

Rev. Harry Royle Named President of Conference on Second Ballot at Windsor

June 1941
Talbotville Minister Elevated to High Office in Body Where
He Served as Secretary for Nine Years; Conference
Transacts Much Business

Rev. Harry Royle, pastor of the Talbotville United Church, is the new president of the London conference of the United Church. He was chosen on the second ballot at the opening session of the conference in Lincoln Road United Church at Windsor Tuesday.

Other nominees were Rev. A. Murray Stuart, Colborne Street United Church, London; Rev. Arthur Page, of Exeter, and Rev. A. J. Smale, of Strathroy.

Mr. Royle, a native of Bolton, Lancashire, England, began his probationary services in the Christian ministry in Newfoundland in 1904. He was ordained in 1909, and served in many parishes in that colony. He was secretary of

Mr. Royle was born at Bolton, a town in Lancashire, England. As a young man he came out to Newfoundland to enter the ministry of the Methodist Church. That was in 1904. After the usual probationary period Mr. Royle was ordained. In July, 1909, he was married to Myra B. Oldford of Musgrave Town, Newfoundland. His first charge after ordination was a group of islands, the main one being known as Herring Neck. His next charge was in the town of Corner Brook, after which he was called to a large city congregation at St. John's (Wesley). He concluded his work in Newfoundland with a pastorate in the town of Freshwater. During his last two years he was secretary of the Newfoundland Conference.

The question of obtaining better educational advantages for their children brought Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Royle to Ontario in 1920. He has since served in the province in the Methodist and United Churches, principally in Middlesex County and since 1936, when he came to Springfield from Thorndale in the Elgin Presbytery. In 1940 he took charge at Talbotville.

Presbyteries and Conferences have honored Mr. Royle and recognized his abilities on many occasions. He was secretary of London Presbytery three years and for nine years was secretary of the London Conference. He has also served on many important church committees.

There are four children in the Royle family: Jack, graduate of Western Ontario University, now on the editorial staff of the Winnipeg Tribune; Florence, now Mrs. Murray, wife of Lieut. Robert G. Murray, at present an instructor with the Signalling Corps at Barriefield, Ont.; Amy, now Mrs. Walter Spence, of Toronto; and Miss Mollie E. Royle, who recently graduated at Alma College and is now on the office staff of J. H. Gould Limited, St. Thomas.



REV. HARRY ROYLE

the Newfoundland conference two years. He came to Ontario in 1920 and has served in many important charges. Before going to Talbotville last year he was pastor at Springfield. He was conference secretary for nine years, retiring in 1940 to be succeeded by Rev. R. B. Cumming, of Salford, Oxford County, who was re-elected to that post on Tuesday.

There is no better posted man in the London conference on the work of church courts.

Mr. Royle's wife is the former Myra B. Oldford, of Musgrave Town, Newfoundland, and his family consists of a son and three daughters.

In uttering his thanks for the honor conferred upon him, Mr. Royle called the United Church "an ideal organization" and said that "today, as the Empire is, the church is fighting for her life."

Succeeds Dr. Mooney

Mr. Royle succeeds Rev. V. T. Mooney, pastor of the Lincoln Road Church which is host to the gathering.

(Sept. 1953.)

June.
1941.

New President
of Conference



REV. HARRY ROYLE, pastor of the Talbotville United Church, who was elected president of the London Conference of the United Church at the annual sessions held in Windsor, has a very fine record in the ministry and in the higher councils of the church. His qualifications for the responsible position he is now filling are widely recognized and this, coupled with his personal popularity, has brought him congratulations from all parts of the Conference he is now serving.

