

ments scattered over this land are each of them a distinct centre, around which population will rapidly and steadily gather. And our not occupying these centres means, if it is to continue, the abandonment by our church of large sections of this new country, and of course, in time, of a large portion of its population, including a full share of those brought up as churchmen.

These weighty facts I placed, at the beginning of the year, before the Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada on the mainland that I might be able to tell you on what aid we could reckon on from Canada. But the facts are either not appreciated or discredited. What else can I say to you? I think, as in past years, we may receive some assistance from one or two Synods, but we do not have the positive assurance of a single dollar, and responsibility is not undertaken for a single missionary. Indeed, the secretary of the Synod of Montreal wrote in plain words that there was an impression, which he said, he did not himself share, that the spiritual needs of the Northwest were being exaggerated. I have simply stated the naked facts as regards the settled ministrations of our church. They speak for themselves more eloquently than any comment. If I add any more it is this: In the very week that I received that letter from Montreal we learned from the newspapers that the Presbyterian Church of Canada had appointed some thirteen new missionaries to this country. They had already last year voted some sixteen thousand dollars, and became responsible for not less than forty missionaries. Evidently their view of the Northwest is something very different.

Now, how is this grave state of things to be met?

Before discussing this question, I would wish first of all to remove any impression that, because I think it well that we should recognize fully what we have to meet and not underestimate the gravity of our position, I take a very gloomy view of the prospects of the Church of England in this country. I do nothing of the kind. Of course if we were to continue to be so lamentably behind the other bodies in the establishment of missions there could be but one end of the matter, and there is great need of a very considerable addition to our staff of settled missionaries, but I hope that we may gradually work up our deficiencies, and I think it will be found that it is at present so difficult with any efficiency to work up large tracts of the country, now so sparsely settled, so as to have regular services with any number of attendants, that our being a year or two behind the other bodies in occupying the field,