

## HOW MUCH ? ? ! !

"Well, they have made a beginning", said the Reverend Machin to himself. "A humble one perhaps but still, you have to start somewhere." He settled back in the seat and continued to stare out of the window of the swaying caboose as it took him further and further from the newly formed parish of Schreiber.

It had been a hot meeting following last night's service. The Presbyterians had allowed them to use their church and the place was packed because everyone knew that this was the night to get out and fight for the church building they wanted. Everyone wanted a church but it seemed as if no one could agree on how to get it. Some wanted to borrow and build and get their own church up as soon as possible but the Rural Dean did his best to discourage that path. Debt was an awful way to start a parish and no one realized as well as he just how difficult it was to raise the money once the building was up. They would work a lot harder to realize their dream than they ever would to pay for it once it was built! Others had argued to keep meeting as a house church and build up a fund that could get the church built free of debt when they had the money. Machin liked that one! Some wanted the Diocese to take charge and some wanted to keep the whole thing local and it had produced some hot debate but it had finally fallen to the Dean to try and come up with some plan that would create a parish in Schreiber with as little division as possible.

He had done it too, although it had been a tough evening's work. At his suggestion a parochial organization had been formed and, acting as rector of the fledgling parish he had appointed Ernie White as Rector's Warden. Frank Johnson had been elected People's Warden and Mr. Wetmore, Mr. Hibbard, Mr. Newman and Mr. Patch had become sidesmen. St. John's first official parish meeting had been called to order and discussion began on the first order of business for the new parish: the erection of a church. All agreed that a new church was needed and, after some long speeches the vestry had adopted a principle of keeping out of debt while building. It might slow down the building process a bit but, as he well knew, it was a sound principle on which to launch a parish. "Be content with the