

have been accustomed to the services of our church, and who would still prefer them, form a majority, and there is a large number of such settlers scattered over the whole of the districts. It is no doubt an important question what these settlers can do for themselves. A little common sense and knowledge of the world should easily answer that question. What are their circumstances as new settlers? They are, in the first place, very scattered. I observe that, in the paper published by the committee appointed at the late Provincial Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada, there is an average of twenty families for a township. I do not know how that average was obtained or exactly what it means—whether twenty families in all, or twenty Church families. There are in a township, 144 quarter sections. In a large proportion of cases, doubtless, the holder endeavors to secure two quarter sections, at least temporarily. There will be others held by absentees, or for some cause not disposed of. Still, I should think twenty families far too low an estimate for a fully settled township, even at the beginning, and as small towns rise up the average greatly rises. Still for two or three years the population is both scattered and small. They enter on bare land. They have their houses to build and their farms to stock. They have necessary expenses of all kinds to face, and themselves for a time to keep before there can be any return. I need not say in what a large number of cases there is but little means to do what is felt to be so absolutely needed. Then there soon come the charges of taxation in connection with schools and roads, for there is nothing more full of promise for this North-West than the readiness which new settlements have shown to tax themselves for the erection of a school and the payment of a teacher. It is clear, then, to anyone knowing the circumstances of the country—I think it should be clear to everyone simply hearing of them—that every denomination must for a time give assistance, if their people are to have a missionary amongst them. If our people do not receive from us the ministrations of a missionary, they will, in a majority of cases, go to the body from which they receive them. New accessions of members of our church from year to year will not add to our strength, for the older settlers will have ceased to acknowledge us. History will repeat itself. It will be the old story. The large country districts will be lost to us. We shall more and more become a church of town congregations. Our neighbour, the Bishop of Nebraska, in addressing lately the General Convention of the American Church respecting his diocese—including Nebraska and Dakota—said:

“The Board of Missions gives us \$5,000 for our missionaries in this territory, and we are very thankful for it; but every other single aggressive and large Christian body in this land spends from thirty-five to forty thousand dollars annually for the support of their missionaries in the same field. I ask you, if you ever think the Church's work lags behind our opportunities there, to remember the disproportion between the sums that we spend there and the sums that these other Christian bodies spend there for a like purpose.” A clergyman cannot, in a new settlement, be comfortable with a less income than \$800 a year. I believe with other bodies the denomination becomes accountable for the salary for at least three years, receiving probably what collections the people may make. But this accountability is borne by an outside body with ample resources. The case is totally different with us. We have been driven into the position of a practically independent church. Our grants are all grants in aid. If we become accountable for a full salary it is the church of this small Province that becomes accountable. If we are left to meet it, the result is serious. For instance, from our anxiety to meet the wants of the people along the Canada Pacific Railway, the Home Mission Board lately offered to be accountable for \$800. We believed, if we met with a