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No.45

THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY'S ANNUAL MEETING.

(Continued from last Wesleyan) Rev John McDougall was the next speaker called. He said: While Bro. Dove has told you he has come from the shores of Newfoundland and is cooled by the stormy breezes of the Atlantic, I come from the high lands of the western part of the continent, where we are blessed with the balmy breezes of the Pacific. I am grateful that I have been preceded by so many speakers. You have been talked to in such a strain that the spirit of the meeting is one in tensely missionary. I come to you a Missionary; I come to you as one who would be a traitor to the example of those whom he loved best and most highly esteemed in this life, if I were not missionary in heart and missionary in spirit. I want to ask your indulgence while I talk to you in my own way, of the missionary work of the North-west-that land which we have only recently learned so much about. Only five years ago, in one of the public buildings of the capital of the Dominion, one of our cabinet ministers, a man who, it is presumed, ought to have known something of the geography and natural resources of this country which he, in common with his colleagues, was called upon to legislate for, made the statement that the whole North-west was but one big white elephant. I am glad to say to-night that I have lived to see the day when these words should be recalled. I believe that the man who uttered those words would now take them back. Many thousand people from the older provinces have gone out to the North-west, and they have endorsed, heartily endorsed, opinions of my own, given years ago, when very little was known of our western country—that it is a goodly land, bringing to this Dominion a rich heritage, and all that we have to do as a people and as a Church, is to go up and possess it in the name of the Lord God. I am an Indian missionary, and my talk tonight will be principally in connection with our work in the North-west. I I want to tell you what you know little about; that is as to our influence in establishing law, order and peace in that immense territory. Some nine years ago the whole land was afflicted by the terrible scourge of small-pox, and the dead and dying were to be found everywhere—at the mission stations, at the Hudson Bay posts, out on the plains, and in the Indian camps. As the traveller approached an Indian village he would find the dead and the dying lying inside and outside of the huts, and the wild beasts praying upon the bodies. While this was the condition of affairs, from the boundary line up to Athabaska Lake on the north and one-half of the population were taken, the buffalo disappeared from the northern plains and went south. Not only were the Indians suffering from the scourge of disease, but the source from which they derived their food was taken from them. At this period they began to think that there were reasons for this calamity coming upon them Not having the light, that it was the Lord who rules them, they look around within the range of their own vision, and they were led by men who were disloyal to the British throne, to believe that the whites were the origin of ploring parties would have reached the ized community, settled around the lake the scourge. The Indians then began to think that the sooner they got sooner they got into the Hudson's Bay anticipated. Three months had elapsed sat beside—I was going to say the dyrid of the white men the better; the forts and the settlements and swept ter. They talked the matter over time it arrived, time had been lost. In have passed away, and heard them tesaround their council fires, and by-and the meantime my father happened to be tify that the blood of Jesus was efficabye they arranged that away out at End going home from Canada. As soon as cious for the cleansing of their sins. Hills they should concentrate, and as he reached Winnipeg the Government The people are becoming educated and following resolution: soon as they could obtain provisions secure. him, and sent him out to the Secure. Him out to the Secure Him out to the the plains. By-and-bye the hunters of the true nature of the case. They or ten wives, as the case may be. contrating for some purpose, and that first, there would have been no difficul- ed police came in, the Iudian could shoot purpose not a good one. We had our ty at all. He succeeded in showing one of his squaws down, or take his Robert Duncan. hands full at home. The disease was them that our Government were in knife and cut her nose off, and no man all around us. Our people were dying deed their friends, and when the time could interfere. I have seen many of was carried without any speaking, and the Skeena, and following the river to

