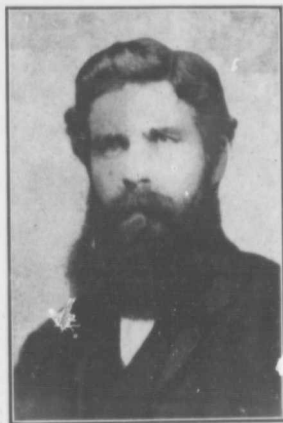


psalms were sung with as much fervor in the old Fort as they are today in the stately Church.

Of this singing Mr. Peter McKellar said, in the course of a sketch of the early work of the Presbyterian church here: "The



REV. D. MCKERRACHER

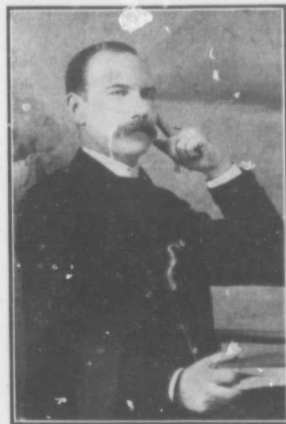
musical part of the service was conducted under difficulties and generally without instrumental assistance. We generally managed to have the four parts singing, but occasionally the tune would be pitched too high or too low and cause slight consternation and amusement among the members. The weekly choir practices were well attended and were looked forward to with much pleasure by the members available, including the minister."

Before the winter of 1870 set in Rev. Mr. McFarland, from Scotland, arrived to replace Mr. Vincent, and he ministered to the congregation during the winter, being followed in the next year by Mr. Colburn, a missionary, who took charge of the work in Fort William and among the few who lived in the surrounding district. In 1872 his place was taken by Rev. Mr. Smith, who was followed by Rev. Robert Hamil-

ton, of St. Mary's, who remained till the fall, when again the settlement spent a winter without a pastor.

Meanwhile, however, the young community was thriving and the need for a school became pressing. In those days the governments seemed far away from the head of Lake Superior, but the men were of the type who were used to doing things for themselves. In 1873 they built for themselves a school house, situated close to where the Gordon, Ironside and Fares cold storage plant now stands, and which, until quite recent years, remained in the place to which it was later moved, at the rear of the city hall site.

The building of the school house gave the now growing congregation a regular place for meeting on the Sabbath, and in



REV. K. NAIRN

the same year, Rev. Mr. McKerracher arrived and took charge of the welfare of the Presbyterian congregations here and at Silver Islet, then an active, operating mine, and at Prince Arthur's Landing.

From this date events in Canada moved more rapidly, and in 1875, when the establishment of the terminus of the Canadian