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Feb., 1915

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"How did this judgment affect the Hudson Bay Company?" asked the

"This was what took place," responded the venerable centenarian. "The Com-pany in surrendering their rights received a sum of three hundred thousand pounds and was given permission to select a block of land near all its Posts, also one-twentieth part of lands laying south of the north branch of the Saskatchewan and westward of Lake Winni-

peg."
"Did you, this would be in your early days, meet Bishop Provencher? He is understood to have figured much in the history of his time, did he not?"

The memory of Mr. Cunningham is extraordinary. He says: "I did when I the first permanent missionary of the Roman Catholic Church here; for nearly forty years he lived in the Colony. I can remember a church built by him across Red River somewhere nearly opposite the mouth of Assiniboine. People nowadays can't realize what a good influence Bishop Provencher cast over the Colony. I knew him well; he had such a kind face and everybody loved him. He was buried over in St. Boniface, I think."

In allusion to early mission work in Manitoba, Mr. Cunningham always brightens up. And now we shall be

northward of West Selkirk. He likewise established a mission amongst the Crees then located in a district of Portage la Prairie. Mr. Cunningham in making reference to Archbishop Machray, recollects distinctly his arrival in 1865, and the death a few days afterwards of Mr. Cochrane who is buried within the pretty churchyard at St. Andrews. In these early decades, the Anglican Church in similitude with that of the Roman Communion, found its principal work to lie exterior of the Colony's settled portions, and in particular were the efforts directed toward a betterment in the conditions of the Indian inhabitants. The territory covered was of immense dimension, a fact recognisable when it is learned the area embraced not alone was a young man. He might be called Rupert's Land, in which fifteen clergy labored, but extended to Moose Factory and the Yukon. Ten of these mission-aries, remarked Mr. Cunningham, were native born and fluent in knowledge of various Indian dialects. It was necessary oftentimes to tramp for days in order to reach scattered bands of aborigines, whilst these heroic clergy in humble wigwams, assisted their flocks not alone by spiritual and scholastic tuition, but engaged in the

hunt after food. "By what means was Presbyterianism first introduced into the Colony?" was asked Mr. Cunningham, whose reply was given illustration of the retentive mind that Gaelic settlers had long wanted a of this man upwards of one hundred minister able to preach and converse in and three years of age. The Anglican



Belgian and British cavalry wintering in the trenches.

Yes, I did but that is going back to the | modified their service and the Presbylong, long ago, somewhere about 1825, terians delighted to attend the ministrawasn't it? The writer nodded. Mr. Cochrane arrived in the Colony during that year; he was the pioneer of Manitoba's Anglican Church; his work performed in a practical wilderness, yet, ere this the Rev. John West who returned to England, had built a schoolhouse in the vicinity of the St. John's Cathedral of to-day. Mr. Cunningham possesses but faint recollection of this reverend gentleman. The settlements were a distance apart, the majority situate along Red and Assiniboine Rivers. This necessitated the Rev. Cochrane instituting mission stations at specified places. The Upper Church was erected; this is the Cathedral of St. John's. At a distance of six miles, was built Middlechurch; likewise St. Middlechurch; Andrew's, Mr. Cochrane erected this also. That is, not the present stone church visible from the Street Railway line to West Selkirk; that building dates from later period, and in it Bishop Anderson preached, he who penetrated the wilds of Yukon, carrying thither the Word of God. The first people ever baptised in Rupert's Land were the Cunninghams, a fact the to-day centenarian representative of which speaks of with pride.

"Not long after we came from Hudson Bay," says he, "mother took us to Upper Church where we all were bap-

In speaking of Rev. Cochrane's work as a missionary, it is interesting to note that he founded a church in St. Peter's historic place of the Indian peoples and situate on Red River bank a few miles at this time, and made demand of pay-

"Did I know Rev. William Cochrane? | church to minimise the difficulties, had tions of the clergy. But in 1851, appli cation was made to the Presbyterian authorities to send out a minister; the Rev. John Black was dispatened. Upon his arrival, some three hundred persons gathered together; in 1854, the first Kildonan Church was built.

"I helped to put up that church," said Mr. Cunningham. "It was'nt a very large building, but the old settlers will never forget the name of John Black."

This fact is requisite of no comment: the writer has upon many occasions years ago, heard Red River people allude to his saintly life.

Methodists dwelling in Manitoba today, will read with interest that the great body of Christians following the footsteps of John Wesley, inaugurated the first church of their denomination in the "great lone land" in 1840, the pioneer efforts of such occurring at Norway House and on Saskatchewan River. The entry of the Methodist Church proper into Manitoba, transpired in 1868 when Rev. George Young arrived.

"There appeared to be continuous wrangling in the early days," was a statement of the centenarian, who likewise says that in much later years this was visibly apparent. An exemplar, a rebellion occurred in 1869 at the time of transferral of the Colony from the Hudson Bay Company to Canada. This action evoked strenuous opposition amongst certain people by whom it was extended into an upraising. The Com-

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