

IGNACE RAILWAY MISSION.

Our vigorous and successful missionary, A. E. Driscoll, B. A., of Manitoba College, writes:—The Ignace mission field lies between Rat Portage and Fort William, being some 300 miles long, and has been aptly described by a delegate to the General Assembly as having length without breadth. There are ten or twelve preaching stations in it with congregations varying from ten to forty, which are made up of trainmen, section men, navvies, &c., with an occasional miner or lumberman. Services are held in section-houses, stations, boarding-cars or in the open air. The audiences are composed of men of every nationality and shade of belief and every degree of intelligence. Rough and uncouth many of them are, but usually kind and ready to assist in the services, although it is a little difficult to get them to attend. Out of fifty or sixty sometimes not more than ten or twelve will come. The following is a piece of personal experience one Sabbath morning:—The missionary was going to have service at a certain station-house, and called on the navvies in their boarding car half an hour before service to invite them out. He found them washing their clothes, playing cards, &c. One who was at a game of cards looked up and said, "Say, do you want us to come as we are?" "Yes," was the reply, "just as you are." When ready to commence service the missionary returned to let them know that services were about to begin, and in they came, crowding into the back seats without coats or vests, a high boot on one foot and a shoe on the other, and their toilets being very indifferently made, but they joined in the singing heartily, and paid earnest attention to the plain Gospel sermon. This is but a fair specimen of incidents occurring every week. The field being so long a great deal of travelling is necessary, three or four hundred miles a week being the average. The means of locomotion are many—sometimes in the "varnished car," or by freight train, hand car, or railway velocipede, or may be the proverbial "tie-pass" (on foot). Long trips many of them are, but the missionary feels well repaid when he sees the great need, and is generally received with great heartiness. Families that are intelligent and well brought up are to be met with here and there, possibly on the margin of a pretty lake, or by the side of a swift running brook. The contributions are very liberal and the field will be self-sustaining or nearly so, the whole being made up by the ordinary collections. No truer missionary work can be done in the heart of Africa or China than here on the C. P. R. On November 1st this field becomes vacant again, and unless some young man offers himself there will be no service here.

The people at Red Deer Lake, south of Calgary, are building a "Robertson Memorial" church. This was part of the charge of the late Rev. Angus Robertson, who died last autumn.