominations. The ministers of all the churches in British Columbia who have received full salaries can be counted on the fingers of one hand, that is, cutting off thumb and "pinkie."

MR. BUCHANAN's church at Richmond, has again been closed for a fourth Sabbath, owing to the flooded state of the island. There has only been service one Sabbath this year. Must be very pleasant for Mr. Buchanan.

MR. STEWART, the student at Pender Island, has been transferred to fill the pulpit of St. Andrew's, Nanaimo. We have not heard of supply coming to Pender Island.

ANNIVERSARY services were conducted at Mission on January 12th by the old British Columbia pioneer, Rev. A. Dunn, of War-nock. On Monday, the 13th, Mr. Maxwell gave his famous lecture, "The Seven Stages of Matrimony."

MR. BUCHANAN, of Richmond, is still under water. For three Sabbaths in January there were no services. The flood has continued for thirty two days. At the time of writing there is hope that service may be held on February 2nd. At the last election great promises were made of a dyking scheme. They all failed. Moral, until there is a dyking law of any value in British Columbia, keep off low lands in the Fraser valley.

WE have great times on the coast. We gain bloodless victories without waste of pen and ink and tongue. How is it done? On January 23rd the legislature of British Columbia convened. There were two preachers present. The Rev. Solomon Cleaver, Methodist, who was dressed like any other preacher, and the Right Rev. William Wilcox Perrin, Lord Bishop of Columbia, who was dressed in full canonicals as became a preacher of the Episcopal church. The speaker rose and requested the Rev. Solomon Cleaver, the Methodist preacher, to say prayers, which he did. The Bishop was "left" as we say in the West. After the House adjourned there was a grand dinner given in Government House to which the bishop was invited but Mr. Cleaver was not invited. What did it all mean? The speaker, Mr. Higgins, invited Mr. McCleaver to say prayers, and taught the premier that the churches of British Columbia are all equal before the law. Those who know Bishop Perrin, are sorry that he was placed in such a humiliating position by his parishoner, the premier, and while we all accord to him precedence in his own church, where he has a right to every dignity allowed by church law, we are glad that the speaker was so much imbued with the principles of justice and equality, as to recognise that ordained ministers of every church are equal in his sight, and before the law. In British Columbia, 1896 will be remembered as the year when another blow was struck for religious liberty.

WE would call the attention this early to the necessity of arranging so that British Columbia will be included in the Assembly railway rates for this year. Last year the delegate from British Columbia to the General Assembly was the only person in the Assembly who was excluded from the benefit of reduced railway rates. As the return fare is about one hundred dollars, Mr. Burns should see that every part of the Church is embraced in the bargain made with railway companies.

A *pro re nata* meeting of Presbytery of Westminster, was held in First church, Vancouver, to consider a call from Union Mines, to Rev. J. A. Logan, of Chilliwack. The Rev. G. Buchanan, moderator, with Messrs. Maxwell, (clerk), McLaren, Scanlan, Logan, Douglas, and McSwaine, were the members present. Clerk read all the papers, and Court heard Rev. J. M. Douglas, for Victoria Presbytery and Union church, and Mr. McSwaine, elder, for Chilliwack. On motion, the call was placed in Mr. Logan's hands. In a brief speech Mr. Logan stated he accepted the call to go to Union to do pioneer work, such as he has done in Chilliwack. Presbytery then granted translation to take effect on and after February 9th. It is expected that Mr. Logan will be inducted at Union on the 16th. Mr. Logan goes to build up a new cause, and leaves a comfortable manse to go to Union where there is none. Two parliamentary candidates were present at this Presbytery. J. M. Dong-

las, Patron candidate for Eastern Assiniboia, and G. R. Maxwell, Independent Liberal for Burrard, B.C.

General.

THE Rev. J. B. McLaren, of Columbus, requests us to state that Ashburn and Utica are not as yet prepared to hear candidates.

ANNIVERSARY services were conducted in the Burgoyne Presbyterian church, Sabbath, by Rev. D. Guthrie, B.A., of Walkerton. On Monday evening the annual soiree was held in the hall.

THE congregations of Rosemont and Mansfield are to be declared vacant on Feb. 23rd. Rev. Mr. Neilly is moderator of session. The pastor, Rev. Robt. Hughes, leaves soon for Worcester, Mass.

THE Smith Scholarship of \$50, open to 2nd and 3rd year students in Theology at Knox College, has been awarded to Mr. Ed. W. Mackay, B.A., of the 3rd year, for an essay on "The Testimony of Nature to the Love of God."

THE anniversary services of the Presbyterian church, Welland, were conducted by the Rev. James Murray, B.A., of Knox church, St. Catharines. Special collection to go on the interest of the church debt was taken up in the evening, and was handsomely responded to.

AT the preparatory service held in the church at Cardinal, on the 14th inst., Messrs. Wm. Clark and Matthew Sim were ordained to the office of the eldership. The moderator of the session presented the names of sixteen applicants for membership, all of whom, except one, were upon profession of faith.

THE anniversary services of St. Andrew's church, Blyth, were held recently, when able and impressive sermons were preached by Rev. J. G. Stuart, B.A., of Knox church, London, to large and appreciative audiences, the church in the evening being overcrowded. The entertainment on Monday evening was also highly successful. Fine addresses were delivered by Revs. J. G. Stuart, B.A., D. Forrest, G. Buggin, (Methodist), and J. S. Henderson, who gave his popular lecture, "Rambles in Wonderland."

IN response to an invitation extended by five churches in Ridgetown, the Rev. E. P. Hammond, M.A., of Hartford, Conn., conducted a series of revival services for over two weeks. Services were held twice every day, and were well attended. On Sabbath evening fully 1,400 people gathered to hear the eloquent speaker, and even then an overflow meeting had to be arranged for. The results have been very satisfactory, more than 400 having signed covenant cards signifying their earnest determination, with God's help to live a new life. Mr. Hammond is a Presbyterian and a member of the Presbytery of New York city.

REV. J. S. SHEARER, B.A., of Erskine church, at Hamilton, writes us to say that on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of his settlement as minister, Miss Martha Smith, B.E., of Toronto, who may fairly be called the Presbyterian elocutionist, being a daughter of the manse, a consecrated Christian, and having given special attention to recitations strictly in harmony with church meetings and the house of God, gave one of her full evening programmes and greatly delighted the large audience present. Mr. Shearer also says that the elocution of Miss Smith is calculated to be a powerful "means of grace" as well as a delightful entertainment.

THE annual conversations which was held in Knox College, Toronto, on Friday, Feb. 7th, was most successful, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all attending. The rooms and corridors were tastefully and elaborately decorated with flags and colored fabrics, and palms, plants, and cut flowers of all kinds were dispersed everywhere with admirable effect. An address of welcome was delivered by Mr. A. R. Ross, president of the Literary and Theological Society. The concert, which consisted of two parts, was provided by the best local talent procurable, and the College Glee Club was well received. A number of interesting displays were on exhibition in the library, museum and reading-room, and the rooms were thronged throughout the evening. Supper was served in the dining-hall of the college, and Neapolitano's orchestra furnished delightful music for promenading throughout the evening.