

THE FAR WEST, IN 1897.

In Western Canada, in 1897, eighteen Missions were advanced to the status of Congregations, viz., fourteen in the Synod of Manitoba and the North-West, and four in the Synod of British Columbia.

Seventeen new fields, not including the Yukon, were placed on the Home Mission list.

West of Lake Superior there are now 174 Mission groups, not including the Yukon district; there are 34 Augmented Congregations and 70 self-supporting congregations; and services are conducted regularly, at least during the summer, at 923 stations, and occasionally at a considerably larger number. The total number of professors, ministers, missionaries, catechists and teachers, including those engaged in Chinese and Indian work, is 334, of whom 187 are ordained and 147 unordained. Of the Missions 12 are for railway employees chiefly, 18 are in mining districts and 144 in farming and ranching districts.

Although seventeen new Missions were taken up during the year, several needy districts are still without supply. Fears about the revenue at the disposal of the Home Mission Committee led to several Missions recommended by Presbyteries being held in abeyance. Four such districts are in the Presbytery of Kamloops. Nor has provision been made for the six or seven railway extensions to be proceeded with this season, nor for the new settlements sure to be formed by the incoming immigrants.—Rev. Dr. Robertson.

OUR MORMON PROBLEM.

"Your people cannot wake up too soon to the fearful inroads of this blasphemous propaganda," writes Rev. S. E. Wishard, Synodical Missionary, Ogden, Utah, to the Editor of the Presbyterian Record. "Polygamy and priestly rule are things which the Mormon missionaries keep out of sight when they go on a mission in the States and Canada. Indeed, they deny the existence of both these abominations. But the Papacy never ruled the people with a heavier despotism."

The above gains added weight and meaning from the facts reported to Assembly:

"As is known to the Church, there is a considerable colony of Mormons established at the foot of the Rocky Mountains, just north of the International boundary line. On coming to Canada they agreed to observe our laws in the matter of marriage, but, having brought all their wives with them, their circumstances are rather unfavorable to the observance of their pledge.

They have built a temple, got an act of incorporation from the Legislature at Regina by a vote of 14 to 10, in spite of strenuous opposition, and are establishing themselves firmly. They are in close touch with the Mormons of Montana and Utah, who have

an army of 1300 missionaries at work in Europe, the United States and Canada.

These missionaries, too, are making converts even in Canada, especially in districts which Christian Churches are neglecting. The Alberta settlement is likely to receive large accessions during the coming summer, and prompt and energetic measures are necessary to prevent the spread of this pernicious system."

NUGGETS FROM THE KLONDIKE.

Not very big, but rich, are some of them in Mr. Dickey's latest letters to Rev. C. M. Gordon, of Winnipeg, given in the Westminster.

Bennett, 2 June, '98.

There are no gambling houses or dance-halls here, and the men who run the saloons are, with one exception, I think, new to the business and ashamed of being in it. One of them—a member of the "Christian Church"—one day showed us, over the bar, his family Bible rolled up carefully in a silk handkerchief. The others often apologize for being in the trade. They "run respectable houses," they "are away from home," "there is money in it"—and so they have fallen.

Canadian Officials.

I cannot speak too highly of the peace and order of this place, due, I think, to the firm yet generous policy both of the B. C. officials and the N. W. M. P. Shooting is almost unknown, and the Americans are ever ready to admit the admirable results of Canadian rule. They also speak in the most grateful manner of the treatment received from Major Walsh during the winter. But for his prompt and generous relief many undoubtedly would have perished who, unprepared, had undertaken the journey.

Two Death Bed Scenes.

The death bed in this land of separations is particularly sad. One poor fellow, the last time I visited him, he was scarcely able to speak, but he said very slowly and painfully, "I would like to get well so that I might see my son again." I reminded him of the wonderful sacrifice of God in sending His Son to die for us, and pointed him to the cross of Christ. He did not reply, but seemed to catch every word. Then he reached out his feeble hand and pressed mine fervently, assuring me as I took it that his hope was fixed. Before another day dawned he had met his God.

This morning word was brought of the death of a man down the lake of a broken heart. He had received no word from home since he left it, and it seemed to prey on his mind. A week ago he went to Dyea and brought mail for everyone in the camp but himself. Since that he gradually sank, and