

being before in his life. He has the general appearance of a sneak, and appears as if he had been doing something of which he was heartily ashamed. The best way to get a shot at one of those fellows is to drive alongside of him, at some little distance, apparently paying no attention to him, but at the same time gradually getting a little nearer. The rascal will trot along quietly, every little while stopping to look at you. Curiosity seems to be his weak point. He is apparently anxious to see who you are, and to know where you are going; but after a time he finds himself within range of the gun, and—bang! That is the end of Mr. Wolf; he has fallen a victim to his inquisitiveness.

STRANGE LOOKING PEOPLE.

Not less interesting than the animals are the queer-looking people who are



A DOUKHOBOR FAMILY.

(From Amateur Photograph by Rev. H. Hull, B.A.)

seen on the trains, station platforms and streets of the towns and villages. Here are Doukhobors, Galicians, Icelanders, Norwegians, Italians, and indeed representatives from almost every European country. The Doukhobors are particularly noticeable, principally because of their peculiar dress. Teachers are being sent in among these people, which is perfectly right, but we ought to send them a few tailors, as the Doukhobor easily takes the first prize for ill-fitting garments. The family group, which is here presented, was taken by Rev. Hiram Hull, B.A., at the Brandon station. They all seem happy enough, except the boy, who apparently is suffering from a serious pain. Perhaps it is only a severe attack of homesickness.

In the opinion of many thoughtful persons, altogether too many of these foreigners are coming to the Northwest. They retain their old-world customs, and do not seem at all anxious to adopt the ways of the country. Quality rather than quantity should be aimed at in providing population for this great country. Gladstone is a place which has improved wonderfully, during the past few years. It now has several fine blocks of stores, and several more in course of erection. The Methodist church is a pretty and comfortable building, with a seating capacity of about 300. It was well filled at the evening service. Rev.

Thos. Lawson, the Methodist pastor of Gladstone, is a pioneer of the country.

THE NEEPAWA DISTRICT CONVENTION

was held at Neepawa on Monday and Tuesday, July 21st and 22nd. It was the first League Convention ever held in the district, and was a decided success. There was a very good attendance from various points on the district. Rev. Mr. Hull brought sixteen delegates from the Arden Circuit, and Rev. Mr. Crux was accompanied by twenty from Franklin. A deep interest was manifested in the Forward Missionary Movement, and also in the other departments of our work. Action was taken looking toward uniting with the Birtle and Dauphin Districts in the support of a missionary. With a capable staff of officers, and thorough organization, Neepawa District is now prepared to do good work.

in and make homes for themselves here. One might travel for many a day and not see a town more picturesquely located than Birtle, which nestles in a beautiful valley, surrounded by wooded hills. It is certainly one of the prettiest places in Manitoba. Here we had a very practical and helpful Sunday-school Convention.

Souris is a fine town, about twenty-five miles from Brandon, surrounded by magnificent wheat-fields. It has one of the most beautiful natural parks I have ever seen, where a camp meeting is held every summer. The Methodist church here is under the pastorate of Rev. W. Bridgman, who is known through the West as a "bustler." When he says to me that I would get a good audience in Souris, the thing was practically done, and there was no disappointment. The Sunday-school of Souris, under the direction of Mr. Patrick, is one of the very best, possessing all modern improvements. While the Epworth League is not large, it is enterprising and progressive, as will be seen in the "From the Field" pages.

THE GARDEN OF MANITOBA.

Opinions differ so widely as to where this "garden of Manitoba" is located, that an outsider would be somewhat rash in committing himself definitely. The people of Souris declare that their town is right in the midst of the finest portion of the Province. Those who dwell in Carman believe that the fields surrounding their flourishing burg cannot be surpassed, and of course there are other places that lay claim to being "the best yet."

While not committing myself on this vexed question, I feel constrained to say that the "Portage Plains" as the country around Portage la Prairie is called, are as good as the best, and as fair as the fairest. Those who see these magnificent wheat-fields will have an excellent idea of the productiveness of Manitoba soil at its best. This part of the Province has been settled longer than almost any other section, and the land is held at high figures.

Portage la Prairie is the really pretty name for a fairly prosperous town in the midst of these fertile plains, with a population of about 4,000. The Methodist Church is a spacious and comfortable structure, rather heavily burdened with debt.

While in Portage I had the pleasure of being the guest of Rev. W. Halstead, who was one of the pioneer Methodist preachers of the Northwest. He is wonderfully interested in the development of the country, and has great faith in its possibilities. An old Ontario friend, Rev. F. B. Stacey, is here, and is doing good, faithful work.

In addition to three services on Sunday, a Sunday-school meeting and a League rally were held on Monday, all very well attended.

I had no meeting in Brandon, but spent a few hours there waiting for a train. It looks almost exactly as it did ten years ago, and the population is about the same. It seems strange, in view of the wonderful growth of Winnipeg, that Brandon has not advanced. There certainly must be a future for a place so admirably located, and possessing so many natural advantages.

The best attended meetings of the whole trip were held at Kerfoot, a purely country place, about ten miles from Carberry. In the afternoon the church was filled for a Sunday-school Conference, the people being apparently much interested. There is a fine Sunday-school at this point under the superintendency of Mr. W. F. McRae.

A meeting at Virden closed up the campaign of one month, during which I travelled 2,500 miles, delivered 54 public addresses and sermons, to an aggregate of 6,500 people.

A. C. C.

THE TOWN IN THE VALLEY.

After leaving Minnedosa, on the north-western line of the C.P.R., the traveller could almost imagine himself going from Hamilton to Dundas, as the train climbs the heavy grade at a snail's pace, and the view is not unlike that witnessed from Dundas on the Grand Trunk. The scenery all along the line west is more or less wild, and the train passes through considerable broken country. The good land in this section is being rapidly taken up, largely by people from the United States. The next few years will doubtless see many thousands of settlers come