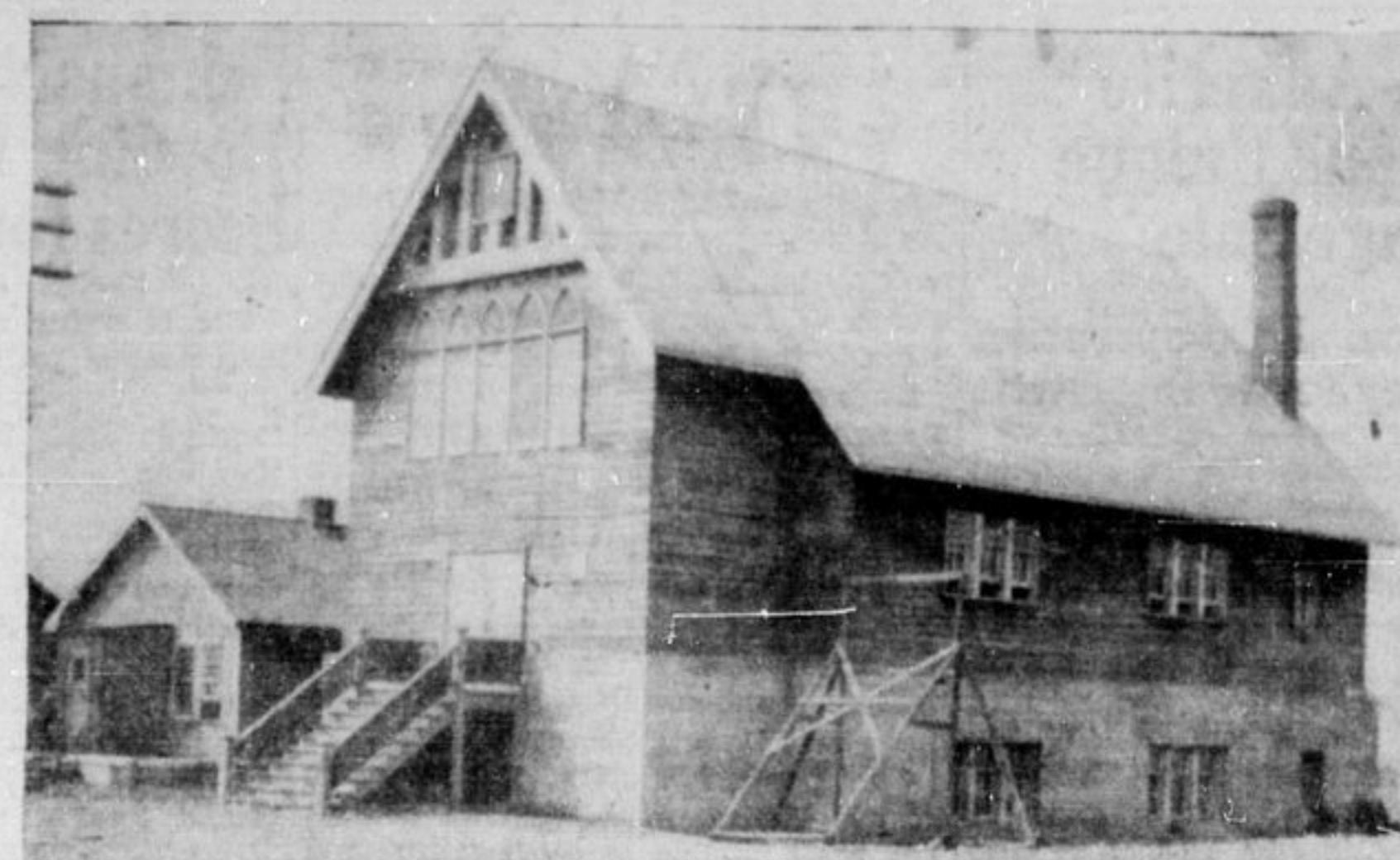




MOVING THE OLD MANSE

Timmins Presbyterian Church had a manse before it had a church building. The manse was only designed as temporary quarters for the minister and his family. The picture above shows the removal of the first manse when the Hollinger purchased it to help along the plans of the church. The present substantial manse was completed in 1922, the Ladies' Aid of the church carrying the largest share of responsibility, financial and otherwise.