1940
to
1945;

Thinks Ten Could Operate Canada

Editor, Times-Journal: Sir,—I notice that in the melee which is being caused by the action of the government at Ottawa in promising (?) that a plebiscite will be organized, to ask the voters to liberate the Premier at Ottawa from his promise not to send Canadian troops abroad to fight, our own Premier has some outspoken remarks to make. Among other things, he threatens to institute proceedings to abolish provincial parliaments. He is so beautifully inconsistent in so many things that we must forgive him that outburst of hysteria. But, what of it? Suppose that any man were to gain such power over the law and history of Canada that he could abolish all the provincial parliaments, what of it? Would it not be a boon to the country? Some one has stated that the government of Canada is likened to a mouse burdened with the trappings of an elephant. Is it not so? The worst that could happen would be that hundreds, the Premier included, would have to look elsewhere for political pap and work. Well, would that be a hardship? It would save untold money. It would remove a ridiculous situation so far as the government of Canada is concerned. It might even be a boon. Personally, I think that it would. Go to it, Mr. Hepburn.

Ten honest, level-headed businessmen at Ottawa could give us a much better government than we are now getting anywhere in Canada. Place them at Ottawa and give them business liberty.

HARRY ROYLE.
United Church parsonage,
Talbotville, Jan. 31, 1942.

REV., MRS. H. ROYLE HONORED BY FRIENDS

Cheque Presented to Departing
Talbotville Minister 1945

TALBOTVILLE, June 30. — A social evening was held in the school hall last week to honor Rev. H. Royle and Mrs. Royle before taking up residence at Byron avenue, London. Walter Auckland acted as chairman. A program included community singing, piano duet by Viola Gunning and Shirley Travers, vocal duet by Mrs. R. Auckland and Mrs. W. Aek, reading by Mrs. Walter Bawden, instrumental duet by Shirley and Ronnie Travers, and accordion solo by Rhoda Stuart. Mrs. Taylor read an address and Mrs. R. Auckland presented the guests of honor with a substantial cheque from the Women's Association and one from the church board.

On Monday evening the choir met at the home of Mr. and Joe Auckland, the guest of honor, Rev. H. Royle, who has been a faithful member of the choir for the past five years, was presented with a "Holy Bible" by the president, Lester Longhurst. Mrs. R. Auckland, the leader, read a very appropriate verse before the presentation.

June 30.

1945:

Rev. Royle Farewell.

Rev. Harry Royle
preached in Talbot
ville United
Church from
1940 to 1945.
He resides in
St. Thomas, Ont
in retirement.

Talbotville United Church Damaged by Stubborn Fire

Blaze, Which Started in Kitchen and Gutt'd School Room,
Threatened Adjoining Buildings

A fire, which started in the lean-to kitchen at the rear of the 65-year-old United Church at Talbotville, about 9:30 o'clock, Friday morning, destroyed that building and gutted the school room of the church before the blaze was extinguished by the united efforts of dozens of volunteer firefighters and members of the Southwold and Yarmouth Fire Departments, who worked under the direction of Fire Chief Jack Miterlla of St. Thomas.

Fortunately, the wind was blowing from the west, away from the church building and there were ample supplies of water in wells and cisterns in the neighborhood. At one time it was feared that the fire would spread to the adjoining houses and possibly sweep south to the Greyhound station and inn.

Three fire engines were rushed to the scene within half an hour after the call was sent out. The first to respond was the Southwold truck from Shedden; next came Yarmouth's new pumper truck from Union with several of the members of the Yarmouth department. The last to arrive was the Belmont Fire Department's truck, carrying additional supplies of chemical powder. The Belmont truck was delayed when it went into the ditch just outside of Belmont.

Fire Chief Jack Miterlla of the St. Thomas Fire Department reached the scene before ten o'clock. Charles Kettlewell of the St. Thomas Water Department also responded in his car, taking with him one of the portable fire extinguishers used in fighting fires in the department's forestry area.

The Southwold Fire Department's truck in charge of Charles Mabey and Walter Kruffen, was particularly useful in fighting the blaze that spread rapidly under the roof of the school room on the rear of the church. Fourteen 45-gallon tanks of chemical solution were used. Only two additional sacks of chemical powder were

left — enough to mix another 90 gallons — when the Yarmouth firemen took over and put their power take-off pumper into operation.

The truck from the Belmont department, however, had about a barrel of the dry chemical, if it had been required.

Practical Christianity

The fire offered striking evidence that practical Christianity and the co-operative spirit still are strong in Talbotville district. Men and women of every denomination turned out to form bucket brigades, carry out the chairs, piano and other furniture from the burning building and man ladders and pike poles.

