

THE CANADIAN CHURCH MAGAZINE

• • AND MISSION NEWS • •

Published by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada.

VOL. V.

TORONTO, OCTOBER, 1891.

No. 64.

HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 63.—THE NEW DIOCESE OF SELKIRK.

 HIS Diocese was formed out of the immense Diocese of Mackenzie River, at the Provincial Synod of Rupert's Land, last year. Mackenzie River, part of the original Diocese of Athabasca, has long been ably administered by the devoted Bishop Bompas. With characteristic self-denial he has chosen the new Diocese as his own particular charge. A glance at any good map of Canada will show that this is the most distant. It is in some respects the most arduous. It lies about the head waters of the great Yukon, and one of the stations of the Church Missionary Society is actually in Alaska.

The Diocese is in the form of a triangle, the boundary line between Alaska and Canada being one side, the 60th parallel of latitude, (the northern boundary of the Diocese of Caledonia, British Columbia), being the other side, and a line drawn to the east of the Mackenzie River, following its course from north to south the hypotenuse.

The work is entirely of a missionary character, as with the exception of a few traders and gold miners, all the people are Indians. They are of the Tukudh race, hunters and fishermen, many of whom have been brought to the knowledge of the Truth through the devoted labours of Archdeacon McDonald and others. The archdeacon has done considerable translational work, and lately sent to England the manuscript of Genesis,

Exodus and Leviticus. We believe former translations include the New Testament and the Prayer-Book.

The present stations are La Pierre's House, Peel River, Archdeacon McDonald in charge; Rampart House with about 500 baptized Christians under Rev. C. G. Wallis; Fort McPherson under a catechist; Nuklakayit under Rev. T. H. Canham, on the lower Yukon; Buston without a missionary, since the Rev. J. W. Ellington, of whom we lately wrote, was invalidated; and

Fort Liard also without a missionary.

Rampart House and McPherson, were occupied in 1874; Nuklakayit and Buston, 1888. The work is of an exceedingly arduous character. Supplies and mail can only be had, as a rule, once a year, and owing to the vast country to be traversed, freight charges are enormous. The result is that imported goods, flour, tea and groceries, are both scarce and very costly. Goods for the Yukon go by way of Alaska, for Peel River by the Mackenzie.

The name "Selkirk," istaken from a fort or trading

post of that name, now abandoned, called after Lord Selkirk, the founder of the Red River colony—the beginning of the present Province of Manitoba. There is much work to be done yet, and we trust the hands of Bishop Bompas may be greatly strengthened. It is now sixteen years since he left civilization behind him, and even now he seems loth to leave his people to pay a long expected visit to Manitoba.

A full account of Bishop Bompas has been already given in the earlier numbers of this



RT. REV. WILLIAM CARPENTER BOMPAS, D.D.

Bishop of Athabasca 1874, Bishop of Mackenzie River 1884, Bishop of Selkirk, 1891.