heared the dogs bark and the noise of their furs, and everything they had. the camp I said to my men, "Stop be- It was while this was going on I reachhind and let me go on alone." It was ed a camp of the Blackfeet. I never Bay Company people have forgotten us; camp, and tell the chief that "Missionthat the missionaries are turned against | coming, and that I had news for them us also, and we have been talking of from their great mother. When 1 got what we shall do in the matter." One through with rendering the proclamaold man said, "We are glad you have tion in the Blackfeet language, the chief come because you can tell our young said: "How your words delight me. men what has really taken place as they My heart seems to grow warm under thought the white men were raising their | the influence of the news. A few years hands and their medicine against us." ago we were rich in horses, in robes, I told them the news that we in and property. Look at us to-day! our missions had suffered also from the Our horses are gone, our young men small-pox, and that we looked upon it have killed each other under the inas a visitation of the Great Father fluence of whiskey. Our wives an above because of our sins. I also told daughters are corrupted under the inthem that the white man felt for his In- fluence of this traffic. To hear that the dian brother; that the missionary felt power that is to suppress it is so close again. They say to this day that that as the representatives of the Mewhich might have taken place in the thodist Church in that country. We aries at that land. That was prior to one at Victoria, one at Woodville, one the Government of the Dominion taking at Elmonton, and one at Fort McLeod, hold of the country. Subsequently the Just now the principal missions are at Government began to turn their atten- Whitefish Lake, Edmonton and Morley. Railway was projected and prospecting at Whitefish Lake was a wilderness. parties were sent out to explore for a The Indians come there occasionally, rout. When I came home one day after and their encampment was a constant several months absence, I found a sealed scene of gambling, quarrelling and package lying at my place. My wife violence, frequently resulting in stabsaid, "Hear is a package, and although bing and shooting. The medicine man read the Bible and hymn book in his you have been away all summer, I am might be seen with his rattle and drum own tongue. The Indians of Slave pretty sure that it contains something trying to conjure the sickness out of to take you away again." Sure some poor wretch, when in reality he Rundle, who had come a great many enough it contained a commission was only sending them more quickly years ago and had stopped a few months from Mr. Sandford Fleming, asking out of the world. While thus engaged me to come down to the Tuch-wood a runner would bring the news that the Hills, 700 miles east of the mountains Blackfeet were close by. Down would as the Indians dreaded very much go the tents and the whole camp would the surveying parties, and explain to the Indians why it was the they would be too late. Some Government were sending out explorers, of the party would be capturthat they had no intention to interfere, ed and scalped, and their warm blood with their right to the land but by-and- drank by their enemies. This had often bye when they did want it, they should taken place in my own day, but now send out commissioners to treat with what do you see? You will see at many years ago. The speaker then prothe Indian for it. I saw that it was Whitefish Lake Mission a partly civiliztoo late then; that all the exed community, a thoroughly Christian-Indian country. In fact, there came a with their houses, barns, stables, cows, report next day that some of them had oxen and horses, showing material as been stopped, and great trouble was well as spiritual prosperity. I have since the sending out of this package, ing-bed, but their bed generally consists and as I was away from home at the of a piece of buffalo robe,—of many that if they had only known the reason at had purchased them. Until the mount- making up the Society's income. an around us. Our people were dying and the Skeena, and following the river to and our families suffering, so that there came for them to show that friendli- them mutilated in that way. Although after the customary devotional exertise came for them to show that friendli- them mutilated in that way. Although after the customary devotional exertise came for them to show that friendli- them mutilated in that way. was plenty to do. By-and-bye the ru- ness they would be true to their prom many of the bands have had no mission cises the audience disperse i.