Just what caused the fire has not been determined, but it is possible that a fire may have been

smouldering in the big stove in the kitchen. The church janitor had been in the kitchen about half an hour previously. The Times-Journal was informed, and apparently left everything in order. This would disprove the suggestion that a transient might have spent the night in the kitchen and started a fire in the stove to keep warm. The Ladies' Aid held a meeting in the school room Thursday while the young people were to have met there Friday evening.

The church shed extended on the rear of the kitchen and in it was stored a large quantity of kindling and other wood. Quantities of dishes and cooking utensils belonging to the Women's Association of the church were stored in the kitchen.

The fire was discovered by Messrs. W. Maider and H. Brown, London young men, who were motoring to St. Thomas on a business mission. They hurried to the parsonage, immediately north of the church. The alarm was spread by telephone by Mrs. Royle, wife of Rev. Harry Royle, pastor of the church. The two Londoners remained to assist the first firefighters to arrive and form bucket brigades.

Among those who rendered outstanding service in fighting the fire was H. (Scotty) Murray, Dominion Natural Gas man at Lambeth, and Mrs. Wilson Young. Mrs. Young was one of the first to start carrying water and was still at it when many other volunteer workers had quit.

The United Church at Talbotville is on the east side of No. 4 Highway, about a city block north of the main intersection.

GRATEFUL FOR HELP FIGHTING CHURCH FIRE

Talbotville Congregation and Officials Send Thanks

Rev. Harry Royle, pastor of the United Church at Talbotville, writes to The Times-Journal:

"The officials and congregation of Talbotville United Church desire to and hereby do, thank the many friends who helped to put out the fire which on Friday last destroyed the shed, kitchen and Sunday School hall of the church. Had it not been for the prompt and generous help freely given by many willing hands, we certainly would also have lost the church, and maybe other and near-by buildings. As it is, while the east wall of the church was scorched, we were able to worship in the church on Sunday. Our own congregation worked splendidly, ably aided by scores of people who co-operated nobly.

"Special thanks are due to the fire brigades which rushed to our aid from Shedden, Union, Yarmouth and Belmont; also to Fire Chief Miterlla of St. Thomas, who though out on other business, came along in the nick of time to give direction to the men who were fighting the flames.

"The fire started from some cause unknown, under the shed on the north side, about 10 yards east of the kitchen. The loss is partially covered by insurance, and is estimated at a little over \$2,000 (two thousand dollars.)

"And thank you, Mr. Editor, for your wise and kindly summing up of the situation in your briefer editorial in the Saturday edition."

Dec. 6th, 1940.

HANK'S CORNER

WHERE BOSSES ARE PLENTIFUL

We don't know of any occurrence, of an emergency nature, where bosses and would-be bosses are more numerous than at a fire in a rural community. This fact was impressed on us yesterday, when the United Church at Talbotville took a notion to burn down. There were the usual number of bosses and would-be bosses at this fire; but the real work was done by the men and woman who jumped in and simply "sawed wood," which in this instance was pumping and carrying buckets of water and lugging out chairs, benches, a piano and an organ. . . . And did you ever notice what experts some people (who never do anything at a fire) are in getting in the way of people who do things at a fire?

There's always a bit of fun at a fire. We got a few chuckles out at Talbotville. A woman who kept running around, talking excitedly, with her hands full of clothespins, stirred our risibles. And then there was the man who stood on the roof of the gutted section of the building, chopping feverishly with an axe, while several men inside the building were pulling down that section of the roof with ropes. He had to be warned of his danger.

That fellow reminded us of an old chap in our home town, a staid, quiet fellow until a fire occurred, then he went plain nuts. We recall seeing him on one occasion standing in the centre of a cross beam in a barn that he was industriously sawing through. His prize effort was when the old hotel burned. He carried all the bedding down from the third floor rooms and carefully deposited it on the ground, then went up and started throwing all the water pichers and other crockery from the windows.

Rev. Harry Royle.
1940. - 1945.

