

ince and chief trade centre. Its progress in every respect during the past two years has been very marked. The other religious bodies usually found in places of the same size and importance are all represented, and actively engaged in doing their share of Christian work in the city, and directing missionary effort over the island.

Next in importance to Victoria is the city of NANAIMO, 80 miles north, with which it is connected by water and rail. This is the centre of the coal mining industry, containing a population of from four to five thousand. Ground was first broken here by the Church's pioneer missionary, the Rev. R. Jamieson, who, during a short absence from New Westminster, organized the congregation and secured the erection of a church, which served the wants of the congregation until replaced by the present one about two years ago. From the time Mr. Jamieson left Nanaimo to resume his work at New Westminster up to the present, the credit is chiefly due to the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland for the supply of Nanaimo with religious ordinances.

The Revs. Messrs. Clyde, A.H. Anderson and J. Miller had, during this period, charge of the congregation. The last named resigned at the end of last year, the congregation having since been vacant. Two calls have resulted in disappointment, which, together with the difficulty of securing suitable supply of preaching has had a most discouraging, if not disastrous effect upon this fine congregation and necessitous field of labour.

SOUTH WELLINGTON, until about three years ago, was connected with Nanaimo. Since that time it has been under the charge of the Rev. J. Christie, and as the last of the Colonial Committee's missions in B. C., it was received under the charge of the Presbytery at its last meeting. South Wellington, East Wellington, and Northfield are important coal mining centres, with a large population, demanding more attention than the Presbytery has hitherto been able to give.

COMOX, about 70 miles north of Nanaimo, is an important agricultural and recently opened up coal mining district. Work was first begun here by the Rev. Mr. McElmon by appointment of the Colonial Committee. Mr. Dunn and Mr. Christie gave supply here also. After its reception under the care of the Presbytery, upwards of three years ago, this large and important district was placed in charge of the Rev. Alex. Fraser, with comfortable manse and church, the former erected last year. The prospects of this charge are very bright.

ALBERN, on the west coast, completes the

list of congregations and mission fields on Vancouver Island. This is a new, struggling, but very promising settlement. Ours is the only Protestant Church represented here. Services have been kept up with varying regularity for about four years past by the Rev. Mr. Dunn, theological students, and a lay catechist. Here it is hoped to establish at an early date the first mission of the Church in B. C. to the Indians, the conditions being all very favourable to success.

D. MACRAE.

Home Missions in Cape Breton.

BY REV. EWEN MACKENZIE, OF CAPE NORTH.

THE country over which this congregation spreads is extensive, mountainous and isolated. It comprises six electoral districts, which, if they were in one straight line, would be upwards of sixty miles in length. The furthest from the manse is thirty miles away. In scenery, mountains are conspicuous. Bleak rocks along the shore, forests everywhere, and beautiful intervals along the rivers cannot escape the eye, but grand wild mountains tower aloft in every direction and banish tameness and monotony. Isolation from the centres of business is one of the greatest drawbacks. From Sydney we are 100 miles distant and from Baddeck eighty. We have tolerably good roads in every quarter except to Pleasant Bay. To go to Sydney by land, for instance, would be a slow and long journey. No man will do it if he can help it. The other way is to go by sea; but as there are no harbours on this wild coast it is often impossible to get away in packet or steamer. The minister of Cape North cannot expect to be at Presbytery more than two or three times a year.

The people differ in race and in creed. We have Scotchmen, of Scotland and Highland extraction. We have Irishmen, Englishmen, and Frenchmen. We have Presbyterians, Methodists, Episcopalians, and Roman Catholics. Who would think that so many nationalities and so many creeds would be represented in this wild, secluded outskirt of creation?

The trade depends on farming and fishing. Most of the people combine both to obtain a livelihood; a large number depend on fishing alone; a few manage to live by farming alone.