

FROM BRITISH GUIANA.

Returned Missionary Talks of Affairs in That Far Country.

A Great Change for Canadian Merchants and Agriculturists If Tariff Conditions Were Better and More Enterprise Were Shown

Rev. J. B. Cropper, worker in British Guiana under the Presbyterian Foreign Mission Board of Canada, is in the city, the guest of Hon. Judge Forbes. He is in Canada on a short furlough and will return to South America in a month, taking with him as assistant missionary Rev. J. D. McKay of Pitou Co., N. S.

Mr. Cropper is a most interesting man, engaged in a most interesting work, for which by birth and education he is peculiarly fitted. Born in the West Indies, he is familiar with every detail of the country. It is now his duty to ameliorate and a training received in the Halifax Presbyterian College, coupled with his own knowledge and experience, has made him capable of carrying on that work to the best advantage.

His mission is among the Coolie laborers in British Guiana—people imported from India by the British government to work in the great plantations of that country. Their number in all about 15,000, outnumbering by far all the other divisions of the population. According to the conditions under which they came out, they must work for five years on one plantation, to which they are indentured; then for five years more they may work anywhere else in the vicinity they see fit. After the expiration of that term they may demand transportation back to India or in lieu of this, are given grants of land as an inducement to settle in the country.

The East Indians are an exclusive and most conservative people, and cling faithfully to their old religion—largely Hinduism and Mohammedanism. Then the rest of the population of Guiana—mostly negroes—are all nominally Christians and their lives are not always such as recommend their belief to a subtly intelligent people such as these East Indians are, so taking it all together, the mission of Cropper and the other Presbyterian missionaries—there will be three when he and Mr. McKay return—is not an easy one.

A recent appointment of Mr. Cropper by the government has placed him in a position of influence and effectiveness with relation to this peculiar people that many years of missionary work could not have done. As stated, the government gives grants of land to all the Coolies who remain in the country after their term is up. These lands are located in settlements, and of these settlements Mr. Cropper has been appointed superintendent, with power to control the residents, to look after their welfare and to take measures for advancing their condition in any way. This duty is not in conflict with his regular missionary work, but rather places him in a position to carry it out more effectively. Talking of Guiana and its future, Mr. Cropper expressed strongly the belief that would accrue both to that colony and to Canada if closer commercial and tariff relations were established between the two countries.

"As things are now," he says, "Canadian duties on our products, especially sugar, are practically prohibitive. The most of our sugar goes to the United States, and consequently we have to buy most of our goods there. We import large quantities of goods from Canada by the P. & B. line from Halifax and St. John, but Canadians could serve a far wider field if they would only send agents down there to advertise their country and its products. As it is, the American merchants have gone a start that they find it difficult to recover the ground lost unless with conditions that would obtain under some tariff system arranged for mutual benefit. The sugar industry is, of course, our greatest, and conditions of late have improved so that growers can make a little money. They can now get \$3 a ton for the raw product, which used to be made at \$1.50. The continental bounty system on beet sugar of course affects us greatly, though, you know, a little of the cane product is necessary for the making of any quality of sugar from the beets."

Mr. Cropper pointed out the satisfaction of the people of British Guiana at the result of the Venezuelan award, which granted them more territory than they had claimed, and gave them what they wanted more—the free navigation of the Orinoco river. The new line of demarcation between the two countries is now being laid out. Georgetown, the capital of Guiana, a city of about 50,000 inhabitants, is like the Dutch cities, which are founded on dykes which run for about 150 miles. Without this the city would be about three feet under water at high tide. Frequent canals through the sea level present splendid natural drainage. The new street railway, lately built by Canadian capital, is, Mr. Cropper reports, running well and with good success. Its roadbed is solid concrete and its cars and service the equal of any in this country.

ST. JOHN PRESBYTERY

Will Hold a Summer School for Sunday School Teachers

In July.

Rev. D. J. Fraser nominated for the position of Prof. of Theology in the Montreal College—Other Business.

The regular quarterly meeting of the Presbytery of St. John opened in the Rev. Mr. Hill room, Tuesday, at 10 a. m. There were present Rev. Dr. J. A. Morrison, moderator, Revs. Morton, D. Stewart, Anderson, McOdum, Archibald, Baird, J. D. Campbell, Robertson, Forth, Forth, Marrae, Fraser, J. Ross, MacNeill, Hill, J. Burgess, Clarke, Hillock, and A. H. Foster, clerk; Sir A. H. White, P. Chisholm, Judge Forbes, Dr. D. McLean and J. Wilson.

Revs. MacNeill and McOdum were appointed auditors and reported the books correct. The presbytery fund showed a balance of \$282.07. An application from Sussex for permission to change the date of an annual meeting of the congregation from the second to the third Wednesday in January was granted.

Rev. Mr. Hill read a communication from Rev. D. Stiles Fraser, the synods Sunday school committee convenor, proposing to hold an institute at St. John immediately after the meeting in Halifax in July next. Some discussion took place on this subject and it was moved by Rev. Mr. Morton, seconded by Judge Forbes, that "immediately following the summer school for Sunday school teachers at Halifax in July, the presbytery of St. John hold a similar school at the home of the presbytery of St. John and that we agree to make the necessary arrangements to carry out the same." This motion carried and the Rev. Mr. Morton was appointed, Revs. Morton, Forth, White, MacNeill, J. Graham, McLean, P. J. McFarlane.

In the matter of nomination of a professor to the chair of systematic theology in the Montreal College Rev. D. J. Fraser was nominated by acclamation. It was decided that Dr. Fletcher of Hamilton, be nominated as moderator of the next General Assembly.