THE CHURCH IN 1917

The first church building the property of the Presbyterian church was completed sufficiently for services to be held in it during the latter part of 1916. The new church was dedicated on Feb. 11th, 1917. The picture above shows how the church and manse appeared at that time. In June, 1925, work was started on the addition that doubled the capacity of the building and took care of the growing needs.

Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Timmins United Church Has Its Importance in History of Town

Presbyterian Minister at South Porcupine Conducted Services Here in 1914. Following Year Church had Its First Roll of Communicants. From Status of Small Mission Church, the Church Here Has Grown to Large Membership.

HISTORY OF CHURCH IS PART OF TOWN'S STORY
Some Highlights in the Progress of the Town and the Church during the Past Quarter of a Century. Eight Different Ministers Have Laboured Here. Some Messages from Former Pastors.

There are few mining towns—or the Presbyterian Church and the other pioneer communities, for that Methodist Church followed into place matter—where the churches have in the community life of Timmins and played as important a part as they have here in Timmins. From the inception of the town the churches have been here to care for the spiritual needs of the people and incidentally to do their part in keeping the tone of the community on a high plane as well as contributing to the social welfare of all. St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church, with Rev. Father Theriault as the popular parish priest, was the first church to be established here, but it was not long before the Church of England also was represented.



PIONEER PASTOR

Writing here on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the church Rev. John Maxwell Allen, of Pembroke, but now serving with the C.A.S.P., says:—"I have travelled in many lands since I left Timmins twenty-five years ago, but I still cherish precious memories of the generous hearted and loyal people with whom I associated during pioneer days. May the inspiration of your Anniversary Services stimulate your congregation to a fresh realization that the foundations of the Church are eternal. The Rock of Ages is bomb proof."



FRIEND TO ALL

Rev. J. D. Parks, minister of the church here from 1918 to 1929, not only served the church well, but gave great service to the community in other ways. He was prominent in Children's Aid work, was a service club worker. Any good cause and every man, woman and child had a friend in "J. D." His popularity was evidenced by the welcome given him on the occasion of his visit here in connection with the twenty-fifth anniversary services.

from a thriving, prosperous mining industry. "Into the fabric of the building of these communities went a benevolent spirit of service and Christian uplift for the church followed in the steps of the first miners into that wilderness of jackpine and spruce-clad hills," continues the booklet. "Wherever homes sprang up, school and church went hand in hand as sister institutions."

Church in the Early Days

As early as 1912 student missions were sent in here by Rev. J. D. Byrnes, superintendent of missions for the Presbyterian church. Among these were Mr. O'Han and Mr. McFarlane. Rev. Chas. A. Malcolm, minister at South Porcupine, held services in Timmins in the fall of 1914. His pulpit was a wooden packing case draped with the British flag. Services were held first in Preston's Bottling Works on Third avenue, the building also being used for public school purposes during week days. As the congregation grew it was found necessary to move into the theatre than located on part of the present site of the Empire block. At short time after another move was necessary to larger quarters—the Old Empire theatre then standing on the present site of Eaton's grocery store. Finally the old public school building on Fourth avenue was used for the Sunday church gathering.

In April, 1915, Mr. J. Maxwell Allen came here as student missionary, and his energy, personality and zeal gave an impetus to the founding of the church. He enlisted for service overseas the next year and his place was taken by Rev. John Macdonald. Rev. Mr. Macdonald was of retiring disposition, but he had the gift of eloquence and great zeal for the work of the church.

Historical Sketch

The souvenir booklet opens its general historical sketch with these two paragraphs:—

An old Indian trail leading from Nighthawk Lake to the Mattagami River—jagged quartz boulders streaked with gold—a casual decision—the staking of a claim. That is the beginning of the romance of Timmins—a genuine tale of courage, enterprise and untiring energy and an object lesson to the world of timely co-operative social service, law, order and peaceful progress in a new land.

