

congregation of St. Andrew's Church, it was determined to proceed at once with the erection of a new Church. A sum of nearly \$1000 was subscribed at the meeting; and, as the Ladies' Aid Society have promised to hand over \$200 to the Building Committee, there is no doubt that they will soon be in a position to erect a handsome and comfortable Church.

THE INDIANS OF CANADA.

The total number of Indians in the Dominion is returned as just short of one hundred and thirty thousand. ("The North-West Territories" in the list mean Alberta, Assiniboia and Saskatchewan, as distinct from the rest of the North-West.)

Ontario.....	17,064
Quebec.....	12,135
Nova Scotia.....	2,055
New Brunswick.....	1,546
Prince Edward Island.....	307
Manitoba & N.-West Territories.....	31,954
Pewee River district.....	2,038
Athabaska district.....	8,000
McKenzie district.....	7,000
Eastern Rupert's Land.....	4,016
Labrador (Canadian Interior).....	1,000
Arctic Coast.....	4,000
British Columbia.....	38,470

Total..... 129,525

The report of the census of the North-West Territories, just brought down by the Minister of Agriculture, gives the details of the late Government statement in Parliament that the total population of the three territories approximated 50,000, of whom half are whites. The exact figures are:—Whites, 23,344; half-breeds, 4,848; and Indians, 20,170. The whites are classified by origin as follows:—

Nationality.	Assiniboia.	Saskatchewan.	Alberta.	Total.
English.....	6,314	522	1,561	8,397
Scotch.....	4,762	760	1,266	6,788
Irish.....	4,034	327	924	5,285
French.....	479	210	831	1,520
German.....	335	48	121	504
Others.....	650	25	175	850
	16,574	1,892	4,878	23,344

It may refresh memory to give the leading districts of the three territories. Assiniboia, the most populous, includes Regina, Broadview, Qu'Appelle, Swift Current, Moose Jaw and Medicine Hat. The Regina, Qu'Appelle, and Broadview districts alone include half the total white population of the North-West. In Saskatchewan Territory are Prince Albert and Battleford—while Alberta Territory includes Edmonton, Calgary and McLeod.

ENGLISH SPELLING REFORM.

THE following is the conclusion of PRINCIPAL MACKAY'S excellent Essay on this very important question. We fully agree with him, and wish that a COMPLETE PHONETIC SYSTEM should be introduced into our schools as soon as possible:—

"In conclusion, let us review, *seriatim*, some of the points raised.

"1. Our present alphabet is defective, redundant, and inconsistent, and is not used as was originally intended by its Roman inventors.

"2. The spelling of English was always changing, in its early history; and no good reason has ever been given why it should have been permanently fixed at the particular stage of development attained in the 17th century.

"3. Changes are, even at present, going on slowly.

"4. The Spelling of several modern languages has been reformed by the influence of learned academies or of the government, and why not ours, which needs it so much?

"5. 'It would create great expense in our printing at the time of change,' some one might say. For amended spelling simply, it would not. For a phonetic system a few new characters would be required. But the ultimate good effected would many times pay the additional expense at the moment of change. Our language would be 17 per cent. shorter, and if millions are invested in our printing establishments, 17 per cent. of the cost of printing would forever after be saved. Wouldn't that pay?

"6. 'But all our literature, for a few years at least, would be mostly in the old spelling,' another might say. Those who learned the old spelling need learn no new spelling; while those who learned the new without any effort, could also read the old without much difficulty, if necessary.

"7. 'But it would be shocking to see all our beautiful, graceful, intricate words, curtailed, clipped, vulgar-looking, as if they slipped from the pen of an ignoramus.' Granted; it is the inevitable consequence of mental association. But even were a sudden change made (which is scarcely possible), before New Year's day after its introduction, throughout the whole world, the phonetic spelling in our newspapers, and the greetings on our Christmas cards would be altogether 'too lovely utterly utter,' in virtue of the same law of association; and in another year, the antiquated spelling would justly be considered more horribly horrid than the old-fashioned long s.

"8. 'But in the interests of etymology and philology it would be unwise to change our