

ANNUAL MEETING.

(Continued from First Page.)

needs and requirements spiritually, financially and socially; that their efforts have met with success is evident. Moreover they have given their attention to the affairs of the church the same as to their business, and when that is done success is bound to be the result.

The trustees at this time of "cheer and good will" extend to Treasurer Graham their high appreciation of his services, and we are sure we voice the sentiments of all connected with our church when we say that he is deserving of all praise and honor, for his duties are many and deserve the high appreciation of all.

The annual banquet of last year was a gathering long to be remembered and the trustees are gratified to see that it is surpassed this year. At the opening of the year 1907 the church was without a pastor, Dr. Reynolds having resigned, his resignation being effective October 1, 1906. The Ladies' Aid Society decided to drop their luncheons for the year and to devote their time and energy in other directions. Special church meetings were called for January 13 and February 6. At the latter meeting it was unanimously voted to extend a call to the Rev. Robert Allingham, our present pastor. On February 12 the board of trustees, with Treasurer Graham, met Brother Allingham at Judge Slusser's office. After a brief stay there the board and treasurer, with Brother Allingham, accompanied that intrepid traveler and trustee, Mr. M. B. Downer, who led us with that unerring judgment of his to a restaurant, where the epicure gets immediate satisfaction. After the sumptuous repast and when the musicians at our side had done their best to banish any possible suspicion of a feeling of unrest that might be fluttering in our breasts, President Graves of the board opened the conversation with Brother Allingham and after a general discussion every detail was amicably settled and Mr. Allingham decided to begin his pastorate with us on the second Sunday in March. And we are proud that we have with us to-night that gentleman, the Rev. Robert Allingham. A wise choice has been made and we believe the hand of providence was with this church in its selection of such a servant of God as Brother Allingham. The harmony existing between pastor and people is all that could be desired. His personality, popularity, preaching, patience, meekness and participation in all the forward movements for good have been substantially to the church members.

The trustees do not wish to forget his estimable wife, who, like himself, is also a source of strength to the church.

The Men's Bible Class was organized in April, under the leadership of Mr. Murray, and a Women's Bible Class, under the direction of Mrs. Naramore. The Men's Club was organized in May, and our esteemed brother, Mr. Murray, deserves great credit for the organization, which he has now perfected. Such workers as he in a church is what makes it strong for God and mankind. The club's monthly socials are happy events in our history and are looked forward to with pleasure by us all.

Under the auspices of the ladies of the church the "May fete" was a success and the net amount received by the treasurer, after paying all expenses, was \$44.70.

The church carpet was cleaned by the Scientific House Cleaning and Supply Co. of Western Springs, at a cost of \$13.50.

New hymn books were purchased by the church in July.

A cement sidewalk was also laid from the street to the basement of the church at a cost of \$23.00.

The furnace was also fixed and extra electric light was provided for orchestra.

Thirty-five dollars was donated to the "Ladies' Aid," which represented the amount derived from its sales at the County Fair.

The trustees also purchased a stove for the basement of the church at a cost of \$7.00.

A new carpet was purchased for the aisles of the church at a cost of \$9.75.

The County Fair met with the usual success and the amount derived from it was \$216.00. The board again wish to thank the heads of committees and all who assisted in any way towards its success. The trustees feel that thanks are inadequate for the great service performed by the ladies and gentlemen interested, but they may rest assured that the trustees fully appreciate their labors.

Dr. Fifield was with us from September 15th to October 8th, and a general spiritual awakening was effected. Our expenses for 1908 will be unusually heavy, owing to the fact that special assessments will have to be met for the street paving, etc., and other improvements; also an increase of 20 per cent in the general running expenses of the church; so the trustees wish to put their shoulders to the "wheel" and help us along the "King's Highway" in 1908.

Friends, in closing, we wish to say that they who faced the storm of shot and shell are heroes to us all; but the men and women who stand shoulder to shoulder in the campaigns of peace, firmly meeting the insidious foes of our people and our homes, such as war, ignorance, disease and selfishness, are no less heroic than they who

marched against the bristling bayonets of the enemy amid the blare of trumpets and the roll of drums with the eyes of the nation fixed upon them. We are mounting the heights of success so we beseech you each and all to fully realize the commanding position which our church occupies to-day in this community. We must not recede one inch. The broad, fertile valley of opportunity lies before us. Our responsibility is commensurate with our great opportunity. We have work and men and women to work. So we ask you all to join us in moving forward as well organized, harmonious, united and determined body of church workers, ever attracting recruits, never destroying, ever constructing, ever placing the mark of protection above the doors of other homes that ignorance and poverty shall pass them by unmolested; ever creating new altars of love and happiness and constantly improving the standard of citizenship in our village. Let us make this work one of the Master Keys of our Soul. In doing this it is a duty of love that is eternal and limitless, not bounded by the confines of this world or by the end of time, but ranging still beyond the sea, beyond the sky to the invisible country far away.

This flame that in its grosser composition has the taint of earth may prey upon the breast that gave it shelter, but the sacred fire from heaven is as gentle in the heart to-day as when it rested on the heads of the assembled twelve. And when the Spirit of the Bride say come and the invisible hand beckons us into the night and the sand in the hour-glass runs low and the recording angel closes the book on the record of our life, God grant that the little band of believers assembled here to-night may have their everlasting home near the Great White Throne. Is the wish of the Board of Trustees. Respectfully submitted, SAMUEL JOHNSTONE, Secy Board of Trustees.

