

I need not enlarge on the significance of these facts. It must be remembered, too, in connection with them, how greatly the facilities for coming to this land are being increased. Within two years Winnipeg will have railway to Lake Superior on one side and 200 miles west on the other. The Province of Manitoba and a considerable section of country in this Diocese west of the Province are being covered with a sparse population. The difficulty of ministering to this population is almost inconceivable to outsiders.

Each settler, if possible, takes 320 acres. Many of the settlers are single men living alone. In too many cases a proportion of the land is from one cause or another unoccupied. It is, therefore, very difficult in the first years of a new settlement to get together a congregation of any size or power.

Then the population, sparse as it is, is composed of adherents of different denominations, one having a predominance in one district and another in another.

The practical outcome of the situation I have described is an impossibility of immediate self-support, or of anything approaching it in any new settlement. The consequence of this is that any church that cannot obtain at the present time practical help from outside must lose any chance of establishing or extending itself through the rural settlements in the great country that is rising up here. This is becoming more and more our own position. Members of our church from the various Dioceses of Canada and from England are to be found scattered in all directions over the face of the country. In several large districts containing from 400 to 1,000 square miles, mostly taken up by settlers, there is no minister of our church to afford them the means of grace.

We need at the present time an additional sum of about £800 (4,000 dols.) yearly to supply missionaries for six large districts and spheres of work, now unoccupied, and relieve our general mission fund, which is severely strained.

The majority of the emigrants coming at present to this country are doubtless from the older Canadian provinces, yet in several of those districts a large proportion of the members of our church are from England.

I address this letter to Your Grace with much anxiety. I wish my words to come home to the hearts of English churchmen—that they may realise both the great future of this country and the position in which their church finds itself. From all appearances we must mainly—I almost fear to say entirely—look to England for the next few years that are all important. I have applied earnestly to individual Dioceses of the Church in Canada. But beyond a passing grant now and again of two or three hundred dollars, very gratefully received, and very helpful to our small Mission Fund, there has been but one practical answer. The Church in Canada has itself such needs and difficulties that it cannot help us. I trust, however, that the Provincial Synod may see its way to some organisation for our aid.

But at present this is our position, that, while the Church of Canada has not yet been able to give us one missionary, the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches in Canada are alone between them mainly supporting little short of 50 missionaries in this Diocese. When our members in many Districts are left to the ministrations of other Bodies, many of them must become estranged and the Church here be crippled for its future work.