

## COMMUNITY FAREWELL FOR REV. FRANK FITT

(Continued from page 3)

ver coffee service of seven pieces.

Mrs. Brooks, the organist, furnished appropriate music before and after the speaking program.

Former Mayor Hastings' address in full is as follows:

### Mr. Hastings' Address

Friends, neighbors and fellow members of the Presbyterian Church of Highland Park:

We have met here this evening under conditions of mingled sorrow and gladness. We are sorry to lose a dear

friend and our minister — a man of sterling qualities of heart and mind, who has been our spiritual guide and leader for nearly thirteen years. We are glad to know that Mr. Fitt has advanced in ministerial usefulness and power during that period, that his merit is recognized nationally and that he has received a call to a larger congregation at Grosse Pointe, Michigan, where his scope of religious activities will be broader and perhaps more varied, although we are sure that he will have no more loyal supporters in his enthusiastic and energetic work in the Lord's vineyard, for we, in this kindly home atmosphere, regard Mr. Fitt as a product of Highland Park, as Highland Park is a product of his labor and

sympathetic understanding and his elevating and scholarly discourses.

Mr. Fitt has been with us as our beloved minister for twelve years and nine months. This is long enough to know a man thoroughly and understandingly, and to learn to appreciate his good qualities. I do not know of any bad qualities possessed by Mr. Fitt. He has none, or they would long ago have been discovered — for church congregations we all realize fully, even those of us who have forgotten Barrie's charming "Little Minister" — have a way of putting their spiritual directors under the merciless microscope of public scrutiny. We know Mr. Fitt and we like him. We regret to see him go. He has done a vast amount of good here in Highland Park. He has interested our young people and attracted them to church. They have joined the Sunday school and have not failed to do their part in the numerous activities of our church.

I mention our young people with considerable pride and satisfaction, for it is not an easy thing to keep them interested in religious matters in this fast-stepping, automobile speeding, amusement loving age. Although Mr. Fitt, being a young man himself has to an extent specialized in young people — and I hope we all at least mentally and spiritually are youthful — he has not neglected those of riper years as his innumerable friends in our congregation gladly will testify. Among his great admirers are the sweet and cheerful ladies at the Presbyterian Home for the Aged in Evanston.

Mr. Fitt in leaving us is inspired by the highest motives. He is going to the place where he thinks he can do the most good. I do not know personally the defects and demerits of his new charge, but it is close to that great city where most of our motor cars come from, and it is not far therefore from the Canadian border where even eternal vigilance does not entirely prevent the importation of forbidden fruit in the liquid state. Mr. Fitt, as I have stated, is going where he can do the most good. He could have gone to many other places, but he selected Grosse Pointe.

I do not say we are as good as we should be here in Highland Park, but we have improved a great deal, or Mr. and Mrs. Fitt would not leave us.

Mr. Fitt has not only been exceedingly active and capable in his church work, but he has entered heart and soul into the civic affairs of our community, and this has aided him greatly in his church work in building character. He has been a member of the library board and a member of the board of trustees of Lake Forest college. He has made the strangers within our gates welcome. He has entered into the joys as well as the sorrows of our community. He is a good sportsman, a fine golf player and is enough of an athlete to impress upon others the importance of keeping fit.

We are now filled with the joys and holiday spirit of 1930. We are exchanging gifts, and this is a particularly appropriate season for us to show our love and appreciation to our friends by presenting to them some token of our regard and esteem. We all feel so kindly to Mr. and Mrs. Fitt that it is with extraordinary pleasure that I take this occasion to emphasize our good will and affection in tendering to them this gift, which I hope will for many years continue

to be a pleasant reminder of their old friends in their new home.

Mr. J. B. Garnett's talk on Mr. Fitt's place in the community as a fellow citizen was another fine effort and carefully and thoughtfully covered the topic from all angles. At the close Mr. Garnett read an appreciation from Mrs. Everett, president of the Library board. Mr. Garnett's address, with Mrs. Everett's tribute included, is as follows:

### Mr. Garnett's Talk

By request of the committee it is my honor and privilege at this time to publicly express to Mr. and Mrs. Fitt the appreciation of the entire community for their work among us for the past twelve years. This is a very large task to perform in the short space of time allotted to me, for they have taken a keen interest in Highland Park, and their influence has been felt in all our community and civic affairs. They will be missed by our hospital, our clubs, boy scouts, our schools, our library, and other civic institutions. To the many residents of this city who are not members of any church Mr. Fitt has been an ever present friend and inspiration. In their joys and in their sorrows alike he has been ever prompt to give that sympathetic aid and friendly council whenever desired or needed and which means so much.

During the last few days I have had occasion to talk with such people as our city nurse, our physicians, our hospital staff and similar people who are in position to know, and from them all I have received the same strong expression of appreciation for his work.

One man who is here this evening expressed it by saying, "He was a community benefit."

At the hospital I found a very sincere regret for the loss of Mr. Fitt. Miss Johnson, the superintendent said, "Words cannot express my appreciation of the good work he has done for this hospital. He was at our beck and call. He did not limit his attention to people of his own church, but was ready and looking for a chance to give cheer and comfort to those in distress. His sympathetic interest and happy smile was always sure to restore faith and create greater confidence. Travelers motoring through, who met with accidents and were taken there found in him a pastor and a friend."

Our various clubs and organizations which offer their members weekly or monthly programs are also indebted to him for his many contributions. A member of one society stated, "Our year is never complete unless we have Mr. Fitt at least once on our program."

At the last regular meeting of the Chamber of Commerce a resolution was passed instructing the secretary to write a letter to Mr. Fitt expressing their regret at his departure, as follows:

Rev. Frank Fitt  
care Presbyterian church  
Laurel avenue  
Highland Park, Illinois.  
Dear Sir:

At the regular monthly meeting of the Highland Park Chamber of Commerce, December 9, 1930, the matter of your leaving our city was brought to the attention of the membership.

The Highland Park Chamber of Commerce wishes to extend to you its deep regrets in your departure from

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