

and an ordained missionary secured for it for two years. A new district has also been opened up by the completion of the south branch of the C.P.R., as many of our families are entering, and will necessitate the extension of our missionary work.

Augmentation.

There is no change in the augmented congregations of the Presbytery during the year. Our last year's expectations have been disappointed, and although the Presbytery did its uttermost to reduce the number of grants from the fund they have not been successful. The three congregations receiving help are small and struggling ones, and could not do more than in former times. We are happy to state that the congregations of the Presbytery during this year have dealt much more liberally with all the Schemes than formerly. They have almost doubled the contributions of last year.

Mr. Findlay's Report.

Algoma.—During the past year the work in Algoma has been progressing quietly. The old fields have all been in the enjoyment of Gospel ordinances, while new fields have for the first time enjoyed this inestimable privilege. During the summer months fourteen labourers were employed, and during the winter ten—a larger number than during any previous winter,—five of them being ordained missionaries and five catechists. The new fields receiving supply for the first time last year are Burpee and Silver Water, on Manitoulin and Spanish River Settlement, in the township of Victoria. An addition of two new fields will be made this year also. Owing to the growing requirements of the field, the Students' Society have divided that known as the Algoma Mills, or Blind River field, sending two men where one formerly did the work. This will admit of either side of the field receiving more supply than formerly, and also allow new points to receive that attention which their growing needs require. Then Spanish Mills, for the first time, will come under the care of this Presbytery. The proprietors of this important industry show their wise interest in the spiritual welfare of their men by supplying them with the means of grace. Hitherto a missionary from one of the American Seminaries has supplied them during the summer months, but something more than this being desired, the proprietors have asked that they be reckoned in as part of our mission field to be supplied by an ordained missionary from the Canadian church. Mr. J. J. Elliott, B.A., a graduate of 1888, Knox College, has been appointed to this field.

Mr. McLennan, in his large field, Thessalon, continues to enjoy the assistance of a catechist. This field, covering part of some eight townships, is more than one missionary can do justice to, even with such assistance as Mr. McLennan has been able to obtain. Other points might be noted, indicating the importance and progress of this field, did the brief limits of this paper permit. One thing is certain, if we are to keep pace with the increasing requirements of the field, we must keep up and add to the staff of efficient men, for the winter months especially. For the work's sake it is to be regretted that Mr. D. Cameron, who has given two years' of faithful labour on the Manitowaning field, is about to withdraw, under call to a congregation in one of the western Presbyteries. But as from that same Presbytery we are taking Mr. Rennie for the "Sault," our account with the west will be about balanced. Mr. Cameron did good service on this most laborious field. May he long be spared to enjoy the lighter labours of the more compact field to which he is going. Many on the Island, we know, will follow him with their best wishes.

MANITOBA AND THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

(Rev. Dr. Robertson's Report.)

By the action of the last General Assembly, the eastern boundary of the Presbytery of Winnipeg was placed at White River, and the western boundary of the Presbytery of Calgary at the western fold of the Columbia River. The five Presbyteries embraced within these limits present a territory, reckoning by the railway—which traverses their whole length—1,800 miles long and 350 miles wide. According to the "standard time" division of the continent, four belts in whole or part lie within these lines. Hence, when it is twelve o'clock at Schreiber it is only eleven at Winnipeg, ten at Regina, and nine at Revelstoke.

CHARACTER OF THE COUNTRY.

Following the line of the railway, the path lies from White River to Selkirk, through forest, a distance of 650 miles. The country is rough and rocky, full of lakes and muskegs. There are, however, away from the line, large tracts of valuable agricultural land, which railways will render accessible in the near future. The timber is of great value, and large quantities are cut every year for ties, piles, bridge timbers, lumber and fuel. Gold, silver and iron are found over a wide area. At several points silver-mining is being carried on, and the veins are large and the ore rich. Along the railway are a few towns and villages. Port Arthur is the lake port through which a large part of the trade of the west must pass from rail to steamer. Fort William, in the immediate neighbourhood, will likely become a manufacturing centre. At Rat Portage and Keewatin is one of the finest water powers on the continent, and already it is utilized for manufacturing flour and lumber. There are a few scattered settlements away from the railway, but the most of the people are found along the line. An effort was made to meet the religious wants of this whole district, and with gratifying success.

THE PRAIRIE BELT—AGRICULTURAL.

Continuing the journey westward from Selkirk the prairie is entered on, and for 450 miles a fine agricultural country is crossed. Here the great majority of the settlers who came to the North-West