It takes a fire to show how the people in small communities work together. Without such co-operation effort the church at Talbotville, perhaps other buildings might today be blackened ruins. As it is, Friday's fire damaged only a portion of the church property.

Friday, Dec. 6th, 1940 - Date of fire.



January
1954

WIPE OUT DEBT — The fine hall, built by St. Andrew's United Church, West avenue, in 1949, at the cost of \$16,000, is now fully paid for, and a gathering to celebrate the occasion was held in the hall on Friday evening. At that time Rev. Harry Royle, 25 West avenue, minister at the time the project was initiated and carried through, turned over to George Turner, the treasurer of the building fund, a replica of a cheque for the full amount of the debt. The final instalment was paid on January 16. During the evening, Mr. Turner (second from left) outlined the progress of the building and the means of financing it. Seen in the above photograph taken Friday night were (left to right)—Fred Kitchen, of the church session; Mr. Turner, Mr. Royle (dubbed the "king pin" of the project; Walter Plastow, of the stewards; and Rev. W. G. Rose, the present minister.

After leaving Talbotville Church, ¹⁹⁴⁵ Rev. Harry Royle preached at St. Andrew's United Church St. Thomas, where he had built fine church hall. He retired in 1950, & lives in St. Thomas Ont. His daughter, Mrs. Walter Bawden, and grand-son Billy, reside at Talbotville, Ont. (Sept. 1953)

Rev. Harry Royle Passes Here After Brief Illness

Dec. 1958

Beloved minister of St. Andrew's United Church and the Talbotville United Church for many years, Rev. Harry Royle died Saturday morning at the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital after a brief illness. His home was at 25 West avenue.

Mr. Royle, who was 79, went into retirement several years ago, but returned to serve again at St. Andrew's Church during a period when there was an acute shortage of ministers in the United Church. In consequence he had not had much time to enjoy leisure in his advancing years. He retired the second time only about two years ago.

Coming to Canada as a student minister in his youth from his native England, where he was born at Bolton, Lancs., Mr. Royle first worked in Newfoundland and then spent several years studying at Mount Allison University. Upon graduation, he returned to Newfoundland in the ministry and spent 11 years there. Fifty years ago, he married the former Myra Oldford while in Newfoundland and they would have celebrated their golden wedding this month had Mr. Royle lived.

Coming to Ontario after service in Newfoundland, Mr. Royle held pastorates at Nile, Romney, Delaware, Welbourne, Thorndale and Springfield before coming to the Talbotville-St. Andrew's Church charge.

For 10 years he served as secretary of the London Conference and in 1941, a year as president. Since his retirement, Mr. Royle attended First United Church.

Surviving besides Mrs. Royle are one son, John C. Royle, To-



REV. HARRY ROYLE

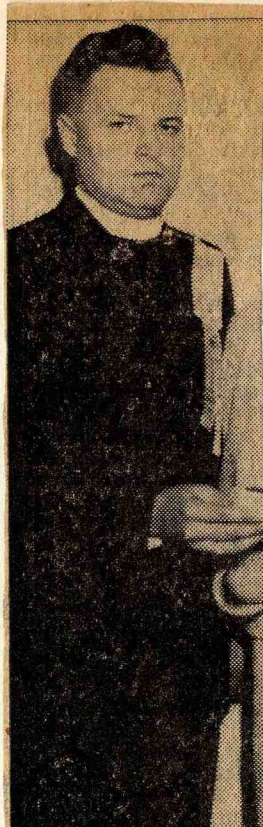
ronto, and three daughters, Mrs. Florence Murray, Ottawa; Mrs. W. L. (Amy) Spence, Toronto and Mrs. Walter (Mollie) Bawden, R.R. 7, St. Thomas (Talbotville district). There are also eight grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

The remains are resting at the P. R. Williams and Son funeral home where the funeral service will be conducted at two p.m. Tuesday by Rev. R. B. Craig, of First United Church, and Rev. F. E. Ball, of St. Andrew's. Interment will be made in Elmdale Memorial Park.



