

Churchill is about 800 miles from Moose. To reach it the bishop has had to travel 2000 miles, or sometimes has gone to England and returned by "the ship." At the northern-most point of the diocese, the Rev. J. Lofthouse had been working for a year or two, occupying a room in the Hudson Bay factor's residence. A lady had consented to share his lonely life, and was expected from England the next season, but there was no place to live in. When the Dominion surveying steamer was there, he told his difficulty to the officers on board, and asked Lieut. Gordon, the commander, to bring enough material for a house on their next trip. This he consented to do. Dr. Bell, of the geological survey, although a Presbyterian, took up the matter most enthusiastically, on his return to Ottawa. In the spring we went amongst the lumbermen of Ottawa, and had cheerfully given to us nearly all the lumber needed for a small house, with doors and window frames complete. Sad to say, the only refusal we got was from one of our richest lumbermen (not of Ottawa), who is a churchman. The Board of Domestic and Foreign Missions granted \$100, and with this and some contributions from friends in Halifax, nails, hardware, glass, etc., were procured; also a cooking-stove for house-warming. The railway companies conveyed the material to Halifax free, and it was shipped on board the surveying steamer *Alert*, through the great kindness of Lieut. Gordon, and conveyed to its destination.

Here, for some unaccountable reason, the Hudson Bay agents refused to help even to land it. The ships hands set to work, and put it in a safe place for the winter. On their return voyage next year, all was safe as they left it, but nothing done towards the building. Again the British tars set to work, and under Lieut. Gordon's direction, put the house together, and in the teeth of the disapproval of the Hudson Bay agents, built a habitation for the missionary.

One can hardly realise that men live in a spot where scarcely anything grows, trees, shrubs or vegetables; where men depend upon the rest of the world, which practically is some thousands of miles away, for food, clothing, fuel and even the commonest necessaries of life, and yet most of the mission stations in this diocese are so situated.

There is very little soil to cultivate, and the very short season is not hot enough to grow much. There are no roads, and travelling is done in canoes in summer with numerous portages, and in dog-sledges in winter. Even a steamer would be of little use, as the bay is only navigable four of five months in the year.

Of course the whole country is under the paternal care of the Dominion, but the chief interest taken by the authorities is the collection of customs duties, which fall very heavy on the bishop and clergy.

Should one or all of the projected railways be built, it will soon change the state of affairs, and make Moosonee more come-at-able.

The bishop talks of resigning his see before long, and he well deserves rest from such arduous labors, May his successor be his equal in zeal and endurance, as well as in adapting himself to every necessity of his isolated life, for he will be tinker, tailor, printer, sailor, shoemaker, school master, translator, as well as bishop, priest, deacon and sexton. The only occupation he will not need is groom (for there are no horses), and farmer for there is no land to till. I was told by one who heard it, that a newly arrived clergyman took for the text of his first sermon: "Who so putteth his hand to the plough," etc. After preaching awhile, he thought he discerned a puzzled look on the faces of his hearers, and it came to his mind that perhaps he was using illustrations which they could not understand. It was so; they had never seen a plough, nor even a horse.

It may be asked, Why live in such a place? The Indians themselves must answer that. It may be asked, Why follow them? The Christian's answer is, They are part of the "all nations" to whom Christ sent His Church.

## MINNEDOSA.



THE Town of Minnedosa is prettily situated in the valley of the Little Saskatchewan River at the crossing of the old trail between Winnipeg and Edmonton, which in the past was the chief artery of travel to the North-West. At the time when the C. P. R. was being built the expectation of the people of Minnedosa ran high in the hope that that railway would pass through the town, and the consequent speculation in land was almost reckless, as in other parts of the province. The evil effects of this are still evident, and when the railway changed hands and was carried some 35 miles to the south, the distress of the land speculators was very great. The country is now rapidly improving, specially since the building of the Manitoba and North Western Railway, which passes through the town and follows very closely the old trail to the north-west. The town, as a town, has been in existence about three years, and is now the principal station on the line west of Portage La Prairie. It is here that the Saskatchewan and Western Railway branches off, which promises to be an important line running towards Battleford, about midway between the Manitoba and N. W. Railway and the Canadian Pacific. Minnedosa is also the end of a division, and promises in due time to become a place of some importance.

Church work was begun in the end of the year 1882, when the Rev. M. Jukes was appointed pastor. Despite many hindrances and drawbacks gradual progress has been made. At first, services were held on Sunday afternoons in the Presbyterian Church, the only place that could be obtained at the time. After this, use of the town hall was