speed away to the woods. Sometimes

sent for, and, said my father, "Word from Edmonton. My instructions tianity is effecting directly and indirecthas come in that the Indians are were to tell the Indians why it was ly in that land. Years ago, before the gathering at the End Hills and Mr. that the mounted police were going Government of Canada took hold of Simpson wants me to confer with them. amongst them. I went amongst the that country, and before missionary in-He askes if he will send men out with Blackfeet bands, and it was, under the fluence was felt there, it was not an you, will you go and see the Indians?" circumstances, taking one's life in his uncommon thing to hear of aged people This was about noon. I got ready at own hand to do so. The traders were being turned out to perish with hunger once, started with twelve men well selling whiskey all through the country and cold when they became unable to equipped, and on Saturday night near- and by means of it were robbing the work. I have picked them up myself ed the Indian encampment. When I Indians of their robes, their horses, and taken them to the camps of their undutiful children, and so shamed them into a sense of their responsibility that they have taken them home and cared a dangerous time to go among them, but | wish to spend another night such as I | for them. To day such a thing would we put our trust in Providence. Pre- put in there. They were all drunk and be considered a very uncommon occursently I saw some one coming out of at their worst. We sat in our tent rence, because the Indians have been edthe camp, and the news flew round watching their orgies, not knowing the ucated up to the responsibility of their people converted to God. Great imthat the young preacher had come. In- moment we should be attacked, but the relation to their aged parents. On one provements are still going on in the stead of meeting with violence or any. Lord was on our side. Then came a occasion I had been away some time thing like it they shook hands all round terrible thunder storm, and the In- from the mission, and on my return I and said of all men in the west they dians who were able had to take to the found that the Indians were exasperated were glad to see me because they knew brush and into their tents for shelter, because they misunderstood something down the coast, have been blessed of I came as the harbinger of good news while those who got thoroughly wet that had been told to them by an officer and peace. One of the head men said, were sobered up a little. In the of the escort. I went to their council "We have been thinking that the white morning some of them were sober and I saw that strong feelings existed." and I saw that strong feelings existed. has been built mostly by the efforts of men are our enemies; that the Hudson's enough to go on with us to the large Said they, "Do you suppose that what the people themselves, but we have a was told us at the treaty is not going to small debt on it yet. Some of the that they will no longer be our friends; ary John," as they called me, was take place in our land?" "No," said I heathen have given their hearts to God. "what the Commissioner told you at this treaty is exactly what the Govern- has been visited, and there the cry for ment will stand by, and what you pro- a Missionary is very urgent. Here a mised is what the Government will number of camps, making, with the expect you to stand by." Said they, Kit-a-mats, about 1000 people speaking we were told at the treaty." Just then for light and salvation, and, I trust, a up arose an old man and he said, "My good man may be sent them at once. friends, why are you so easily shaken? Have you not faith in the missionaries cher. I have also visited the Forks of who came amongst us years ago, and the Skeena, and surrounding tribes. faith in the Government, who up to This gave me a trip of 450 miles, absent this time is good, and has told us no from home sixteen days, preached twenevil! Take my advice, do you stand ty times to many hundreds who had by what your missionary teaches you. never heard the Gospel. Among this for them: that my father had never hesitated for a moment that he said, "Go my son," when I asked to go and see them: and I have never felt any fear of coming to them; that the Hudson's Bay Company had come to their rescue with all their wealth and nower, and make it this. The Covernment known is that the Hudson's to his Queen. The point I wish to make it this. The Covernment known is that the Hudson's to his Queen. The point I wish to make it this. The Covernment known is that the Hudson's to his Queen. The point I wish to make it this. The Covernment known is the said of them and warms our hearts." I then form time to time in this church, and you may depend upon it that you will be sustained, that God will bless you be sustained, that God will bless you the call it loud and urgent for a Missionary wealth and nower, and all their wealth and nower, and all their wealth and nower and prosperity will be sustained, that Indian was a man without any has volunteered to go to them, and all duration and without any heaved tidings of successions. with all their wealth and power, and make is this: The Government knew education, and without any knowledge ready blessed tidings of success come that we wanted to shake hands with there were no men who would be so of what was being talked about; but he to us from Brother Matheson, who has them. A reconciliation took place, and received by the Indians on the plains was loyal to God in the first place, and spent most of the winter there. May they soon began to come into the forts or by the Christian Indians of the west, loyal to his country in the second place. hundreds of the poor Kit-ac-seens may This loyalty had been inculcated into these people through the instrumenspring, and which would have result- have several missions in the North-west. tality of our Society and its workings members. A young woman died very ed in a masacre of the whites, was averted by the action of the mission
We have one up at White-fish Lake, called the Great Slave Lake, away to while suffering much, 'Jesus is with on a visit to the Indians. At the west came, and I shall soon be at rest in end of it I tracked Evans and Rundle- heaven with Jesus.' Evans, who gave to the Indians of tion to the North-west; the Pacific A few years ago the site of the mission the North-west the syllabic character, which has been largely taken hold of by every missionary church that is working through that country. By means of the syllabic character the Indian may be taught in a few days to

mors were confirmed that the Indians ises. Previous to the mounted police aries amongst them as yet, they have were concentrating at the End Hills, going in there, I also recieved a com- been indirectly affected by the example and the President of the Hudson's Bay mission. I was out on the plains to of their Christian brethern, and are house to consult him. Presently I was courier brought the package post haste This is a strong proof of what Chris- General Secretary:—

