

occupying the new centres of population in their beginning cannot be over-estimated. Rev. Peter Straith, B.A., reached Battleford in the early part of November last, and has been accommodated for the present in Government House. He holds a service at Government House once a day, and a service in the village in the evening. He has also been usefully engaged in giving the rudiments of education in the absence of any school in the new capital. It is said houses are being erected to a considerable extent, though there are not wanting reports that some other site may yet be chosen as capital for the new District of Saskatchewan.

#### LITTLE SASKATCHEWAN REGION.

Much nearer to Manitoba, only some 50 miles from its western boundary, i.e., about 150 miles west of Winnipeg, is the little Saskatchewan, a small stream running southward into the Assiniboine. Upon its banks settlement during last summer proceeded rapidly, and in the region drained by this stream there are now many families of Canadians settled. The Presbytery has until this season been unable to supply the very urgent demand of the people there for service. Rev. George Flett, an Indian missionary at Okanasse in Riding Mountains, a few miles to the northwestward, has given occasional service; also the Rev. J. S. Stewart, of Palestine, and Rev. H. McKellar, have, by appointment of Presbytery, visited and preached in this secluded locality. A few weeks ago, Mr. A. McLeod, a catechist formerly employed by the Presbytery of Lindsay, arrived in this Province in company with several hundreds of settlers going to the Little Saskatchewan. He was employed to labour in the field under the direction of the regular minister the Presbytery was expecting to go to that region. The newly appointed missionaries having lately arrived, the Committee of the Presbytery have recommended that the Rev. A. Smith be sent to this region, whose settlements now extend over 60 miles, and have the catechist work in conjunction with him. The tide of immigration is still flowing strongly to the Little Saskatchewan.

#### WESTERN MANITOBA.

Into Western Manitoba a large number of the most enterprising of our Canadian farmers who have emigrated to this Province have gone. The large proportion of Presbyterians among them is shown by our having now four missionaries labouring in this district. The good harvest of the past year, although accompanied by a poor market in consequence of the isolated position of the Province, has resulted in steps towards advancement being made in the

coming year, for which estimates are now being formed.

A number of stations are carefully grouped so as to economize as much as possible the men and the funds at the Presbytery's disposal. All that could be done for South Manitoba has been done. The American Church contributes \$200 towards the salary of a young man at Pembina.

The Committee call attention to the large amount expended upon Mission work in Manitoba during the past year, and the absolute necessity for increased liberality, if our work in that distant Province is to keep pace with the immigration that is now going on. In spite of additional labourers sent during the last six months, the demand has not been met. That many new settlements will be formed during the present year, cannot for a moment be doubted; but unless the Committee is sustained in its efforts to provide the means of grace for the members of our Presbyterian Church who are daily entering the Province, the work of church extension must cease, and pressing calls remain unheeded. In many parts of Ontario our backwardness to enter and possess the field, has lost to the denomination thousands of members, who are now identified with other churches. The same result will occur, unless we follow up what has already been attained in this interesting and promising field.

The difficulty of securing suitable men for such important positions as the Canada Pacific Railway and the Prince Albert Mission, has been to the Committee a source of deep regret. The utmost diligence has been used during this year to secure approved labourers for these fields. The appointment of Mr. Cameron to the Railway Mission elsewhere reported, will, it is to be hoped, soon be followed by an appointment to the Prince Albert Mission.

The Committee have in obedience to the instructions of last Assembly, paid \$2,000. towards the indebtedness of Manitoba College.

#### NEARER HOME.

Great progress has been made at Thunder Bay, the prospect being that a Minister will soon be settled over the congregation at Prince Arthur's Landing.

The arduous work done in Muskoka district by Mr. Findlay, is noted by the Committee. A good work is going on in Manitoulin Island. The number of Mission Stations at which services have been held during the past winter is 15. On the north side, Little Current, Shequandah, Kagawong, Billings, Ice Lake, Gore Bay. On the south side, Bidwell, Manitowaning, Hilly Grove, Green Bush, Sanfield, Michaels