

Synod of Man. Met at Portage la Prairie and the N.W. from Nov. 18th to 20th. Rev. P. Wright was elected moderator. The attendance of members was not large, owing in some measure no doubt to the great distances and expense of travel. The chief subject of consideration, as was fitting, was Home Missions; on the one hand the field with its needs, on the other hand, Manitoba College, as one large source of supply for these needs. The claims of the college were strongly urged. "Whether able to give much or little, let a part be for Manitoba College." The Church and Manse Building Fund, Prohibition, Sabbath Schools, &c., were carefully considered and planned for through three busy days. The Synod adjourned to meet in Winnipeg on the second Tuesday of Nov. next, at 8.00 p.m.

Church and Manse Fund. By the report submitted to the Synod of Manitoba, this Fund, during the eleven and a half years of its existence, has helped to build 220 churches, and 42 manses. Even since the date of the report to the General Assembly in June last, the Board had granted aid to help in building twenty-four churches and six manses. Of these new buildings seventeen were in the Synod of Manitoba and thirteen in the Synod of British Columbia. Dr. Robertson at Synod strongly urged the congregations of these Synods to support this Fund. They had a right to do so. Even a moderate contribution would be a great help to it. Especially should these who had received aid do liberally in enabling it to help new and needy missions in building their places of worship.

Presbyteries Owing to the distances that in Man. & N.W. ministers in the North West have to travel to reach meetings of Presbytery, it is proposed to readjust some existing Presbyteries, and form new ones covering a smaller area, thus enabling them to exercise Presbyterial oversight more effectively. A proposal to form a new Presbytery out of certain congregations in the Presbyteries of Brandon, Rock Lake and Regina, met with the general approval of Synod and was transmitted to Assembly. In addition a committee was appointed to consider the whole matter of rearrangement of Presbyteries and report to next Synod.

Alberni. The F. M. Committee, W. D. hope that the negotiations in progress will soon result in the appointment of a missionary to Alberni. The Indians are looking anxiously for his coming. The girls' school there is full beyond its proper capacity. The teachers are eagerly looking forward to the time when they will have a new building and be able to accommodate some other children who are seeking admittance. They could do more and better work by far as the present quarters are very confined. The late missionary, Rev. J. A. McDonald, is seeking

health in the neighborhood of the Adirondacks, and is so far recovered that he is able to do a little Home mission work.

Coligny College, Ottawa. This College is the property of the Church. It became so four years ago and has since been carried on under a Committee of the General Assembly. The term just ended has been a very successful one. The number of resident and day students has reached one hundred. The Christian atmosphere and life and harmony of the College seems very marked. There is a C. E. Society, and all the teachers and boarders belong to it. The next term opens on the third of January with exceedingly bright prospects. Some idea of its thorough equipment and advantages may be learned from the advertisement on another page, which parents, desiring for their daughters an education in a refined Christian home would do well to consult.

Drowning at Birtle. A gloom has been cast over one of our most promising Indian Schools in the North-West by the drowning of three Indian boys belonging to the Industrial School at Birtle. Mr. George G. McLaren, the principal, had gone to an Indian reserve not far distant, to get some more pupils, and one of his last charges to the boys was not to go near the river, although some of the people had been skating on it for a fortnight previous. Miss McLaren, the matron, and Miss McLeod, assistant, were busily engaged, with a number of the children, in some duties about the place when a cry was raised that some of the boys were in the river. The women both ran with a rope to the rescue. One little fellow about ten years of age was floating on his back, keeping himself up, but so chilled that when Miss McLaren threw a rope to him he could not hold onto it to pull himself out of the water on to the ice. Miss McLeod ran out on the ice to try and reach him, but broke in and was saved by Miss McLaren. Soon some men arrived with poles and the poor little fellow was rescued, but three of his companions aged about seven or eight were drowned. Miss McLaren in a private letter to Prof. Baird, which is in the January *Children's Record*, gives a very vivid picture of the sad scene, and of the weird and awful death wail of the poor Indian mothers, who came as soon as the sad news reached them. The parents, Sioux and Crees, felt their loss very sorely, for the parent heart is there, but no word of reproach or blame was spoken. Our prayers are asked on behalf of both Indians and teachers in their times of discouragement and trial.

The seventeen children of the Portage La Prairie Mission School were all present on Foreign Mission evening at the meeting of the Synod of Manitoba and the North-West, and sang a hymn in an interval between addresses.