

Mrs. HARVEY and Mrs. Jeffrey, of Toronto, who are making a tour of the North-West Indian Missions, on behalf of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, have visited Portage la Prairie, Rolling River, Okanasi, Crowland and Birtle, and have been very much pleased and impressed with what they have seen. They expect to return in the latter part of September after spending some six weeks on their tour.

### News From Corea.

AN interesting letter was received by Dr. W. Harley Smith, Toronto, from Dr. R. A. Hardie, who went out to Corea in 1890 to represent the Canadian Colleges' Mission there, and who is now located at Gensan, a seaport town on the north-east coast. Gensan is the point which the Russians are reported as aspiring after. Their own seaport, Vladivostok, is somewhat farther up the eastern coast, within the borders of the Siberian empire, and is ice-bound in winter. It is for this reason that they are said to desire possession of the more favourably situated Korean town. In Gensan there is one other Canadian besides Dr. Hardie, namely, Mr. James Gale, also a graduate of Toronto University, who is a missionary there.

The letter is dated July 10th, over two weeks before the actual declaration of war, and does not therefore contain anything concerning the more recent developments which have taken place. Dr. Hardie first speaks of the work of the colleges' mission, which he says has progressed most favourably during the past year. The building which he occupies has been greatly enlarged, and the facilities for medical treatment much improved. The mission garden is bearing bountiful crops, and he expects this season to have red cherries, grapes, apricots, pears, peaches and nectarines; the fruit, however, is of inferior quality, being rather tasteless as a rule.

The writer then deals with the political unrest which was at that date so apparent throughout Corea. A little over a year ago, he says, a new political party arose, bearing the name of Tong Hok (meaning in English "Eastern religion"), which appears to have a considerable following in the southern provinces. This party sent representatives to Seoul to present their grievances to the King. By a Korean custom, anyone appearing before the palace gates with a petition considered unworthy of the King's attention loses his head; nevertheless, a number of men took this step. They sued for political reform, particularly in the matter of the public examinations. It has been complained that for many years competency has passed for little or nothing at the examinations, and that the degrees—the possession of which means official rank—were obtainable only by those who could pay for the privilege. Of late years the corruption, avarice and oppression of the official class has greatly increased, and the situation is becoming unbearable even to this patient and unresenting people. That the opening of the country to foreign trade has had much to do with precipitating the present state of affairs, Dr. Hardie says, no one can successfully deny. Twelve years ago Koreans knew scarcely anything of Western Powers beyond their mere existence, for all intercourse was strictly prohibited. Nothing foreign was brought into the country, and nothing native sent out of it. The produce of the field and fisheries being abundant for home supply, the cost of fuel and food was never high, while the manufacture of her own cloth and other necessities gave employment to all those not engaged in husbandry and fishing. There was little in the country to tempt extravagance, even on the part of the prodigal court. Since the opening of treaty ports, however, everything is changed. Foreign cotton has, because of its cheapness, largely displaced the native article, the manufacture of which gave employment to a large percentage of the population. A market has been found for rice, beans and fish, and, in order to get a little ready money, every farmer within reach of the ports sells all he does not require for his own use. Consequently, not only is food scarce in the country, but the price is four or five times higher than formerly, and a comparatively small proportion of the population being engaged in

husbandry, the hardship caused by this change is very wide-spread.

But there is yet another feature of these new conditions which has demanded attention. With the opening of foreign trade many articles new to the Koreans were brought into the country, and everyone possessing money, especially members of the official class, desirous to indulge their fancy, watches, clocks, and household ornaments must be had if possible. Furthermore, the Government have spent sums, enormous according to the Korean idea, in providing for the King a new palace of foreign design, lighting the old palace with electricity, in the erection of a mint, in building telegraph lines connecting Seoul with Peking and each of the treaty ports, in the purchase of two or three small steamships, and in the employment of foreign advisers, foreign military officers, and foreign teachers. With much of her native industry destroyed, writes Dr. Hardie, with the cost of rice four or five times its former cash value, and with the extra demands in taxes to support the growing and reckless extravagance of the nobility and official class, it was little wonder that the people should imagine that only by ridding their land of all foreigners could they obtain relief.

This proceeding the Tong Hoks consider the first necessary step in the introduction of reform. When they were informed that the King was powerless to help them in this respect, placards were posted up near the gates of the capital calling on all to unite and expel the Japanese and Westerners. This caused but a passing comment, and nothing more was heard of the Tong Hoks until a couple of months before the date of Dr. Hardie's letter, when it was reported that they were in rebellion in the south. The kingdom of Corea is tributary to China, and a Chinese force was consequently at once sent to Corea to quell the uprising.