"Twenty-five years is a very short period from the standpoint of time. But viewed with relation to the Hollinger Mine, the growth of the town of Timmins, and the development of this northern mining area, the quarter of a century in which this church has been consolidating itself as a congregational centre and extending the influence of the Gospel throughout the life of this community, assumes a deeper significance. It becomes part of a chapter without parallel in the history of our national life."

Story of Coal Deposits

Quoting from "A Reminiscence History" by Noah Timmins, recorded in the Ontario Mining Journal some years ago, the booklet suggests that it was the lure of coal, rather than gold, that led to the opening of this area. Mr. Timmins recounted the fact that Indians coming down to the new silver camp of Cobalt brought stories of large deposits of coal in the area known as the Porcupine. A prospecting party which included Benny Hollinger and Alex Gillies set out to investigate but got no nearer to coal deposits than a rough grade of iron ore. They did discover gold showings, however.

Gold in Porcupine

In the midsummer of 1909 Messrs Hollinger, Gillies and Middleton again headed for the Porcupine. They found George Bannerman and partner in the Golden City area and Jack Wilson and his party at what is now the Dome. It was the recording of gold claims by George Bannerman that summer that started the rush in here. Harry Preston, of the Wilson party, advised Benny Hollinger and Alex Gillies to go further west among the lakes and they did so staking the claims now incorporated in the Hollinger Mine. The recording of these and of the Dome claims completed the basis for the subsequent rushes into the area.

With the later development of the mines new communities came into being. "Wealth won from the ground was new wealth," the booklet says, "and no man the poorer for its production." It was not long before communities took shape, responding to the energizing urge which emanated



MINISTER 1929-1937

Rev. Bruce Millar now with Royal Canadian Air Force at Brantford, was one of the most popular ministers serving here, and there was general regret when he left to accept a call to a Toronto church. In his message on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary, he says:—"My experience in Timmins was a second college course to me. I wouldn't have missed it for any price; and my sincere wish is that the United Church there will go on and be an ever increasing strength and inspiration for those moral and spiritual values without which there isn't say true life."

establish the church on firm foundation. It was during his pastorate that the first manse was built and the first church building completed enough for use for church purposes. The lots for the church and manse were donated by the chief owners of the Hollinger Mine. The new church was dedicated on Feb. 11th, 1917, with R.V. J. D. Byrnes conducting the services, assisted by Rev. J. Macdonald. Mr. Jas. Geils was choir leader and Mrs. J. W. Faithful the organist. On Monday, Feb. 12th, 1917, a congregational dinner and concert was held, address being given by Rev. J. D. Byrnes, Rev. S. M. Beech (Schumacher), Dr. J. A. McInnis and others. Rev. J. Macdonald was the first regularly ordained minister of the Timmins church after it passed the mission stage. In 1918 Rev. Mr. Macdonald accepted a call to St. Joseph's Island, Manitoulin, and was succeeded by Rev. J. A. Irwin, who proved both able and popular. He in



PRESENT MINISTER

Rev. W. M. Mustard, M.A., B.D., has carried on the work of the Timmins United Church with zeal and vigour and notable organizing ability. Under his ministry the church has grown until an associate pastor was necessary and plans had to be made for a second church to meet the needs. Anything for the benefit of the community has the support of Rev. Mr. Mustard. He is an active member of the Kiwanis Club.

turn, was succeeded, the same year, by Rev. J. D. Parks who brought an unusual zeal and earnestness, and who won hosts of friends by his personality, his keen humour and his notable capacity for friendship. When Rev. Mr. Parks left here in 1929, to accept the ministry of St. Andrew's, North Bay, it was felt that his place would be difficult indeed to fill. Rev. Bruce Millar was called from Matheson and for eight years gave earnest and effective service here, being succeeded by the present minister, Rev. W. M. Mustard, M.A., B.D. In 1939 the growth of the work here necessitated an associate pastor, Rev. E. Gilmour Smith, B.A., coming here from Cobalt for the work.

