



Arms of the diocese of
New Westminster

of the Church Missionary Society of England, and the other of the S.P.G. The northern part, under the C.M.S., was called Caledonia; the southern, under the S.P.G., New Westminster. This southern diocese had its boundaries fixed between the forty-ninth and forty-fifth parallels of north latitude and from the Rocky Mountains eastward to the water, covering an area of 160,000 square miles. Its headquarters was to be the town of New Westminster, then a small and unpretentious place.

Mr. Sillitoe was consecrated first bishop of this diocese at Croydon by Archbishop Tait, of Canterbury, assisted by Bishop Hills, of Columbia (British Columbia), and others, on All Saints' day, 1879. His journey from England to New Westminster was tedious and, to some extent, adventurous. After encountering much ice in the Atlantic, close to Newfoundland, and getting a good view of troops of seals surrounding the ship, he landed in Quebec, and pushed on as best he could to San Francisco. Owing to delay in leaving England and to the slowness of the journey, it was the 8th day of June, 1880, when the bishop reached San Francisco. He then embarked for British Columbia and arrived in the harbor of Victoria on the 15th. After spending a few days in this capital city he went by steamboat to New Westminster, which he reached on the 18th. All the clerical staff of New Westminster, two in number, met his lordship, and welcomed him to his new diocese. His first act was joining in a service of thanksgiving in the church which was to be his cathedral. This is described as a creditable stone structure with nave, chancel, north aisle, and south transept, disfigured somewhat by a large square wooden tower built to receive a peal of bells, presented by the Baroness Burdett-Coutts. The rector was the Venerable Archdeacon Woods, Archdeacon of Columbia.

Addressing himself at once to his work, the new bishop visited some of his mission stations, such as Sapperton, Trenant, the North Arm of the Fraser River, Burrard Inlet, Yale, and Kamloops. This latter place was in charge of the Rev. Canon Cooper, of the S. P. G., and was noted for its cost of living. A set of horse shoes cost \$6, and the day's wage of a tradesman was \$5. Had it not been for the consideration and liberality of the people, missionaries would not have been able to live there.

The Rev. A. Shildrick, the present missionary in charge of Kamloops, spoke recently in high terms of the people under his charge, and described it as the paradise of British Columbia.

The bishop was much struck with the grandeur of the scenery which greeted him, especially along the banks of the Fraser River. "There

are localities here," he wrote at this time, "to satisfy the keenest appetite for nature's wonders, when even Switzerland and the Rhine have been exhausted of their attractions." The bishop found some of these places of considerable interest. At Yale, for instance, he found a population of about 2,000—fifteen hundred of whom were Chinese. In the numerous Chinese throughout the diocese Bishop Sillitoe always took a deep interest, and wherever he went imparted to others the warm glow of his own missionary spirit. He was wont always to encourage the congregations in his diocese to give to foreign missions, notwithstanding the sore needs lying at their own doors. In Mr. Clougher's Year Book of the Church of England of Canada for 1894, it is stated that the liberality of the Church people in the diocese of New Westminster is of more than an ordinary kind, as may be seen from the fact that, counting every man, woman, and child, Indians and white, the percentage of their offerings is over two dollars a head.

The size of the diocese is so great, and the geographical obstacles, mountains, and rapid rivers so numerous, that missionary work is no easy task. The present staff consists of twenty clergy and a few lay readers. The diocese is divided into eleven parishes and seven huge missionary districts. New districts have rapidly opened, such as the Kootenay country, which, with Nelson as its centre, is attracting a large mining population.

Besides the white population, there are about forty thousand Indians and Chinese. The latter are almost wholly heathen, but of the Indians fourteen hundred are Christians, and the percentage of communicants among them, nearly fifty per cent., speaks well for their sincerity.

The bishop, in his recent report, said of his diocese:

"The year we have entered upon is going to be one of enormous progress, and this progress will bring with it increased responsibilities. It may seem as if the limit of human industry had been reached in our clergy, and further effort impossible. Nevertheless, the new responsibilities must be accepted, the new call answered, and the increased burden cheerfully shouldered. The Church in this diocese has always, thank God, been able to attract to its services men of energy and devotion. When the spurt is called for they will respond, but what will most encourage them in so doing is the hearty co-operation, the confidence and generous appreciation of those to whom they minister. The laborer's hire amongst us is not a sum of magnificent dimensions, but he will be gladly content with it if it be accompanied by the sympathy and regard of the people."

Such is the diocese which the honored bishop has now been called upon to leave. It is in