

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

At the regular meeting of the Toronto Presbytery on the first Tuesday of this month, some very interesting statistics were presented by the Clerk, Rev. R. C. Tibb. The Presbytery is made up of 61 pastoral charges; congregations, 86; self-supporting, 51; augmented 7; mission charges, 3. Of ministerial members of Presbytery there are 68, of lay members, 60. The number of sittings in churches is 37,226, the total ordinary running expenses amount to \$84,304; total payments for all purposes \$247,880, and contributions for schemes, \$50,523. Preparations are being made for worthily celebrating the ministerial jubilee of Rev. Dr. MacLaren on the evening of Monday, June 1st. No doubt, Knox church, Ottawa, where a part of his ministerial life was spent, will be represented on that occasion. An important step was taken in the organization of a Presbyterial Union for the assistance, in any way deemed advisable, of weak congregations, and seeing to Church extension as the growth of the city may call for it. Along with the officers always needed for such a body, the minister, one elder and one manager or other layman from each congregation are to form an Advisory Council, which, for specific purposes may be sub-divided into special committees for different kinds of work.

Last week also an important conference, with Rev. John Neil in the chair, of Sabbath School workers was held in Knox church. Those taking a chief part in it were Rev. A. MacGillivray, Judge Winchester, who has been appointed to the Judgeship made vacant by the death of the late Judge MacDougall; Messrs. A. L. Humphries and Frank Yeigh, the teacher of a large class of young men in Bloor street congregation, and Rev. A. L. Geggie, of Parkdale. Within the week also has been held the semi-annual meeting of the General Executive of the Sabbath School Association of Ontario, of which one of our active Christian laymen is the Associate Secretary, Mr. Thomas Yellowlees. The General Secretary, Mr. J. A. Jackson, B.A. stated that, the Association was endeavouring to bring about the adoption of the International Lesson system for Scripture readings in the Public schools of the Province. With the co-operation of the theological Colleges of the city, a Pastor's Sunday School Institute will be held in the city from November 10th next to 12th, and the annual Convention will be held at Smith's Falls from October 27th to 29th next, at which if possible, the attendance will be secured of Prof. Newell. The question of publishing an official organ of the Association will be decided at the meeting of the Convention.

The vice or crime, as it may be, has been coming a good deal to the front in the city newspapers lately, at least markedly so in one of the most influential of them, and Police Magistrate Colonel Dennison and Inspectors Stark and Archibald, and the County Crown Attorney have all been led to give deliverances on the matter. It is a very sad fact, if true, and there is too much reason to think it is, that the source of this evil is traceable in a large measure to the home life. Men gambling there, lacking or losing sufficient stimulus and excitement for idle or empty minds, and people who have too little to do, recourse is had to clubs where the passion is fed, and many are led to their ruin. Inspector Stark complains strongly of the indifference of parents to their families, who, in too many cases satisfy themselves with handing over the moral training of their children to day and Sunday School teachers. The law also, Colonel Dennison complains, does not give sufficient power to police-officers and magistrates to deal effectively with this vice. The General Ministerial Association, among other things, had this subject incidentally before it at its last meeting. In Britain, according to all accounts, the vice of betting has attained to gigantic proportions, and is awakening general anxiety. If the law, as it at present stands, is insufficient to reach and grapple with or strangle the evil, those responsible should be stirred up to remedy it immediately. Col. Dennison, whose experience on the bench gives his opinion great weight, would prohibit book-making at races and take very strong measures to stamp out this evil.

Within the last few days several hundreds of Baptist young people have collected in the city

to attend the annual meeting of the Baptist Young People's Union of Ontario and Quebec. The sessions were held on Thursday and Friday, closing on the evening of Friday. "The young people as an element in the evangelical work of the Church," was the key-note of the Convention. The Rev. Dr. Lowberly, of London, who gave the principal address on Friday evening, spoke on "Mission and Motive," in which he extolled the splendid advantages of youth. The first duty of the young people should be the development of their spiritual nature. He criticized mildly the International hop-skip-and-jump method of Scripture study, also the character of the reading provided for the young in many cases by Sunday School libraries as ministering to a taste for low class fiction. The Foreign and Home Mission Boards of the Baptist church met at the same time, and encouraging reports of their work were given in both cases.

I have already referred to the proposal made by the Synod Committee of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto to observe some Sunday specially for setting forth the claims and proper observance of the Sabbath for rest from toil and worship. Accordingly, the Bishop of Toronto has appointed the first Sunday after Easter—the 10th inst.—to be observed as Lord's Day Sunday, and he asks the clergy on that day to urge upon their people the duty and obligation of maintaining the sanctity of the Lord's Day, and the right of all classes to the enjoyment of rest from work on that day. Sunday social entertainments, are, it is said, greatly on the increase, with the result that, often the Sunday is the hardest day of toil of the seven for the domestics who must prepare entertainment for and wait upon Sunday guests. Well would it be, if all would heed and act upon the Bishop's recommendation. Mr. A. E. O'Meara is to represent the Ontario Lord's Day Alliance before the Imperial Privy Council in the special appeal case, the decision on which will settle whether or not the Province has jurisdiction over the observance of the Lord's Day.

