

Pacific railway, then commenced, at a point higher up the river, a thriving hamlet was started where now is West Fort William, and a meeting of the Presbyterians of the settlement was held at which



REV. HUGH FRASER

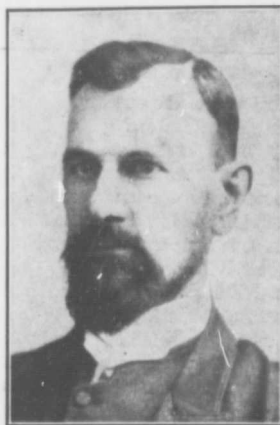
it was decided to build a church in the west end, the result being the erection of what is still known as the First Presbyterian Church, on Gore Street. Here the whole of the Presbyterian congregation worshipped until, in 1878, the removal of some of the railway works to Port Arthur from West Fort William reversed the situation and made the east end again the dominant factor.

In 1881 the Fort William congregation was strong enough to secure the services of a pastor for this field alone and for a few months Rev. Mr. McKay held the appointment, resigning on account of ill-health, and being succeeded by Rev. J. G. Shearer, who has since been made famous by his work for the Lord's Day Alliance. In 1885 Rev. Robert Nairn assumed the pastorate in Fort William, serving both east and west ends of the settlement, and during his term a new school building was

erected on the site now occupied by the Bank of Montreal, where more roomy quarters were afforded for the now growing congregation.

Mr. Nairn was followed by Rev. Hugh Fraser, who, in 1888, led in a fresh forward move by organizing for the building of a new church. Assisted by Mr. John Livingstone, he secured subscriptions, and the site on which stands the present St. Andrew's church was given for the purpose by the McKellar Brothers. Mr. Donald McKellar headed the building committee and, on January 6th, 1889, the first St. Andrew's Church was opened, addresses being given by Dr. Bryce, Rev. Messrs. Pringle, Nairn and Fraser, and by Rev. Mr. Ferrier, then Methodist minister here.

The new church cost five thousand dollars, and, when, three years later, a gallery was added, it would seat 500 people.



REV. J. L. SIMPSON

This church still stands in Fort William, moved from its old site to make way for the magnificent stone structure which now adorns it, to Pruden Street, where, under the name of Knox Church, it still is the