

of the land-seekers had an idea of the district in which they wished to locate, and consequently they went in parties of from six to a dozen with one guide.

The part of New Ontario adjacent to New Liskeard is about the area of the two counties York and Simcoe, and in this area twenty-seven townships have been surveyed. As the land is of very uniform quality, the Lands Department has only thrown ten townships open for settlement in order to concentrate the population, and thus give the newcomers, as far as possible, the benefits of close settlement with its attendant advantages of roads, bridges, schools, and churches. New Liskeard is situated in the south-eastern corner of the Township of Dymond, which was all located at the time of the arrival of the excursion, as were also Harris to the east, and Bucke to the south. The Townships of Harley and Kerns, which are north of Dymond, were also pretty well filled, so that the settlement was directed chiefly to the new Township of Armstrong, the nearest corner of which is twelve miles from New Liskeard. There were only a few lots taken in Armstrong before the party arrived; when the party left it was located in five out of the six concessions; and there was also a sparkling of new allotments in Kerns, Harley, and in Hilliard, the first township east of Armstrong. A party of land-seekers who wanted to see all the opened townships before locating went up later to look at the parts of the Townships of Harris, Casey, Hilliard, and Ingram, lying along the Blanche or White River, on the eastern boundary of the Province of Ontario.

#### THE CHURCHES REPRESENTED.

On the Wednesday evening those arrivals who could not be accommodated in the house boat were taken in hand by the residents of New Liskeard, and treated with a pioneer hospitality which is peculiarly characteristic of the district. While all the citizens of New Liskeard and especially the members of the Reception Committee worked energetically in this respect, the person to whom, perhaps, the greatest amount of credit is due is Rev. F. C. Pitts, who freely opened his house to members of the party, and who, while Director Southworth and Land Agent Armstrong were doing the proverbial "land office business" at the Crown Lands office, took the newspaper men in charge and showed them the district. He also arranged for, and acted as chairman at, a meeting of settlers to let the newspapers learn the feeling of the community on certain important matters. In Mr. Pitts the Presbyterian Church has a representative fit to occupy the position of leader in this important community at its most critical time, when the man behind the clergyman is most severely tested. He has had to do all sorts of pioneer work, tramping along blazed paths, canoeing, rowing, building, organizing, and acting as extempore Mayor of the town and chairman of important gatherings, and in all he has acted with tact and modesty. The Methodist minister was absent at the time, the Baptist minister was unwell, and the Church of England clergyman lives at Halleybury, and consequently only met a few members of the party for a few moments. It will thus be seen that the leading denominations are fully aware of the importance of the field and have it well occupied.

By five o'clock on Thursday morning most of the land-seekers had pulled on their "walking boots," and were following their guides into the forest. For the next two days no land-seekers were to be seen in New Liskeard, and it was not until Friday evening and Saturday that they began to return in small