

Lanark and Renfrew, Kingston, Barrie, North Bay and Algoma.

To the west of Lake Superior, we have now 14 Presbyteries, where twenty-five years ago there was none. In these Presbyteries there are at present 90 self-supporting congregations, 33 augmented charges, and 197 mission fields, with 684 preaching stations. The present vigorous and hopeful condition of the Presbyterian cause in the Western Provinces is largely owing, under God, to the efforts of the Home Mission Committee during the past twenty-five years. The work in the West is likely to grow even more rapidly in the next ten years than it has during the preceding decade. Immigration is greatly on the increase of late, and the successful opening up and development of new mining districts, with the building of new branch lines of railway, are rapidly increasing the population, rendering desirable the opening of new mission fields in larger numbers than the funds at the disposal of the Committee justify.

The recent reception into our College at Winnipeg of two young Galicians, who are studying with a view to Christian work among their fellow countrymen, of whom there are now 14,000 in the Northwest, is a most hopeful sign.

At a meeting of the Executive last month, in response to a request from the Presbytery of Kamloops, and upon a report from the Rev. C. W. Gordon, who had recently visited the country opened by the Crow's Nest Railway, the Committee decided to commence work among the men engaged in the mines in the neighborhood of Rossland, Nelson, and Whitewater. This is a work such as has not hitherto been undertaken by the Committee, and one which will not only entail a heavy expenditure of money, but which will require men of special gifts. At present, the Committee are on the outlook for suitable missionaries to labor among the miners.

Last year the Committee undertook work in the Klondyke gold district. The first missionary, the Rev. R. M. Dickey, left in Sept., 1897, followed soon after by the Rev. A. S. Grant, and more recently by the Rev. J. Pringle and Rev. J. A. Sinclair. Ours was the first Canadian church to send missionaries into this new territory, and it is encouraging to report that we have been able fairly well to overtake the work there. Owing to the uncertainty as to the future of the district, the Committee, did not feel justified in increasing the number of missionaries this fall. They await developments, expecting that on the opening of navigation next season, it will be necessary to largely increase the staff. The Committee have been disappointed as to the financial returns from that country, believing that while the outlay was exceptionally heavy at the start, the salaries of the missionaries would, ere long, be borne by the people themselves. This expectation has not

been realized. Almost the entire expenditure, both as to outfit and salary, has thus far been met by the funds of the Committee. This has not been owing to any fault of the missionaries, who deserve the warm sympathy and support of our people for their self-denying labors in a peculiarly difficult and trying field, but owing to the exceptional circumstances of the district.

A church building is being erected in Dawson City, at a cost of \$11,000.00, which is expected to be entirely provided by the people themselves. In Eldorado—a district adjoining Dawson City—a lot has been secured, on which there is a building which is used meantime for services. Until some decision is definitely reached with reference to the building of a line of railway, via Glenora and Teslin Lake, no action has been taken by our missionary at Glenora towards the erection of a church. The expenditure last year on the work west of Lake Superior, including the Klondyke, exceeded \$45,000.00.

The estimated amount required to carry on the work of the Home Mission Committee this year is \$82,000.00, in addition to whatever may be necessary in connection with the work among the miners. Last year the total amount received for Home Missions from the congregations of our Church, including Sabbath Schools, Christian Endeavor Societies and private individuals, was \$58,160. The sum of \$12,000 was obtained from bequests, and \$11,800 from Britain.

This year, thus far, very little has been received from bequests, and the contributions from Britain are only \$4,130. It seems, therefore, that of the total amount required this year, at least \$75,000 will need to be got from our own people. This is about 30 per cent. in excess of of the amount they contributed last year.

Considering the improved condition of the country, it is reasonable to expect a large increase in contributions for Church work, and the Committee's earnest hope is that they will not be disappointed. They look for this increase in all sections of the Church.

Will you kindly present the claims of the Home Mission work to your congregation and Sabbath School and other organizations connected with your Church.

Soliciting your cordial co-operation.

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,

ROBT. H. WARDEN.

P.S.—The Church year now closes on March 31.

P.P.S.—Copies of the above in Leaflet form, free, for distribution, may be had from Dr. Warden.

As early as possible in the line of the day make a bend in the Divine direction, if you wish every hour of the day to bring you nearer to God.