

missionaries, for important outposts in Algoma, as well as in Muskoka, North Hastings, and Upper Ottawa districts. The Rev. Prof. McLaren, who had recently visited the North-West, appeared before the Committee and made a lengthened statement as to the work in Prince Albert, North West Territory, where a new church has been built, and the prospects are most hopeful. Rev. James Robertson the Superintendent of Missions, presented a report of his labours during the past six months. Much new territory has been explored and many old fields visited. Along the boundary, the limit of settlement was fully 120 miles in advance of what it was last fall. Altogether between 40,000 and 50,000 settlers had found homes during the summer in the North West, and as in former years the majority of the immigrants are Presbyterians. The improvement in the circumstances of the people was manifested by the fact that five fields had resumed all responsibility of supporting their own minister. These were Gladstone, Nelson, Rock Lake, Big Plain, Springfield, and Sunnyside. The Church and Manse Building Fund had stimulated the erection of churches in a gratifying manner. at Brandon and Rapid City neat, comfortable churches had been completed. At West Lynne Sunnyside, Brant, Stonewall, Nepawa, Minnedosa, Cadurcis, Carberry, Virden, Regina, Edmonton, Bernard, Rat Portage, Peacock, and McClure's, churches were in course of construction. At Green Ridge, Gladstone, Birtle, Rolling River, Oak Lake and a few other places steps have been taken to build next season. Aid was granted to erect manses at Nelson and High Bluff. The scarcity of building material has deterred building somewhat. The sum of \$15,000 was voted for missionary work in the North-West. A number of new appointments were made. Rev. George Bruce, of St. Catherines, was asked to take charge of the work at and around Regina, the new capital. *In re* Dr. Cochrane's report, it was agreed that nothing be done by the church in Canada which may imperil the unity of Presbyterianism in British Columbia, nor without the consent and co-operation of the Home Churches.

British Columbia.

REPORT BY REV. DR. COCHRANE, THE DEPUTY
APPOINTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
TO VISIT THE CHURCHES
IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

IN FULFILMENT of his appointment, Dr. Cochrane proceeded to British Columbia, via San Francisco, and arrived at Victoria on the 1st of August. After leaving

Victoria he visited New Westminster, Langley, Yale, Burrard Inlet, Nanaimo, and Comox. At nearly all these points he preached, and held conferences with the ministers and other office-bearers of the congregations. The report which was prepared for the Assembly's Home Mission Committee as well as the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland, is a printed pamphlet of eighteen pages, containing a large amount of valuable historical and statistical information, to which are added remarks and recommendations as to what appears to be the wishes of the people and the best means of supplying them with ordinances. The following are the main facts connected with the rise and progress of the several congregations :

FIRST CHURCH, VICTORIA.—This Church was organized in January, 1862, with twelve members, its first Missionary Pastor being the Rev. John Hall, who was sent by the Presbyterian Church of Ireland and who remained with the congregation until 1865. Application was then made to the Free Church of Scotland, and the United Presbyterian Church for a minister, without success. For a short time, Mr. Nimmo, sent out by the Church of Scotland, held services in the Congregational Church, attended by several Scotch families, but was afterwards withdrawn, and the Rev. Thomas Somerville appointed. He arrived in June, 1865, and preached until September, 1866, when on account of certain differences in the congregation, he withdrew and organized Saint Andrew's Church in connection with the Church of Scotland. The First Church was then left without a minister, from September 1866 until March 1875, when the Rev. John Reid, a Congregational minister from England, supplied the pulpit until April 1881. He was followed by the Rev. A. H. Smith, a minister who had formerly preached to the Methodist Church in Victoria, who remained as supply from April 1881, to April 1882. At present, and pending negotiations with our own Church, the pulpit is supplied by the Rev. Daniel Gamble, a licentiate of the Presbyterian Church of the United States. The membership is at present sixty: Elders, four; Managers, twelve. The Sabbath School has one hundred and five on the roll, with an average attendance of sixty-five, and ten teachers. The debt on the church building and Sabbath School rooms adjoining, is between \$4,000 and \$5,000. This congregation has never received any aid from outside sources. Although a Presbyterian Church, in virtue of its deed, it has never been in connection with any Presbyterian body, but now seeks admission to the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Last year \$2,100 were raised for the support of ordinances, interest, and other incidentals.