

plements necessary, so much will depend on the ease with which timber could be got, and the expense of provisions &c.

Perhaps the simplest plan would be to hire two men accustomed both to house building and farming, also an interpreter who might act likewise as school master, and if you had only one missionary—that would be *four* salaried persons for the first two years at least. Their aggregate salaries you may set down at £270 st. at least per annum, and the expense of their board besides which may be set down at £40 each man. A sufficient stock of horses, cattle, dogs and implements, for working the land, building purposes and travelling, may be set down at £300.

This would make a total for the first year of £730, and for the second year £430, and every subsequent year would just be according to the number of men employed and the productiveness or unproductiveness of their labour.

If a second missionary and interpreter were employed the expense would be increased by at least £190 st. exclusive of board which would require £80 additional for both. But in any arrangement to be made the expenditure would require to be regulated by the amount the committee can guarantee.

You ask how I would like to undertake the Indian work. When I left Canada it was with the full purpose of going wherever the church would send me, and of engaging in whatever work they would appoint me to. I have not altered my resolution although both Mr. Black and I are of opinion that if men younger than either of us can be got, willing and anxious to enter on the service, they would be more likely to acquire fluency in the language and thus be fitted, with God's blessing, for doing more good among the Indians.

It may be necessary however for one of us to go and select a suitable place for the station and to treat with the Indians, and it may possibly be an advantage should I take the direction of the building department.

How would it do were you to send a young man to the settlement early next spring and one of us go up and treat with the Indians on the subject and settle on a station; then go on to Edmonton and visit our friends at the "diggings" meet with the Indians again on his return and (all things being satisfactory) let one missionary, an interpreter, and two workmen go off the following spring with such horses, cattle, implements and supplies as may be necessary. This would effect an important purpose in respect to the gold regions, and would bring the expense more gradually on the church; besides it will be absolutely necessary to treat with the Indians before going up to commence operations. By this means also we would get a proper idea of the locality, the facilities for farming operations and for building, and we would know better what men and materials to take up. Perhaps also you might be prepared to send over a second missionary in the spring of 1866.

You may well consider the expense of commencing a mission on the Saskatchewan very high, and also the boarding for the men. There are several reasons for this. In the £300 is included an estimate of the cost of four horses, six horned cattle, eight dogs, carts, sleds, harness, agricultural implements, carpenter's tools, ironmongery, &c., for buildings, stoves, and other furniture, nets, &c. Then the freight will not be less than 30c. per piece, which is according to custom only 90 lbs. of any kind of goods, and the boarding is calculated at a rate similar to the rations served by the H. B. Co., to their men, and you cannot get men to agree for an inferior allowance.

The expense of living might be reduced after four or five years by the increase of live stock and the produce of farm labour, provided the locality be favourable.

Perhaps you may consider the undertaking too heavy for a beginning, and may be disposed to return to our first proposal where there would be no need for incurring any thing like the same amount of expense either at the outset or subsequently.

When Mr. Woolsey sees you, he will be able to explain these matters more