

Rising Mr. S. W. Thomson, B.A., of Manitoba College, writes. "The town itself is a young rising one, at the Junction of the C.P.R. Southwestern branches, and is destined to have some prominence as a railway centre. It is surrounded by a good country and is likely to transact a considerable volume of business. Town lots are selling rapidly. Our church commenced work here last June, attaching Neepinka to the old Waskada field. Since its inception commendable interest has been taken in the mission. Attendance at services has been good, and the membership has gone up from zero to thirty. We have no church building yet, but one is needed and will doubtless be supplied in another year. Light crops and lighter prices are the cause of delay. Altogether it is a very promising mission, and with the growth of the town, this summer may be expected to develop considerable strength.

Picturesque Minnedosa Presbytery comprises **Binscarth**, the Highlands of Manitoba. The country is more wooded and less monotonous than other prairie regions. Old country people are attracted to it. Mr. A. P. Ledingham, the missionary there during the past winter, writes: This town is situated on the main line of the Manitoba and Northwestern Railway, about 270 miles north-west of Winnipeg. The mission field comprises three stations. Binscarth, the headquarters of the missionary; Silver Creek 12 miles distant, and Seeburn 8 miles from Silver Creek and 14 from Binscarth. The round trip for the three services was thus about 34 miles.

Binscarth has a comfortable church and manse with a debt of less than \$350 against them. Silver Creek built a new \$900 church last summer, and has against it about \$175. Seeburn intended to have built this summer but on account of light crops and low prices they thought best to wait another year.

A re-arrangement of the stations in that district at the March meeting of the Minnedosa Presbytery has put Silver Creek in with Russue and Minniska. This will make a good, strong, compact, self-supporting congregation. Binscarth, Seeburn and Bayfield form another congregation, not so strong financially, but yet strong because of the willingness of all to help the work onwards.

Ordained men have been asked for both congregations. The field is an interesting one and no man can labor in it without feeling that the blessing received is even greater than those that are imparted. The winter work, in this field at least, has not any real discomforts connected with it.

Estevan, the Three hundred miles southwest **Coal City**, of Winnipeg, on the Souris river, is the infant coal city, Estevan. During

the past winter, which has been the stormiest ever known in Assiniboia, Mr. F. Russell, B.A., of Manitoba College, has occupied the field as missionary. He writes as follows:—

Like most of our North-West towns, Estevan is built on speculation. But in its case, more than in most, the outlook is a good one. The rapidity of her present growth augurs well for the future. In consideration of its eight months' existence, which included six months of such winter as the country has seldom seen, its progress has been remarkable. With over 300 of a steady population, and almost as many more constantly on the move, several good places of business, and an ever-increasing number of residences, Estevan will hardly, even at this incipient stage, hold second place to many towns of a much greater age.

At present there is no place of service other than a hall not too well suited to the purpose, but this will probably be remedied in the very near future. The good average attendance at the services, and the interest shown in the work were very encouraging features.

Almost unintermittent storms for several weeks hindered greatly the efficiency of work outside the town, at the Dunbar settlement, Coalfield, and the McKenzie settlement, but the attendance at these stations was fully as good as could be looked for under the circumstances.

The coming spring will see a great influx of people into both the town and the surrounding country, and if expectations are half realized the work to be done by the missionary in the district will be by no means a light one.

NOTES BY REV. PROF. BAIRD.

Indian Miss M. S. Common, now Mrs. **Schools**. syth, retired in May from her work as teacher in the Okanase school. She has brought the school up to a high state of efficiency and was the winner of the Government's prize of \$60 for the best Indian day school in the Manitoba Superintendency. She also took a keen interest in the religious well-being of the children and amid considerable difficulties carried on a Sabbath school in their behalf. Naturally the children became very much attached to her, and one of them has petitioned to be allowed to accompany her to her new home which is at no great distance from the reserve.

This is quite in the line of what the Foreign Mission Committee regards as the best solution of the Indian problem. The great difficulty has been when we tried to treat the Indians in the mass as is necessarily the method on a reserve, but when these children are removed from the Indian environments and especially when they have their home in a Christian household, the implanting of Christian truth and development of civilized habits is a comparatively easy matter.