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The Missionary Diocese of Algoma.

By the Bishop of Algoma

The Diocese of Algoma was set apart as a Missionary Diocese in 1872 by the deliberate act of the Provincial Synod of Canada. It embraces the District of Muskoka, Parry Sound, Nipissing (in part) and Algoma East and West. In Algoma are included the Islands of Manitoulin and St. Joseph and the district of Thunder Bay. This vast territory stretching from Gravenhurst (112 miles from Toronto) to Murillo (13 miles west of Fort William at the Western end of Lake Superior) covers an area of more than 48,000 square miles, about as large as that of England, and extends from East to West some 600 miles and from North to South from 250 to 300 miles.

It may be called the rocky belt of Canada. As you proceed Northwards from Toronto you may know when you are entering the Diocese of Algoma by the rocks which begin to crop out on every side. And these rocks will remain with you in varying forms and extent, all the way through the Diocese until you reach its remotest Western limit, yet there are stretches of good soil here and there and even whole Townships which are well worth cultivating.

Algoma's chief wealth is probably mineral. The rocks which give her so bare and uninviting an aspect, are rich in copper, nickel, silver and even gold. And when this mineral wealth is developed, it is thought her prosperity will be assured. But that is in the future. And meanwhile it is very encouraging, as the lumbering hitherto a fruitful source of profit, languishes—to find that increasing attention is being paid to agriculture. For whatever may be true of mining, there can be no doubt that the proper cultivation of the scanty but productive soil must be a very important element in the permanent development of the country. At present little is being done in mining, and the farmers are most of them struggling for a living. It is not strange therefore that the country is poor, and that the

Church which is everywhere one among many Christian bodies, is poor also. There is not in the Diocese one Town of very considerable proportion though there are several which are full of promise. The largest of these is Sault St. Marie which has about 4000 inhabitants. This is the central point of the Diocese. Here is the See House, called Bishophurst, a commodious stone building erected by a lady in England during the lifetime of the first Bishop. Here also are the Indian Schools so widely known to the Canadian Church as the Shingwauk and Wananosh Homes. And lastly here is the largest Church of the Diocese, the restored and now beautiful Pro-Cathedral of St. Luke capable of seating from 350 to 400 people. There are two other towns of about 2000 and two of about 2000. The remaining centres of population are most of them small villages and hamlets. It is quite evident that there are no adequate means within the Diocese upon which the Church may rely for support. And until these Towns and villages grow and the country around them develops there will be no such means. Thus the Bishop is driven to seek constant assistance from outside sources and hence the second occupant of the See was accustomed and not inaptly to describe himself as a Mitred Mendicant.

The various dioceses included in the Province of Canada and represented in the Provincial Synod, when Algoma was established, have always recognized this obligation to contribute to Algoma's needs. No doubt they will continue to recognize their responsibility as long as Algoma really needs help. The sum contributed annually has varied considerably in the past. If the recommendation of the Provincial Synod, at which the present Bishop was elected be acted upon there should be for the current year at least \$4000 contributed. The Resolution referred to recommended that henceforth the various Dioceses pay to the Mission Fund of Algoma the amounts \$4000 in all, which they have hitherto contributed to the Episcopal Stipend.