

high. Here was the grand mistake of the Baptists regarding Manitoba—as well as points in the Territories. Consequently we find many churches still needing outside help, where, had the work been taken up in time and prosecuted vigorously, there might be to-day strong self-supporting churches. The first era in the settlement of the Canadian West is past—and with it have passed the opportunities which every flood-tide of settlement presents. Unless “all signs fail” a new era is about to begin. Let it find us ready. Let the old channels be widened by a generous support, and new ones dug broad and deep as opportunity invites. In my opinion Edmonton district demands now the former work, and ere long will need the latter.

With a map of the Dominion before you, journey with me to Edmonton. To our fathers in the Maritime provinces, Ontario was “the West.” To the present generation Manitoba was long the outpost of civilization. To-day Winnipeg is but a “halfway house” to our real Canadian West. Halifax to Toronto, Toronto to Winnipeg, Winnipeg to Edmonton give three stages of about equal length. (Nor am I sure, by the way, that in twenty years time the first three places need be ashamed to be named with the fourth as places of great importance.)

For many years Fort Edmonton was a trading post of the Hudson Bay Company. When the railway reached it, it quickly became a town of size and business importance—the business centre of the district to which it gives its name. Large hopes for its future growth are, I believe, reasonably based on resources in sight. From here the regions of the far north are pierced

—provisions carried to trappers and trading posts, and furs brought to be re-shipped to American, Canadian and European markets. This Northern trade does and will for an indefinite time contribute largely to the business done here.

The mineral resources also constitute a growing source of wealth. An inexhaustible supply of coal (cropping out at intervals for miles along the river bank) means not only as now cheap fuel for local consumption, but will be of vast importance for distribution through the North West, with growth of population and of facilities for carriage.

The gravel beds of the district are rich in gold dust, which has already yielded no small treasure to the pioneer gold-washer, and with improved methods now being adopted, will contribute increasingly to the business of the district.

But most important of all—as bearing on the future growth of district and town—are the rich agricultural resources of Northern Alberta. Though we are farther north than Manitoba, the climate is so far modified by relation to the Pacific and by other causes as to be considerably less severe than that of Manitoba. With a soil wonderfully fertile and well adapted for general farming, the only thing needed to ensure rapid development is a convenient market. This is likely quite soon (and sure in the end) to be furnished by the Province of British Columbia, with its marvellous mineral wealth, and its utter inability to raise its own food.

But what has all this to do with Baptist Missions? Much! If this land is to be possessed in the name of