

there was but one,—Bishop Hills, the original pioneer bishop being confined to Vancouver Island, with its beautifully situated see city of Victoria, and the adjacent islands, Bishop Ridley of Caledonia being in possession of the Northern portion of the mainland, and Bishop Sillitoe, of New Westminster, of the southern part. As yet the work is in its infancy. Bishop Hills and Bishop Sillitoe have but eleven clergymen each, and Bishop Ridley has but four, but there they are at their posts just at a time when we may hope for great prosperity for the province. The long desired Canadian Pacific Railway has been built, and the resources of the country will be developed rapidly. Already signs of undoubted improvement are visible. Great expectations are entertained as to its gold yielding properties, and miners in coal, silver and copper are already at work. The forests are immense, and some of the trees attain an altitude and size surprising to those who for the first time behold them. The fisheries in whales, seals and sturgeon are probably the richest in the world, nor is it without agricultural resources, as there are tracts of arable land to a very great extent.

When the value of all these resources is considered, and when it is reflected that the central part of Canada, or what we call the North-West is in need of the very things in which British Columbia abounds, especially its valuable timber, it is easy to foresee a rapid increase in population and prosperity for this distant province. It is a pity that it and all the western territories are not more closely connected with the Church of older Canada, than is the case now. We are only beginning to realize through that great triumph of the age, the Canadian Pacific Railway, that we are all *Canada*, and if the whole Dominion of Canada could have one ecclesiastical organization for itself, we might hope for brighter things for our Church than can possibly be the case under the present state of isolation and separation.

SOME ASPECTS OF LIFE AND WORK IN COLD REGIONS.

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By REV. FRED. E. J. LLOYD, SHIGAWAKE, QUE.



THE study of human nature as it exists, under various conditions and circumstances must always possess the deepest interest and attractiveness for the rest of the race. Hence when one who, either in the pursuit of health, sport, in the interests of science or otherwise, has visited distant lands and studied their people together with their habits, customs and religions, and gives the result of his experience and observations to the world in the pages of a well-written book, he thereby confers an inestimable boon upon his fellow men in providing them with a most powerful means of educating and enlarging the mind, and also enkindles within their breasts an interest, never it may be, aroused before, in the

moral, intellectual, and spiritual welfare of the nations described.

To possess an accurate knowledge of the intellectual capacities and habits, religious or otherwise, of a certain nation, is of the greatest importance, nay, is absolutely necessary to the statesman, soldier, scientist, or missionary, in the event of war, in the interests of science, or in order to pave the way for the introduction of the Gospel of Christ.

In these days, however, of increased and increasing facilities for travelling, but little either of our planet or the numerous races which exist on its surface remains to be discovered. The foot of the traveller has rested on the trackless and limitless deserts of Africa, on the broad plains of India, on the fairy like islands of the Pacific, on the vast plateaux of Australia and New Zealand, on the luxuriant and undulating prairies of North America, and on the eternal snows of the Polar Regions. His eye has contemplated with wonder and amazement the delusive mirage, the unequalled beauties of Australasia, the stately palms, the dazzling Aurora, and the solitary, though majestic iceberg. His ear has heard the strange music of many tongues, and the harsh, discordant sounds which are the usual accompaniments of heathen worship, and perhaps his heart has ached at the number and depravity of his fellow creatures who had not heard the sweet sound of the Name of Jesus, and also the coldness and indifference with which the Christian Church had, for a long period, (now, thank God gone, we hope, forever,) viewed the saddening and humiliating spectacle.

It follows, therefore, that the most of what we have to say in the articles which will appear from time to time under the above heading will not be new to the majority of the readers of OUR MISSION NEWS, but we may be permitted humbly to express the hope that it may nevertheless be interesting.

It is proposed in this and subsequent articles to present a brief, and, as far as possible, an accurate description of life and work in cold regions, together with some account of their geography and natural history.

The field to be surveyed will embrace the northern part of British America, formerly known as Hudson's Bay Company's Territory, including the Peninsula of Labrador as well as Northern Newfoundland, with an occasional reference to still higher latitudes.

A considerable number of incidents to be narrated, as well as many other interesting facts, particularly those relating to Labrador and Newfoundland, have occurred within the writer's own experience, while for the rest he has to acknowledge his indebtedness to the results of that of others which have been given to the world in various forms and at different times during recent years.

This vast territory, regarded from whatever point of view, presents features of the most absorbing interest. It is so, whether we consider its eventful history, its aboriginal inhabitants whose various