

LAKE SUPERIOR DISTRICT.

The country lying between Lake Superior and the prairie is mostly rough and rocky, and covered with timber. Lumbering operations are carried on extensively in several localities. The mineral wealth of the district is considered to be valuable, and certainly the silver mines south-west of Port Arthur have, during the past year, developed great richness. The building of railways will render accessible the iron and copper wealth of this region; and the settlement of the question of title to lands and minerals will no doubt stimulate the search after gold in the auriferous rocks on the islands and around the shores of the Lake of the Woods. At the outlet of this lake is one of the finest water powers on the continent, being equal to 35,000 horse, or sufficient to grind 100,000,000 bushels of wheat annually. The extent of agricultural land is considerable, but, owing to remoteness from the railway, it is not yet cultivated to any extent, except along the Rainy River and in the Township of Oliver (20 miles west of Port Arthur). In the whole district are two self-sustaining congregations, an augmented congregation and six mission fields. In 1884 there were only two missions, and towards the support of one of the missionaries the Gen. Assembly's H. M. C. paid \$250, and \$350 towards the support of the other. These two congregations gave towards the Schemes last year over \$400.

PRAIRIE SECTION.

The Fertile Belt begins about 30 miles east of the Red River, and is in three plateaux, rising one above another westward. The first, by the mileage of the Canadian Pacific Ry., is about 120 miles wide, the second a little wider, and the third, extending to the foot-hills of the Rockies, about 650. In these plateaux are about 400,000 square miles of farming and pasture lands, not including the areas in the basins of the Mackenzie and Peace Rivers. Settlement has not extended along the line of the railway west of Moose Jaw (350 miles west of Winnipeg). Sir Lester Kay has begun farming operations at selected centres west of that point, but it is thought that the western country is better adapted for ranching than mixed agriculture. At Prince Albert, Battleford, and Edmonton, on the North Saskatchewan, are successful settlements, and only railway communication is needed to make them prosperous. The land in the eastern part of the Fertile Belt is well adapted for grain and stock raising. The soil is fertile and yields bountifully, as the crops of the last few years proved. This portion is yet destined to provide a home for millions.

RANCHING BELT.

Except along the foot-hills of the Rocky Mts., at the divisional points of the C. P. R., at Maple Creek, Medicine Hat, and a few other points, the country between Moose Jaw and Calgary is empty. South of Calgary, along the mountains, are pastured about 100,000 head of cattle; and ten times the number will find abundance of food in the same district. Ranching, however, is only in its infancy yet. The coal fields in this belt are extensive and valuable. Some of the veins along the Red Deer River are estimated to yield 12,500,000 tons to the square mile. At Lethbridge, on the Belly River, at Stair, near the South Saskatchewan, at Anthracite, on the eastern slope of the Rockies, mining is vigorously prosecuted, and a good article of fuel is delivered as far east as Winnipeg. This coal is also largely used for steam purposes by railway and stationary engines.

ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

British Columbia is mostly a wild and mountainous country, and of large extent. The mountains are high and the valleys for the most part narrow and deep, and not well adapted for farming on a large scale. The land at the mouth of the Fraser River is very fertile, but very limited in extent. There are wide plateaux in the interior, too dry, it is true, for successful farming, but well adapted for ranching. The wealth of the Province is chiefly in its forests, fisheries, and mines. There is a considerable population scattered over the Province, who are engaged in developing the resources of the country, and with success. A glance at this wide field between Superior and the Pacific, with its vast and varied resources, with its possibilities in the near future, will convince the most careless that the duty of laying broad and deep the foundations of religion and morals, is the first and most important duty of the Church at present. Neglect here and at this time would be a crime, and we are thankful that so good a beginning has been made—our own Church leading.

THE INHABITANTS.

The inhabitants are mostly of Anglo-Saxon and Celtic stocks. The majority of the new comers are from Eastern Canada, but large numbers have come from Britain and the continent of Europe. The Canadian is the best adapted to the conditions of life in this new land. Scotland and Ireland have sent valuable settlers. The previous life of many sent from England made them unsuitable for the conditions found here, but greater care in selection is correcting previous mistakes. The German has proved himself a sturdy settler, but the religious views of the Mennonites have kept them so far separate from the rest of the population, prevented English from being taught in their schools, and the children and young people from adopting the customs of Canadians. The Scandinavians and Icelanders are valuable, and they are rapidly adapting themselves to the new conditions. From France many are coming, and they are to be