

order of C. P. R. Syndicate in 1881, and received its name from the "Blue Hills of Brandon" which lie to the south of it, and from an old Hudson Bay Co. fort, called "Brandon House"—founded in 1794. Its founding was attended by much excitement. The syndicate offered the town site at auction on the 2nd and 3rd of June, 1881, and a large number of lots were sold at very high prices. Among the pioneers may be mentioned: William Anderson the original squatter on the site, who afterwards gave up his claim to the company for \$25,000; Messrs Whitehead and Meyers who brought in the first cargo of lumber by the Steamer "North-West;" Messrs Winters and Hastie who erected and stocked the pioneer store, and T. M. Daly, M.P., who was the first lawyer to commence practice. The greater number of the pioneer settlers still reside in the city.

That Brandon should have reached its present size and advantages, surrounded by a well-settled country, in so brief a period seems almost incredible. The country west of it and in the immediate vicinity was, with the exception of an old settler on the north bank of the Assinaboine, a wilderness of prairie in the spring of 1881. The railway did not reach Brandon until September 1881. There is now, in addition to the main line of the Canadian Pacific, the great North-West Central, fifty miles of which were constructed last year, with the prospect of one hundred or one hundred and fifty miles being built during the coming summer, and the Northern Pacific will reach the city early in the spring. In addition to the above lines there is also a branch being built to the Souris coal fields by the C.P.R., some fifty miles of which were constructed last summer. The opening up of said coal fields will prove a great boon, not only to Brandon, but also to the entire province, since it will greatly lessen the price of fuel. The experimental farm, within the limits of the city, established by the Dominion Government, will prove of great advantage to the farming interests of the province, since every feature of agricultural and horticultural science will be employed in testing and developing the most suitable varieties of grain, roots, and fruits for this climate and soil. In 1887, about 1,500,000 bushels of wheat were marketed in this city. As

might therefore be expected, Brandon is well supplied with elevators, these being seven in number, with a total capacity of 250,000 bushels. The population is between three and four thousand, and the public buildings are of no mean order. Brandon has well-equipped schools and no less than six churches: Episcopalian, Baptist, Roman Catholic, Congregational, Presbyterian and Methodist. The two latter being the largest, and about equal in strength.

Before the railway reached Brandon, the Rev. John Ferris, a minister of the Church of Scotland, formerly of Edenshill, Aberdeenshire, was received by the Presbytery of Manitoba, 20th July 1881, and placed in charge of the missions in Brandon and vicinity. Steps were immediately taken to build a church in Brandon: the congregation took the name of "The First Presbyterian Church," and Mr. Ferris was inducted, 25th August, 1882. He only remained until the following year, when he removed to Wisconsin, U.S. On Nov. 14th, 1883, Rev. J. M. Douglas, formerly pastor of Cobourg and Uxbridge congregations, Ont., and who had just returned from being the Assembly's first missionary at Indore, Central India, was inducted. A few years later, a second congregation was organized, known as Knox Church, over which Rev. J. F. Dustan from Nova Scotia was inducted, 29th June, 1887. But, Mr. Douglas having in the meantime retired from the First Church, Mr. Dustan also resigned his charge in 1888, to give the two congregations an opportunity of uniting. This was happily effected soon after, and the choice of the united congregation fell on the present writer, then of Regina, who was inducted, 1st May, 1889. The congregation, now known as the Brandon Presbyterian Church, worship in the building erected by the First Presbyterian Church. It is a frame structure, erected at a cost of about \$3,000, and has a seating capacity of about 450. During the past year a lecture hall was built, at a cost of about \$700. The number of families at present connected with the congregation is about 125, with 180 communicants on the roll. Over \$3,000 were raised for all purposes during the past year.

A. URQUHART.

Our Honan Mission.

MR. HAMILTON CASSELS, Secretary of the F. M. Committee, West, has our thanks for the latest information regarding our Honan Band, as follows.—Mr. and Mrs. MacKenzie arrived at Shanghai on the 1st of November, and at Tientsin on the 8th, to