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Correspondence

MISSIONARY WANTED FOR LABRADOR.

Sir,—You recently published an excellent article by the Rev. H. H. Corey on St. Clement's Mission, Labrador, in the Diocese of Quebec. I am particularly anxious to find an active young priest willing to go to the Labrador for a year or two.

I shall be glad to communicate with any clergyman who is willing to volunteer for this intensely interesting mission work.

I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

LENNOX QUEBEC.

Bishopthorpe, 26th May, 1916.

PREACHING ON THE PRAIRIES.

Sir,—I read with mixed feelings Mr. Rooney's letter re Prairie "Preaching." There are several contributing causes to the poor preaching complained of. Your correspondent is a member, I believe, of a very flourishing Winnipeg church, with large scope for its activities and consequently derives a large congregation. A large congregation is inspiring to the preacher, and then the large choir with professional organist is always a splendid attraction of itself. Now what are the conditions in many of the prairie or smaller churches in the Western towns. As a rule there are few people to draw from, a number of these are quite indifferent to the call of the Church. It is oftentimes diffi-

cult to obtain a regular or any choir, and sometimes the conditions do not afford an organist. The congregations in many places are continuously small, the clergyman conducts, two, three or four services, driving during the day a number of miles, and seeing here and there the indifference of his own Anglican people (especially those from the Old Land). Sir, such conditions are not conducive to splendid oratory nor excellent preaching, and yet such conditions prevail, alas, too truly. Poor preaching! the wonder is that our clergymen, disheartened, and with injured spirits, can preach at all, yet many labour on year after year lacking the cheer, the stimulus, the inspiration that comes from numbers and the other helps necessary to a progressive and successful church.

More, the clergyman is isolated, he lacks the necessary change and rest. His time is so occupied with town and country work, chores necessary and otherwise, that he finds little time for reading, and consequently the needful habit is lost and difficult to be regained. Without residence in such parishes it is impossible to judge. The commercial traveller who passes to and fro, and attending services in different towns, unless he is wise and sympathetic, can only have a perverted view of things and a superficial judgment. Good preaching is necessary, the Gospel demands it, the souls of men require it, and our Church needs it, but the conditions as stated above prevail. We need to-day a great spiritual awakening within our Anglican Church, an awakening which will reach out to the many who have been baptized and confirmed, but by their indifference to the ministrations of the Church, and the efforts of the clergy, show no signs of spiritual life or Christian experience.

RECTOR.

(Continued on page 354.)

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