

September 17, 1927

NEW KEIR MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dedicated at Malpeque on Sept. 11th—Brief Sketch of Presbyterianism as it began on P.E.I.—New Building a thing of beauty.

"Nec Tamen Consumebatur." The weather. At the morning service, the Rev. Daniel J. Fraser, D.D., Principal of Montreal Presbyterian College, preached the sermon, and dedicated the church and furniture, and the Rev. R. H. Stavert, Hunter River, read the lessons. The dedication service was most impressive, being carried out according to the usage of the Presbyterian Church. Dr. Fraser preached from the words, "Thou shalt call His name Jesus; for He shall save His people from their sins." St. Matt. 1-21. Retaining the setting of the words, and in accordance with their exegesis, he gave a masterly exposition of the passage, and clearly brought out its underlying principle of abiding moral and spiritual teaching. It was a very auspicious opening, and the congregation is to be congratulated on having men of such type and thoughtfulness as the media of introduction to the services of their new church.

A brief history of Presbyterianism in Malpeque may not be here out of place, especially since the history of the church in this district is really the history of the church in Prince Edward Island.

The first Malpeque Church, a very small one, was built about 1780 close to the Mission, and was a big building in the old days. The second church was constructed in 1810 near the present site. The third church built by the Presbyterians was erected in 1877 and is now in possession of the United Church. Hence deprived of their church, the Presbyterians were forced to build their present church opened on Sunday last. The first minister who visited and preached in Malpeque was Rev. Dr. McGregor in 1791. This was twenty years after its settlement. He and Messrs. Ross and Dripps, from Nova Scotia, afterwards occasionally supplied the people. In 1800 Rev. Mr. Urquhart was settled and remained as minister for two years. Thus with this exception they had received only occasional ministrations of hope deferred. In the year 1799, the Synod in Scotland had appointed the Rev. Francis Pringle, but coming out by way of New York the Presbytery there detained him. In the year 1803 Dr. McCulloch was appointed to P. E. Island, but he survived too late in the Fall to get a passage over, and remained in Pictou all winter. A party from the Island arrived in Pictou to bring him over on the very day of his induction at the latter place. Another whose name cannot be passed over, is Rev. Peter Gordon, who labored from 1802 until 1804. Mr. Gordon, when a working weaver, had been so touched by one of Dr. McGregor's appeals, setting forth the spiritual destitution of this Island, that he resolved to devote himself to study for the work of the ministry, with a view to com-

ing here as missionary. During the whole course of his studies, in which time he met John Keir, both being members of the same Glasgow Theological Society, he kept this object steadily in view. Here a warm friendship was formed, a bond which was never to be broken until death took Mr. Gordon. Mr. Gordon on his arrival at the Island was called to Princeton and St. Peter's. He preferred the call of the latter, and when some of the people of Princeton complained to him of his decision, he replied that he would get them a better man than himself, alluding to Dr. Keir. He was inducted in 1807, the first induction on the Island. Hence his influence was directed to influence the latter to choose P. E. Island as the sphere of his labors in which he was successful. Having completed his usual term of study, John Keir was licensed to preach the Gospel, by the Presbytery of Glasgow, by the close of the year 1807. Mr. Gordon's health was now failing, and it was already seen that he was not to be spared long to labor on the Lord's vineyard on earth. Under these circumstances and considering the needs of the Island so pressing, that notwithstanding an appreciation from Halifax, they sent John Keir to Prince Edward Island for the winter. This decision accorded with his own views and the appointment, that notwithstanding an appreciation from Halifax, they sent John Keir to Prince Edward Island for the winter. This decision accorded with his own views and the appointment, that notwithstanding an appreciation from Halifax, they sent John Keir to Prince Edward Island for the winter. This decision accorded with his own views and the appointment, that notwithstanding an appreciation from Halifax, they sent John Keir to Prince Edward Island for the winter.



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How history repeats itself! Malpeque, where the first Presbyterian Church on Prince Edward Island was erected, has witnessed the erection and dedication of the first church erected on the Island since the disruption of 1925, and thus is assured the fulfillment of the prophecy that "nevertheless it will not completely be consumed. Forced to worship under trying conditions for two years, the Presbyterians of Malpeque held together firm in their resolve to remain true to the old traditions, determined to maintain unbroken the history and form of Presbyterian worship.

A regard to external decency and comfort made it necessary that a new church be erected for the public worship of Almighty God. This has been done, and to His honor, whose we are, and whom we are bound to serve, we gratefully and joyfully dedicate it—The Keir Memorial Presbyterian Church—as one of the Presbyterian churches in the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada—to be devoted to the administration of word and sacrament in Christ's name. With our whole souls we present it to the service of the Most High. "God is a spirit; and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."


The church, which is a beautiful structure, is built in accordance with the highest historic ideals of Presbyterian architecture, unspiced by Cromwellian or Puritan influences on church architecture. It concedes no monopoly of church architecture to any one denomination and embodies all the ideas of approach to, and worship of, God, through Baptism; the reading and expounding of the word; the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and the service of praise and prayer. The church is 88 feet in length by 27 feet in breadth, with a session room 24 feet in length and 16 feet in breadth. It will seat very comfortably 240 people, not including the choir, but can be so arranged as to hold 350 people without discomfort to any. It has the central aisle which is 5 1/2 feet in width. The church is equipped with a chancel, wherein are the separate articles of furniture according to their function—pulpit, reading desk, communion table and choir seats, while immediately in front of the baptismal font is placed the communion table was presented by Mrs. (Rev.) Ewan McDonald, and the font by the Rev. Fred Williamson, minister of the church. The interior is chastely finished with British Columbia fir, unpainted, thus showing up the beautiful and varied natural colors and grain of the wood. The general effect is very impressive, the light being effectively subdued, and the whole plan and arrangement give a quietly dignified ecclesiastical tone and atmosphere.

It is purposed the congregation to have the church grounds artistically laid out next spring, thus giving the building a fitting setting. The builder was Mr. John McKeen, of St. John, N.S., who, having within the past two years built six Presbyterian churches in Nova Scotia, was thus able to bring the fruits of a wide experience to bear on his latest work. It is a monument to his skill and good taste.

The opening services which were held on Sabbath, September 11th, were attended by very large congregations despite the inclemency of

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Muskrat Farming Proves Popular

REGINA, Sask., Sept. 15.—Application for leases on "muskrat-farming" are pouring into the Provincial Department of Agriculture, game and fisheries branch, at the rate of more than a dozen a day. The number of applications now in the hands of the Department total more than 600.

The flood of applications resulted from the interest aroused by the late provincial conference which was called with a view to drawing up a set of regulations governing "muskrat farming" which would be uniform for the prairie provinces. Muskrats, pests, it is stated, are among the most valuable now being raised in the Dominion.

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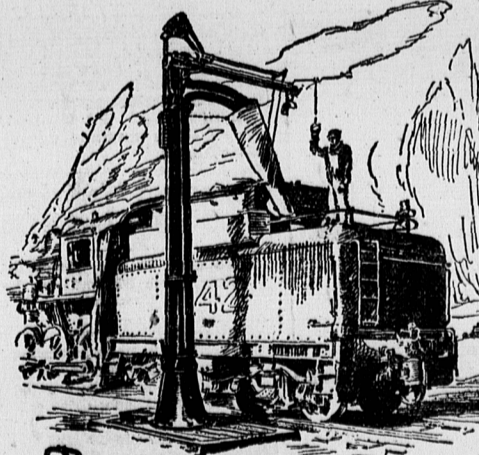
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