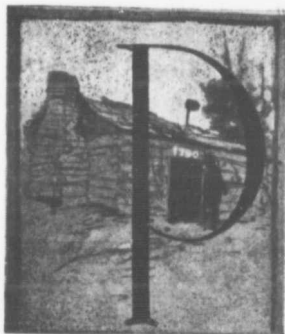


Missions in New Ontario



PIONEER Missions were established by the Wesleyan Methodist Church among the miners of Algoma more than fifty years ago. This was the beginning of our work in New Ontario. Although these missions made apparently little progress for twenty-five years, they gave us John Semmens.

More than forty years ago the late Dr. Stinson, who was President of the Wesleyan Conference, described a mission in Ireland, which the Board was often on the point of abandoning. But he said this barren field became one of the most fruitful, for William Arthur was converted there; so, in the early barren years of Algoma, John Semmens was converted. He was one of our most faithful and self-denying missionaries, first among the Indians of the far North and later among the settlers on the prairies in the pioneer days.

In 1870 these missions received a fresh impulse. In that year, Mr. John N. Lake, a supernumerary minister and a member of the General Board, established missions on Manitoulin Island and the North Shore.