List of Ministers

The souvenir booklet gives the following list of ministers, with dates of service:—

Mr. J. Maxwell Allen, 1915.
Rev. J. Macdonald, 1916-1918.
Rev. J. A. Irwin, 1918.
Rev. J. D. Parks, 1918-1929.
Rev. Bruce Millar, 1929-1937.
Rev. W. M. Mustard, 1937—
Rev. E. Gilmour Smith, 1939—

Growth of the Church

Church membership—in 1915 was 15; in 1916, it is 718.

Sunday school—in 1915 average attendance 35; in 1941, over 600.

The original church building here has been doubled in size, but another new church is needed in another part of the town to accommodate the growing population.

Church Directory for 1915

The booklet gives the officers, etc., for 1915 as follows:—

Board of Managers—Geo. R. Vary, president; Dr. J. A. McInnis, vice-president; Jas. Ralph, secretary; L. E.



ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Rev. E. Gilmour Smith, B.A., was given a call from Cobalt church to become associate minister of Timmins United Church in 1939. While giving his heart to the work of the church he is active in other community ventures, being a member of the Lions Club, and the moving spirit in organizing the Festival of Music for this part of the North.

Unusual Programme at Timmins United Church Y. P. U.

Wednesday evening an attendance of about forty young people of the Timmins United Church Young People's Union enjoyed an educational and highly interesting programme under the auspices of the Christian Culture department. The meeting opened with a sing song of four members led by Dorothy Taylor. Mr. Herbert Treneer supplied the piano accompaniment. A brief business session ensued and Bill Black read the minutes of the two previous meetings, injecting his usual touch of humour into his report. The meeting resolved into the 10 minute discussion groups after which a worship service was conducted by Bert Guild assisted by Peggy Williams, Bill Black and Logan Kerr.

The programme was of a different variety from the usual consisting of four movie shorts on various subjects presented by Mr. Bert Marcuz. The first entitled, "Paths of Learning" dealt with college life at Queen's University at Kingston and presented a bird's eye view as it were. This was followed by a short feature describing the filming of a stunt performed by a dare devil car driver. The third a reel under the title "Did You Know?" revealed some of the oddities of this world we live in and serve to prove that sometimes truth is stranger than fiction. The final picture was a study of careful driving as practiced by truck drivers throughout the nation. All films were accompanied by sound, and were thoroughly enjoyed by the entire gathering.

A brief period of recreation under the supervision of Dorothy Taylor topped off the evening and the meeting closed with the benediction.

The Young People's Union extend a hearty welcome to all young people to attend the weekly meeting every Wednesday evening at 8:15.

Capt. Vollick Addresses Meeting of the A.Y.P.A.

In an address to the A.Y.P.A. at its regular meeting on Wednesday evening, Captain Vollick stressed the importance of co-operation between the Young People and their leaders. Co-operation should not be forced by a pleasing personality or because they have been taught to co-operate, but by a willingness to better their organization.

Among those specially mentioned in the booklets as giving unusual service to the church, particularly in its early struggles are:—E. L. Longmore, L. E. Dorway, Jas. Ralph, Mrs. F. S. Delong, Mr. Tom Millar, J. A. Bailey, H. Brown, Mr. B. E. Martin, Mr. Dryer, Mr. Allan.

Other Notes

Ladies' Aid Society organized Jan. 14th, 1915. For many years the Ladies' Aid suppers and other events were noted occasions in the district.

It is by co-operation, said Capt. Vollick, that the members may best live up to their motto "For Christ and His Church."

The meeting this week was postponed, as it is Ash Wednesday, but will be held as usual on March 5th.

Growth of the Town

A table in the booklet shows the growth of the community and the church.

In 1917 the population of the town is given as 3,229, the growth until 1924 being small but steady each year. In 1924 the population was 12,293. In 1934 this had risen to 17,436, while last year it was 28,630.

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