

## Progress in the Cariboo.

NOTE:—In view of the recent formation of a "Presbytery of Cariboo," the following notes contributed by a writer who has himself had a considerable number of years' experience in the Upper Country, may be read with interest by many of our readers.—[Editor.]

In the year 1894, the great Superintendent Dr. Robertson sent George A. Wilson, then a student, now Superintendent of Missions for British Columbia, into the region of the upper waters of the Fraser River, known for decades back as the Cariboo Country, to do scout work. Young Wilson went forward on his task with some timidity, as the Superintendent in his "word of counsel" had given him minute instructions on how to swim a swift river with his horse. He was to ride boldly into the stream until the horse was off bottom, then to slip off behind and hang on to the horse's tail. The advice, however, was useless, and Mr. Wilson's fears groundless, for he was able to travel almost everywhere in a comfortable buggy and over good roads. He held services here and there among farmers and miners. For the Cariboo was already a well established, if scattered, community. The lure of the yellow metal had brought eager miners as far up the Fraser as Quesnel as early as 1859. Thousands of men poured in from Canada as well as from California in the early sixties and the gold that was taken out was so vast in quantity as to make the name of Barkerville—the town that grew up in the centre of the section—a famous name. It is now largely a deserted village, though thousands of dollars in gold are still washed up each season from the gulches and creeks surrounding. In its palmy days, there were three churches—a Methodist, an Anglican, and a Welsh Church. The former two still stand, but are seldom used.

But the Cariboo Country has not been left to grow up in spiritual weeds. The result of Mr. Wilson's visit was the establishment of a regular mission. Ever since that time, with some intervals, there has been a Presbyterian missionary in the Cariboo. The headquarters of the work has been the town of Quesnel, which has for many years been the distributing point for Cariboo. Here dwelt some rare souls, notably Mrs. McLean and Mrs. Bohanon, the one an English, the other an American lady. The former was the prime mover in a notable thing that was done in 1895. Before the arrival of a regular student or minister, when as yet there were only itinerant preachers, a church was built free of debt, equipped with pulpit, organ and bell, and capable of seating about 75 people. It cost \$800. Just as it was ready the first missionary arrived in the person of Mr. Andrew Glass Hutton. Ill-health caused Mr. Hutton to leave after about six months' service. Rev. Dr. McKinnon, now of Kitsilano, Vancouver, manned the field for the next six months. For the next three years Duncan Campbell, late of Enderby, ministered to the people of the Cariboo.