In order to fully understand how the subsequent complications arose, it is necessary to go back to 1884, when rivalry among certain Korean political factions caused a serious disturbance at the capital, in which China and Japan became involved. At the settlement of this dispute a treaty was made whereby China and Japan agreed that neither country should thereafter send soldiers into Corea without having first notified the other of their intention to do so. China did not notify Japan of her sending troops to quell the late uprising until after the forces were on their way, and Japan therefore claimed that China in so doing had ignored their treaty relation. Under the pretext that her subjects in Corea required protection, she at once sent a large force to Chemulpo, and while the Chinese troops were in the south settling the disturbance there, the Japanese landed and strongly entrenched three large forces, one at Chemulpo, the second midway between that port and the capital, and the third just outside the walls of Seoul. In the beginning of July they had about 10,000 men at these points, and also a small force at Fusan. The steamers of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, the Japanese mail service, were taken off their routes and engaged in carrying troops and supplies to Corea, and the construction of a military telegraph line between Seoul and Fusan was commenced.

Dr. Hardie says that though the actual outlay of the Japanese in this quarrel may be great, yet it is small compared with the loss she is sustaining in the cessation of her trade at home. The Chinese, at the time when the Japanese took steps to pour their troops into Corea, had only 1,500 soldiers in the country. It was rumoured, at the time the letter was written, that the Japanese Minister had set a day previous to which the Korean King must let him know whether or not he would renounce his allegiance to China, but nothing definite concerning this has since been heard of. At the time when Dr. H. J. wrote the Koreans were much alarmed at the situation, and business in Seoul and Chemulpo was at a standstill. Most of the women had been sent away from the capital, and many of the men had also left, while most of the Chinese merchants had left for home. The letter concludes with the remark that there is a little satisfaction in the knowledge that any change, however great, must of necessity be for the good of the poverty-stricken Koreans.

There are many points in the letter which

are entirely new to those Canadians who have taken an interest in the contest now being waged. The development of the Korean country, which was brought to the verge of insolvency by the very means which embody some of the first principles of modern political economy, is interesting in the extreme, and the knowledge gained from the interesting communication of Dr. Hardie will be of assistance to many in following the present quarrel to its ultimate issue.

## Church News.

### In Canada.

THE Rev. Bryce Innis has been inducted as pastor of the congregation of Morris, Man.

THE second summer session in Manitoba College closes on the 30th inst. There have been thirty-seven students in attendance, of whom ten graduated this year.

THE Presbyterians of Ellisboro, N.W.T., under the pastoral charge of the Rev. Alex. Campbell, are building a church. The material is concrete on a stone foundation.

THE congregation of Gretna, Man., enjoyed a communion service conducted by the Rev. Dr. Bryce on the 19th inst., when twelve new communicants were received. Mr. D. Oliver is the student in charge.

REV. PROFESSOR BAIRD last Sabbath conducted communion services at Meadow Lea, where Mr. John Russell has been the student in charge for the summer. The names of nine communicants were added to the roll and one adult was baptized.

A MEETING of the General Assembly's Sabbath School Committee will be held in the Board Room of the Y.M.C.A., Toronto, on September 5th, at 10 o'clock a.m. As the minutes of last Assembly have not yet been issued, the convener is not certain that he has notified all the members, particularly those added last June, and he requests all who have been overlooked to accept this instead.

REV. MR. HAMILTON, late of the Presbyterian Church of the United States, during the minister's absence on vacation, has filled the position of pastor of Knox church, St. Thomas, to the entire satisfaction of the congregation. He preached with great acceptance, conducted the prayer meetings with marked ability, and in his pastoral calls won the hearts of those whom he met by his simple earnestness. To a congregation in quest of a minister he would prove a fortunate choice.

In the Presbyterian church on Sabbath, Rev. Dr. J. R. Smith, of Port Hope, delighted his hearers with two deeply spiritual sermons, and ably sustained his reputation as a Gospel preacher with a broad and deep grasp of the truth. His text in the morning was from Romans xiii. 14: "Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ and make not provision for the flesh to fulfil the lusts thereof," and in the evening he delivered a grand sermon from II. Cor. v. 14: "The love of Christ constraineth us," exhorting his hearers to be enthusiastic in the service of Christ. The evening congregation was particularly large, and so long as his ministrations are such as he gave on Sabbath the church will continue to be well filled. The Presbyterians are to be congratulated on securing such able supply during Rev. Dr. Grant's vacation.—Orillia Weekly Times.

THE Tilbury News says: "The popular young pastor of the Presbyterian church here, the Rev. J. Hodges, B.A., before starting on his vacation about a month ago, startled the members of his congregation with the announcement that he would return a benedict, and during his absence the ladies of the congregation proceeded to discuss the most fitting means of welcoming the bride and their beloved pastor. The Ladies' Aid took the matter in hand, with the successful result shown at the church on Friday evening. It was not a public affair, nor was any effort made to keep it quiet or make it exclusive. It was merely a festival prepared for the welcoming of the pastor and his bride by his attached congregation. No formal invitations were issued, but all who wished to pay their respects to the young couple were expected to do so by their presence. The church was beautifully decorated and presented a very