

spent by the Church in mission work for their benefit the past year. A new system is being adopted in dealing with the Indians and an effort is being made to break up the tribes and bands, and establish among them the principle of individual responsibility. The old system has tended to make them paupers, and they have been taught to look to the government to make up for their idleness in not fishing and hunting enough to keep them supplied. Schools are being established so that children can be taken from the different tribes and trained where they have not the evil influence of wild companions near them. These when educated will make missionaries to their respective tribes. The government pay $\frac{1}{2}$ of the cost of the schools, and the Church pays the balance. There are 25 000 Episcopians in the Province and they are expected to subscribe for the present year \$3 000. What is needed are subscriptions which can be depended upon, not spasmodic contributions.

DIOCESE OF SASKATCHEWAN.

STANLEY.—It may interest some of your readers to learn, first, that there is such a place as Stanley, and, second, where it is. Stanley is situated on the English or Churchill River, about 300 miles northwest of Cumberland and the same distance northeast of Prince Albert. The settlement is sometimes known as Rapid River Fort. To show what delightful mail facilities exist, I may mention that on the 17th November a *Free Press* of the 12th June came to hand and the contents were eagerly devoured by the inhabitants as "news." Stanley is the seat of an important branch of the C. M. S., which is doing much good work among the Indians. It was founded in 1855 by the late Rev. Robt. Hunt, and since then has witnessed the heroic struggles, trying disappointments, and heart-gladdening successes of several of the noble and disinterested spirits who have abandoned all in the service of the Master in this country. Among these may be mentioned Archdeacon J. Mackay, of Emmanuel College, Prince Albert; Rev. S. Trivett, at Calgary; and the Rev. Rural Dean Jettée.

Trinity Church, Stanley, is one of the finest churches in the territory. It was built by the Rev. R. Hunt, and its seating capacity is about 600. Its style is Gothic and it contains much fine stained glass and carved woodwork. There is a mission school at Stanley and another at Big Stone River, and the Indians in many other parts of the parish (which is about 140 miles long and 100 wide) are fully alive to the advantages of tuition and extremely desirous of obtaining it, but unfortunately the funds of the society are inadequate to meet these appeals as fully as it would wish. The mission is at present in charge of the Rev. Rodk. McLennan.

The principal article of diet here is white-fish, as game is very scarce, and the freight on imported supplies is very high; everything having to be brought from Cumberland House in York boats; indeed, if it was not for the fact that the H. B. Co., make a special arrangement in favor of the U. M. S., the common necessities of life would be hardly obtainable.

DIOCESE OF CALGARY.

CALGARY.—The first Synod of Calgary is to be held this week. His Lordship the Metropolitan of Rupert's Land left Winnipeg yesterday for Calgary, and will preach the sermon at the opening.

DIOCESE OF ATHABASCA.

The following letter received by Miss Cole, Secretary of the Young Ladies' Missionary Society, of St. George's Church, Montreal, will be read with much interest. It is not often that we are able to obtain particulars of Church work and progress in this distant field:

Dear Miss Cole,—It gives me much pleasure

to inform you of the safe arrival of the gifts of clothing, &c., made to myself and Allen Hardisty, native catechist. The same have been thankfully received by the poor and needy ones in our midst. I am requested to convey to the kind donors the "Meroi Cho," the native expression for grateful feelings. You will observe it is the French *merci*, with the Indian added and means "a big thanks": they having no word or sentence in their language to express gratitude. Your interest and gifts lead them to think and say, the Canadians are beginning to pity us and sympathize practically with our low estate.

I shall soon be travelling among the poor Indians with my dog sledge, visiting all round this huge lake. I shall hope not to witness such sad instances of starvation, or participate in a like state myself as I did two years ago.

Indigenous animals are fast failing, and there seems no chance, as in Canada, of the land offering any assistance to substitute the above. In some parts moose and deer are still plentiful.

Bishop Bompas met me here; he has gone north again to visit the brethren beyond.

With best wishes believe me, yours faithfully.

W. SPENDLOVE.

DIOCESE OF COLUMBIA.

CANADIAN CHURCH UNION U. I. BRANCH.—

The first annual meeting of this Branch was held in the Cathedral school, Victoria, on the evening of the 4th, of Feb., H. F. Clinton B. A. in the chair. The office having been said, the report of the Secretary and Treasurer was read, it stated that the Branch had elected 30 members in the first year. 7 lectures had been delivered, 5 of them by the Rev. W. W. Bolton, Rector of Esquimalt; 1 by the Rev. A. Bealand, assistant Rector of the Cathedral, and 1 by the Rev. F. G. Clinton, of St. James Church, Vancouver; which were all largely attended and much appreciated. Corporate Communion of one at the Cathedral, and one at St. Paul's, Esquimalt, at the Feast of the Circumcision.