Lake could tell me about Evans and with them. 1 tracked them there by the influence of their gospel teaching, which still manifests itself in the hearts. lives and feelings of these people. When I sang to them some of those old hymns that Evans had taught them some forty years ago, they heard them with weeping, and said they were glad to see another minister who could tell them again what they had heard so ceeded to describe the appearance of a vast peninsula jutting out into the lake, thirty were added to our number. One that had been formed by the debris washed down from the mountains by one of the tributaries for centuries. He compared it to the building up of the church of God in that country, and concluded his very interesting remarks

by seconding the resolution. The meeting having endorsed the resolution, the collection was then taken up.

soon as they could obtain provisions secured him, and sent all out to the enough to organize they would carry Indians as their agent. He travel being felt amongst the pagan tribes in sented to the officers of the Society for want a new name. We named him enough to organize they would carry indicate as their agent. The country around the Assinaboines their successful management of its after our beloved late chairman, William into execution their desire for vengeance. ed post hast to the south branch, the country around the Assinaboines their successful management of its after our beloved late chairman, William Into execution their desire for vengeance. ed post has to the struck on went through that western country, change has taken place within a few and others who have advocated the larly attended school. The Chief of Daskatchewan kiver, the traders at the went through that western country, the traders at the backwards and forwards, from one vears. Polygamy prevails throughout Society's claims; to collectors, adult the Mountain, with his whole family, Hudson Bay posts were wondering why backwards and lorantes, from the land; each man has his three, five, and juvenile; to the officers, teachers, have accepted the Gospel and given us it was that the Indians kept aloof on camp to another, informing the Indians are the great may be the plains. By-and-ove the numbers of the first land are trying to began to come in from different points said that was what they wanted, and began to come in from different points and that was what they wanted, and began to come in from different points.

MISSIONARY REPORT.

The following extracts from the Anand the President of the Hudson's Bay mission. I was out on the plains to of their Company came round to my father's the Blackfeet camp at the time. A taking but one wife and no more. Intelligence of what Chair Company came round to my father's the Blackfeet camp at the time. A

Bro. Crosby, our devoted missionary at Fort Simpson, British Columbia, writes as follows:

"Another year of blessed toil in the Master's service has gone, in which I have made many visits to out posts as well as attended to work at home. The work of God is progressing among the people here, and while we see much instability in some, yet, in many others a real change is evident by their love of the means of grace and of the Word of God, as well as by their consistent lives. The school was never better attended than during the present winter. but we long to see more of the young village in the way of building new houses, making new roads, etc.

"Our visits to Kit-a-mat, 160 miles God, and our native agent there is doing a good work. A little church

"Bella Bella, 200 miles from here, What we were told here is not what | the same language. This people long

"The Kit-see-lass still ask for a teabe saved.

"By death we have lost some of our the north. Last fall I went out there me now. I am so giad the Missionary

Not less cheering are the tidings from Bro. Green at Nass:-" Many influences unfavorable to the spread of the Gospel have been abroad since our last report. A few of the poor heathen, deceived and led on by two or three white men. who hate vital religion, and whose uzgodly lives are rebuked by the consistency of the native christians, have proved a stumbling block in the way of some. But amidst these trials our "God hath not forgotten to be gracious." In one instance the heathen came from a distant village, dressed in the skins of bears and wolves, and making the most hideous noise, trying to draw our people into the old heathen dance, doctoring, dog eating, &c., &c., but as the Christians remained indoors they soon departed. Christmas and New Year were happy seasons. The first week of the New Year we held special services which were largely attended, and our members were greatly quickened, and old man came to the parsonage early in the morning to tell how happy he was, 'Last night,' he says. 'I went home from the meeting, and for a long time thought about my sinful heart, then I go to sleep, and I dream I hear someone rap at my door, then I hear a voice say 'I give you the blood of Jesus,' this I hear three times, then I awoke. I was so Rev. Mr. Stafford then moved the happy, my trouble was all gone, the blood had taken my bad heart away. The motion was seconded by Rev. Lord,' we have carried to every village on the river, making six tours, and once As the hour was late the resolu ion going into the interior, to the Forks of the wayside. Four dies outing the year, trusting in Christ. Fifteen adults were baptized and received into full