An application was received from Dr. Macrae to be put on the aged and infirm ministers' fund. The application was accompanied by certificates of birth and ordination and was accepted and transmitted to the assembly.

Rev. J. Ross reported on the presbytery finances. At the afternoon session the report on Presbytery finances was considered. It was agreed, first, that a fund for the relief of the aged and infirm ministers be established; 2nd, that \$100 from the ordinary fund be placed in the fund for the relief of the aged and infirm ministers; 3rd, that an annual allocation of \$5 be made upon each minister in the district No. 1. The latter election is the provincial election, the date of his defeat by former Governor Ross in the contest for the dominion house of commons in the last year of his life.

Rev. S. Bacon Hillock stated that the congregation of St. George were preparing to build a manse at a cost of \$2,000, and asked the Presbytery to approve of the site chosen and the plans.

Rev. G. C. Pringle of Kinrossville applied for leave of absence for six months on account of ill health. The Presbytery agreed to grant the leave for six months and expressed sympathy with Mr. Pringle. Rev. J. H. A. Anderson of Florenceville, Carleton Co., was there, at the request of the congregation during Mr. Pringle's absence.

Presbytery adjourned to meet the first Tuesday in April.

THE INVENTOR'S WORK. Following is a list of patents recently granted by the Canadian government: 78,935—Canadian de Cazen, Montreal, P. Q., process of making cigarettes. 78,936—Chas. Bellemir Jutra, La Bale du Febvre, P. Q., fertilizer distributor. 78,937—Louis Savaria, Montreal, P. Q., nut lock. 78,938—Cleophas Dignard, Montreal, P. Q., cracker box. 78,939—Canadian de Cazen, Montreal, P. Q., process of making cigarettes. 78,940—Chas. Bellemir Jutra, La Bale du Febvre, P. Q., fertilizer distributor. 78,941—Louis Savaria, Montreal, P. Q., nut lock. 78,942—Ernest Tenaud, Holyoke, Mass., safety device for railway switches. 78,943—Louis Gauthier, St. Pie (Baie St. Pie), P. Q., hermetic nozzle. 78,944—Abondus O'Brien, Montreal, P. Q., oil burner. 78,945—Napoleon Oatney, St. Hyacinthe, P. Q., corn shucker.

Write for a free copy of "The Inventor's Help". DEATH OF MISS E. LINDSAY SCHOLEY. The sad announcement was made on Tuesday morning, Jan. 26th, of the death of E. Lindsay, daughter of H. T. Scholey of Contreville, Carleton Co. The death occurred at her home in Contreville. It is so common an occurrence that it is almost universally believed, and the announcement, though not unexpected, was received with a shock. Mr. and Mrs. Scholey and family have the heartfelt sympathy of their many friends in the hour of their great sorrow.

THROUGH NILE RAPIDS.

Experience of One Traveller While Canoeing on Egyptian Waters.

William Gage Erving carries the record of the February excursion on an exciting trip from Khartoum to Cairo in his Adirondack canoe. Of one adventure he writes: "When a fearless pilot told me that the cataract was passed he deliberately lied. I had gone barely a mile, proceeding in the very middle of the stream without a thought of danger, when just ahead a long white line appeared, spanning the entire river. In a few seconds my hat developed into a barrier of spray-capped billows from which there was no escaping. In a twinkling I found myself on the top of an inclined plane of water, where the river shot over the underlying ridge in one unbroken sheet, as water over a dam in time of flood. Down the steep descent I rushed with the speed of a race-horse, rose sharply on the billows beyond, hurried itself seemingly through space, and fell upon the top of a rocky ledge, where it struck with a crash truly appalling. A yell of terror escaped the lips of my boy as he frantically grasped the gunwale, a mass of water drenching him from head to foot. For a few moments the canoe tossed wildly about, kept head on to the waves only with the greatest difficulty, and then plunged madly through foam and eddies into the smooth water beyond.

This lasted but a short distance, and scarcely had I recovered my breath when a new danger confronted me. Not a quarter of a mile ahead a ridge of rock appeared, extending across the river, a mass of black boulders amid foam and spray of dazzling whiteness. Nowhere in this roaring inferno could I get a glimpse of even the narrow passage. Absolute destruction of the canoe seemed inevitable, when, catching sight of a great tree on the bank, I sprang to my feet in width, rose above the brink of the fall, I seized the last chance and headed the canoe for it, sheering sharply to the left, not six feet from the granite barrier. As, almost grazing its stony face, the boat sped alongside the rock, I sprang to my feet, I caught up the long painter coiled at my feet and made a flying leap, landing on the sloping surface of the rock, the Venetian blockade will be raised. Fortunately my bare feet did not slip, and by bracing myself the canoe was brought up with a sharp jerk, and I sat there, motionless, and behaved splendidly, sitting motionless in the bottom of the boat, with both hands grasping the sides and his eyes never leaving my feet, not because of the high and dry on the rock, and I was running to the brink to cool my feet in the water. Here, I caught up the long painter coiled at my feet and made a flying leap, landing on the sloping surface of the rock, the Venetian blockade will be raised. Fortunately my bare feet did not slip, and by bracing myself the canoe was brought up with a sharp jerk, and I sat there, motionless, and behaved splendidly, sitting motionless in the bottom of the boat, with both hands grasping the sides and his eyes never leaving my feet, not because of the high and dry on the rock, and I was running to the brink to cool my feet in the water. 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