CHRISTIANITY AND THE WORKING MAN.

Sunday evening at the Baptist Church Rev. B. L. Prescott spoke with reference to some of the existing social conditions of our nation. What he had to say at this time had to do particularly with what the religion of Christ could do for the working man. We quote Mr. Prescott in part as follows:

"If there is any class of people who ought to be thankful for the religion of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is the working man. There is no leverage—none in intellectuality, nothing in philosophy or science that is strong enough to lift that man up—nothing but the religion of Jesus Christ can do it. Men in God's sight are equal, and it is a wonderful part of the Christian religion to care for the material needs of mankind." Mr. Prescott stated that these hard conditions now prevalent could not be changed by law, but that the real need of change was in the hearts of men.

Mrs. A. H. Marshall, who has been away for some little time, has again returned to our midst.

SURPRISE DINNER.

On Tuesday evening of this week occurred a genuine surprise dinner, given by Mrs. Emerson Stanley and her daughter, Mrs. Ada Anderson, in honor of Misses Hull and Ross, two of the public school teachers, who live with them. They had been invited to dine with the family on this evening, and upon coming to the dining room were surprised to see all of the school teachers assembled at the table. A most appetizing course dinner was served by the hostesses, who were assisted by Mrs. W. D. Norton. Much merriment followed, and after an enjoyable social hour the company departed, heartily thanking their hostesses for the pleasant occasion.

BIRTHDAY PARTY.

Miss Ethel Lundquist splendidly entertained a company of young people at her home on Summit street Saturday evening, Jan. 4, on the occasion of her seventeenth birthday. The time was very pleasantly spent in playing many interesting games which had been prepared by Miss Lundquist. Delightful refreshments of ice cream, different kinds of cake, fruit and candies were served. Wishing her many happy birthdays, the young folks went home shortly before midnight.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union met at the home of Mrs. L. R. Puffer on Wednesday afternoon. It was reported at this meeting that two families living in or near our village were in need of material assistance and plans were talked over for helping them.

HARK TO THE BANANA MAN.

He Tells of the Fruit with a Moneyed Future.

Bananas are a simple and a handy commodity. But, hark! They have a future. There's money in them. Listen to J. F. Kinsey, banana dealer, formerly of Honduras, at the Midland hotel this morning, says the Kansas City Star.

"We banana promoters are optimists. Did you see that Germany has taken the tariff off bananas? It won't be long before the Germans will be eating as much of my favorite fruit as Americans do. New York city last year got outside of a billion bananas, though, and the Germans will have to hurry. "The vegetarians? We have lots of

faith in them. They are growing stronger every year—in numbers, I mean. Banana flour is better than any other flour. Your bread won't taste flat any more. It'll taste sweet, like banana. And if you ever eat a pancake made of the new flour you'll never touch another buckwheat cake, even though it be of the kind mother used to cook.

"Mills for making this flour are being built all over the country. St. Louis has the largest one in the world. You see, this Mississippi valley is the best place in the world to locate the mills. The fruit is shipped in barges across the Gulf of Mexico and then up the river to the factory.

"What makes the banana business such a good one is that everything concerned in it is utilized. The stalks may be used for making paper after the spruce forests are eaten up. The fruit may be used in flour and the little black knobs on the ends of the husks are made into cereal coffee. Best in the world, too, if I do say it myself.

"Bananas are great moneymakers. They are grown upon swamp lands that are so thick with underbrush before they are cleared that even a cat couldn't penetrate them. But after nine months the plants bear fruit; 350 plants to the acre. They aren't much trouble to take care of and the crop is harvested every month. The Canary Islands raise the best bananas but that is because the business is better developed there than in Honduras, where I came from."

Easy Courage.

A little man in side whiskers entered a dentist's office one morning, says the Strand Magazine, and, with a courage that belied his looks, announced that he wanted an appointment for the afternoon.

"Half-past 3," replied the dentist. "All right. It's to have a tooth drawn—a very bad tooth, with three prongs."

"In that case I should advise an anesthetic."

"How much will it cost?" "Ten shillings."

"Then I'll not waste my money on anesthetics. I'll have this tooth drawn in the ordinary way."

"Very well," murmured the dentist, so surprised at his courage that he added, "You are an extraordinarily brave man."

"Me? Me brave? Don't you think it," said the little man. "It's not my tooth. It's my wife's."

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HOME ENDORSEMENT.

Hundreds of Downers Grove Citizens Can Tell You All About It.

Home endorsement, the public expression of Downers Grove people, should be evidence beyond dispute for every Downers Grove reader. Surely the experience of friends and neighbors, cheerfully given by them, will carry more weight than the utterances of strangers residing in faraway places. Read the following:

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In a suit lately tried in a Maryland court, the plaintiff had testified that his financial position had always been a good one. The opposing counsel took him in hand for cross-examination and undertook to break down his testimony upon this point. "Have you ever been bankrupt?" asked the counsel. "I have not." "Now, be careful," admonished the lawyer, with raised finger. "Did you ever stop payment?" "Yes." "Ah, I thought we should get at the truth," observed counsel, with an unpleasant smile. "When did this suspension of payment occur?" "When I had paid all I owed," was the naive reply of the plaintiff.



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