INDUCTED AT SHEDDEN —

The first ordained woman ever to take a pastorate in Elgin County, Rev. Erla Currey, was inducted Wednesday night as minister of the Shedden, Frome, and Southwold United Churches. The ceremony took place in Shedden United Church, with Rev. H. E. J. Moorhouse, of West Lorne, officiating, and with Rev. M. G. Clarke, of Port Stanley, addressing both minister and people. Wilfred Silcox, Grant Waite and Leonard Moore responded for the congregation. Miss Currey, who comes from Orton, succeeds Rev. Dr. M. W. Goodrich, who was killed in a motor accident earlier this spring. She is one of four new United Church ministers to be inducted in Elgin County churches this week. At the reception after the service, held in the Sunday school room, Mrs. E. L. Baker assisted in the introduction of members of the congregation to Miss Currey and her mother. During the induction service, the choir was directed by Mrs. C. F. Palmer at the organ and Harley Koyl was soloist. **June 30 / 55**



AT YOUTH RALLY—

Rev. Evan
Mc. Lagan.
Apr. 21st, 1956.
Homedale.
Yarmouth Centre.
Townline
circuit

Sunday School ^{Jan 16th} Officers Elected ¹⁹⁵⁶

TALBOTVILLE — The annual meeting of the Sunday School was held on Monday with a good attendance. Reports from the treasurer and the secretaries of the different departments showed that 1955 was a good year.

The election of officers and teachers were, Ralph and Albert Auckland, associate superintendents; Don Shiell, secretary; Bob Osborne, assistant secretary; Betty Wallis, treasurer; Elaine Cole, pianist; Nancy Burtwistle and Patsy McCallum, librarians.

Teenage boys' class: teachers, Bible class, Mrs. E. Fife; Mr. and Mrs. class, Mrs. V. Martyn; others, Mrs. J. Auckland, Mrs. F. Parker, Mrs. W. Meek, A. Auckland, Mrs. R. Clinton, Mrs. L. Osborne, Mrs. C. Chute, Miss Eleanor Voaden, Miss Gladys Dobbie; Primary class, Miss Betty Wallis and Miss Lela Stuart; Missionary secretary, Mrs. C. Dobbie; temperance, Mrs. A. Thomas; cradle roll, Mrs. J. Auckland.

Several projects were discussed and left over until the congregational meeting on Monday next. The Sunday School will start at 10:15 a.m. starting Feb. 5.

Peggy Farrington, of Shedden, spent the weekend with Carol Young.

Mr. and Mrs. O. Brown and Mr. and Mrs. O. Squire, of Centralia, spent Monday with Mr. and Mrs. N. Brokenshire and Mr. and Mrs. J. Brokenshire.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Curtis visited with Mr. and Mrs. L. Flashman.

Mrs. L. Flashman spent Friday with her sisters Mrs. J. Carter and Mrs. Ada Webb, Shedden.

The Women's Institute will sponsor a card party on Monday, January 30, at the "Three Dukes," Talbotville.

Those attending the Women's Institute winter picnic at Crinan on Tuesday included, Mesdames R. Auckland, H. Clarke, H. Stuart, L. Flashman, G. Clinton, C. Chute, J. McCormick, C. Dobbie, C. Voaden, W. Goold, E. Auckland, A. Thomas, F. Auckland, W. Dood Sr., W. Dodd Jr., J. Catheral, N. Brokenshire, J. Auckland, G. McCallum, accompanied by Mrs. G. Lyle, Mrs. G. Smith and Mrs. M. Adams of Paynes Mills W.I.

Members from the Afternoon W.M.S. and the Evening Auxiliary are planning to attend Elgin Presbyterial to be held on Tuesday, at Grace United Church, St. Thomas.

Last Sunday's special Easter service was well attended and special Easter anthems were rendered by the choir. Thirteen members were added to the church roll: Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Meek, Mr. and Mrs. D. Pyatt, and Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Gilbert, by letter and by profession of faith; from the Sunday School, Virginia Auckland, Nancy Burtwistle, Patsy Meek, Garry Clinton, Paul Gilbert, Ronald Lyle, and Tom Etheridge. **Apr. 20th, 1956**