

Journal of 1918 the statistical returns for the year 1917 show no figures for St. George's Church and in the list of parishes it is noted that the Mission of Apsley is vacant at June 1918--for the second time in its history. However, the unfortunate situation was redeemed the next year by the announcement in the Bishop's Charge at the 1919 Session of the Synod of the appointment of Rev. Claude A. G. Spence to be Missionary at Apsley and District; the transference of the Rev. Elias W. G. Gardner to the Diocese of Saskatchewan was also noted. The Mission Board's report at this Session also notes that "the Board is glad to be able to report the resumption of the Church's work in the Mission of Apsley after a long interregnum...and the work is proceeding satisfactorily.

The Rev. C. A. G. Spence, of St. Alban's Peterborough, recently appointed to Apsley and District arrived to take charge of the Mission on November 2nd, 1918 after two days of arduous travelling from Peterborough driving a one-horse platform truck loaded with household impediments over the hilly, narrow and tortuous trail which marked the last twenty miles of the journey, and proceeded to the dilapidated parsonage which had been prepared for the new minister's occupancy. He was accompanied only by one of his sons, a boy of twelve years, having left his wife and five children in Peterborough because of the serious illness of his eldest son. It was not until three weeks later that the family became re-united in Apsley.

It was rather an inauspicious beginning of his ministry which lasted by the grace of God for eighteen years and eight months, when he was superannuated on June 30, 1937. On his