The Ontario Educational Association is holding its sessions here this week. Very considerable changes are proposed by the Minister of Education in the Public and High school courses of study which will cause, without doubt, much very earnest discussion. President Seath gives the opening address, and Principal Gordon of Queen's University, on one evening gives an address on "The Goodly Fellowship of Teachers." The Hon. Mr. Harcourt will present and explain the changes proposed in the courses of study referred to.

Four meetings were held last week in connection with the Central Y.M.C.A., which were well attended, though not so largely by young men, for whom they were specially intended, as they should have been, to hear four addresses by Rev. Dr. Johnston, of London. Dr. Johnston is a very fluent and forcible speaker, and those who were present could not but get much to set them thinking in the addresses he gave.

Rev. Prof. Baird of Manitoba College, who has been in the city for some days, preached in West church Sabbath before last. His visits are always very welcome to his old friends here.

Good Friday was a beautiful day here for the season, and large numbers attended the religious services usually held on that day in Roman Catholic and Anglican churches. Services were also held in many Methodist churches and Love Feasts observed.

Some interesting figures have just been published in a report of the work of Toronto University and its affiliated Colleges for 1901 and 1902. In Arts, the faculty numbered 70, in medicine 56, in applied science 20. In the Arts course in University College there were 432 students, at Victoria 221. The total number of students was 1,646, and 1885 candidates were examined. The total number of degrees conferred was 350. The Arts revenue was \$149,089.28, expenditure \$138,650.56, revenue and expenditure in medicine, each \$37,094.21, and in applied science and engineering revenue and expenditure were each \$35,422.13.

Eastern Ontario.

Rev. L. McLean of Duntroon gave a very interesting and humorous address at the young people's meeting at the Stayner church on the subject "Habits."

As a result of a visit from Rev. J. G. Shearer, a strong branch of the Lord's Day Alliance has been organized at Brighton.

Rev. J. A. McKeen of Arono has been appointed interim moderator of session for the Bowmanville church, during the vacancy caused by Rev. J. H. Turnbull's acceptance of the call to Bank Street, Ottawa. The charge will be declared vacant on the first of May.

Rev. W. G. Wilson, M. A., of Bradford, an honor graduate of Knox College, Toronto, preached two strong sermons in Zion church, Carleton Place on Sunday the 5th inst., in the absence of Mr. Scott who was in Smith's Falls. Mr. Wilson is a candidate for the vacancy in St. John's Smith's, Smith's Falls, and was heard by a committee from St. John's on Sunday, who came out for that purpose.

The Church of the Redeemer, Deseronto, has been recently tastefully re-decorated. It was always a beautiful church, but it is now if possible more attractive than even. Under the pastorate of Rev. Dr. MacTavish for the past seven years, or more, the congregation has been continuously prosperous. The state of the Sunday School and Society of Christian Endeavor is most encouraging.

The Presbytery of Halifax when passing the report of the committee on Y. P. Societies strongly recommended to every Society the use of the Presbyterian Y. P. S. Manual published by the Assembly's Committee.

Rev. Professor Scriver, D.D. of the Presbyterian College, Montreal has very kindly consented to give a course of lectures at the summer school which is to be held in Edmonton. A rich treat is doubtless in store for those who may have the good fortune to attend the school.

During the past winter Rev. Dr. MacTavish of Deseronto has conducted a Mission Study Class, using as a text book "The Evangelization of the World in this Generation" by John R. Mott. The attendance was very encouraging and the interest was sustained till the book was finished. It is the intention to take up next "An Introduction to the Study of Foreign Missions," by Lawrence.

Western Ontario.

Rev. W. M. Kumanaw, of Omemece, gave good practical sermons in the Bowmanville church on the 5th instant.

Mr. Eschu, a medical missionary from Persia, preached on Sunday afternoon, April 5th at Culloden.

Rev. Dr. Milligan of Toronto, lectured in the First Church, Brockville on the 9th instant on "Sermons in Sunbeams."

Rev. A. MacMillan, of St. Enoch's, Toronto, gave an interesting lecture in Macnab street church, Hamilton, last week on the subject of "Rab and His Friends."

The ladies of the senior and junior Ladies Aid, at the Seaforth church, are busily engaged preparing for the holding of a bazaar and entertainment on the 24th and 25th of this month.

Rev. E. W. Panton had sufficiently recovered from his recent illness to preach at the morning service in St. Andrew's, Stratford, on the 5th inst. In the evening Rev. R. F. Cameron of North Easthope occupied the pulpit.

Rev. R. Martin, of Erskine church, Hamilton gave an illustrated lecture on the 8th inst., in the school room. About 60 fine views were thrown upon the canvas representing the re-opening of mission work in Honan, Northern China, since the Boxer uprising.

The Hamilton Presbytery came to the decision that Rev. Mr. Young, of St. John's church had no ground for resigning, since his congregation showed that they wished him to withdraw his resignation. Mr. Young has consented to abide by the decision of the Presbytery.

On the 7th instant Knox church, Elora gave a unique entertainment in the form of a Scotch social. The pastor, Rev. W. R. McIntosh, greeted the audience in the Scotch dialect, and a varied program of Scotch readings, songs, etc., was provided. Last, but by no means least, came a series of Scotch refreshments, including even haggis, which most people looked upon at first with considerable misgiving, but when once served, like Oliver Twist, they asked for more. The meeting concluded with a stanza of Auld Lang Syne, at a seasonable hour.

Northern Ontario.

Singhampton church is being painted inside and out and should look very fresh and pretty for the spring.