The financial condition of the Branch was shown to be in a satisfactory state. The following officers for the ensuing year were then elected:—H. F. Clinton, B. A., President of the Branch, J. E. Crane, Treasurer, J. Hawkins, Secretary, Jas. Townsley, A. Scroggs and Thos. Norgate, Committee.

DIOCESE OF NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.

Continuation of report from the *Churchman's Gazette* of the Bishop's address to the Synod:

TRENT.—Mr. Croucher reports an increase right through his return, and the increase in the number of communions made, from 36 in the previous year to 68 last year, is a most hopeful sign, for, being greater than it accounted for by the increase of communicants, it is symptomatic of an awakening to the simple fact that spiritual life can only be maintained by spiritual food.

SURREY.—Here again is evidence of good progress. The Communicants are increased by 10, while the amount raised within the Parish has increased by something like \$286.00. I should have been glad, however, if more could have been spared for the Clergyman's stipend. The total amount received by Mr. Bell, from the Parish and the Diocesan Fund together, was only \$629.50. Mr. Bell is a "Priest of over five years' standing" and according to Canon V., is entitled to "at least \$200 00 per annum," or nearly double what he received last year. I am not saying this especially as a rebuke to Surrey, but I take advantage of this particular case to draw the attention of the laity to the amount of stipends generally throughout the Diocese. They are, I am glad to say, for the most part not less than \$750 00 per annum, but \$750.00 per annum is \$62.50

per month, or little more than a labourer's wages, and not nearly so much as those of a good mechanic. Now it is of the utmost importance to the Church in the Diocese and to a happy relationship between Pastor and People that the highest possible standard of character and ability should be maintained among the clergy, and our Diocese has been extremely fortunate in this respect, hitherto, even to the extent of exciting the open comment of visitors from other Dioceses; so that it is quite certain that low stipends do not, necessarily, imply a low class Clergy. But the fact that good and able men are willing to do God's work for low wages is scarcely a reason for indifferently allowing them to do so, but ought rather to be an incentive to greater endeavours in the direction of a substantial acknowledgment of their devotion.

I have every reason to believe that the Clergy of the Diocese are highly esteemed in their several parishes, and, therefore, a little consideration ought to be sufficient to convince the laity of the injustice of permitting the Clergy to retain a monopoly of self-sacrifice.

SAPPERTON.—St. Mary's, Sapperton, is, I think, the most neglected parish in the Diocese. It has to be satisfied with such Services as the other duties of myself and Mr. Croucher allow of. Consequently they are very uncertain and intermittent, and the interest and attendance of the people is very difficult to maintain.

FEAZER RIVER MISSIONARY DISTRICT.—This is one of the most difficult and arduous of all our Stations. It extends from Maple Ridge to Agassiz, and includes Aldergrove and Mount Lehman on the south side of the river; services being held at all these places and also at Mission, Wharlock, Barton Prairie and Harrison. Excepting immediately along the line of railway these places are all difficult of access. In summer high water is the difficulty, in the winter mud; and more especially in the Aldergrove section of the district. Nevertheless I am happy to think that of all our Clergy, the one best adapted, by character and experience, for contending with such difficulties is in charge of the district; and although the work has been a most laborious one, and entirely wanting in the incentive of brilliant results, it has been patiently fulfilled, and Mr. Ditcham looks forward hopefully to an early day when general progress and prosperity will have materially altered the aspect of affairs. Here again, however, as in the case of Surrey, I must not omit to point out that the whole stipend which Mr. Ditcham has received for the year amounted only to \$642 00, and comes, therefore, far below what, by his standing, he is entitled to.

CHILLIWACK.—It is not possible, in the case of this parish, to institute a comparison with former years, inasmuch as Mr. Allen's incumbency extends back only so far as Advent 1887, but from personal observation as well as the reports of others I am able to speak most encouragingly of the prospects of the Church, and Mr. Allen's recent advancement to the Priesthood has placed the fullest privileges of the Church within the reach of the Parishioners.

Here again, however, I must say a word or two on the subject of stipend. According to Canon V. Mr. Allen is entitled to receive \$800 00 per annum, but all he received last year was \$645 00. I presume that in this, as well as in other instances, offerings in kind may have supplied a proportion of this deficiency, and it would be well, in future returns, that these were taken into consideration, since, frequently, they are the only offerings people have to make.

(To be Continued.)

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