

holds regular Sabbath evening services. In some cases a leisure hour on Sabbath, in others, the time of family worship, is utilized for the instruction.

Difficulties, of course, have to be met and overcome. One is to get people to understand the scheme; another to get them to take hold of it heartily; and a third to get full returns, so that the Superintendent may know what is being done. Explanations from the pulpit, at the weekly prayer-meeting, and by a special address on Children's Day have been utilized to give information, as well as private explanations by visitors and elders. The other two hindrances will doubtless be gradually removed.

It is clearly understood that the Home Department is not a scheme to raise money, though it is desirable that the trifle necessary to pay expenses, ten to fifteen cents per annum per family, should be collected in the envelopes, any balance going into the mission funds of the Bible School. Neither is it a suggestion that members and others do not read or study the Scriptures, but it is a suggestion that they should do so for at least half an hour a week along the line of the International Lessons, and do so, where possible, as families.

The growing ignorance of the younger generation concerning the contents of the Bible is an appalling fact, and the Sabbath School as usually conducted is quite incompetent to deal with it. Those interested in the religious welfare of the young (and of the older people, as well,) cannot afford to ignore any means which promises to make the Book more familiar. The Home Department not only promises to do this, but also to react favorably on church work generally, helping the Sabbath School, the church services, the pastor, the elders, and every member of the home—father, mother, children.

These few lines are written at the editor's request with the fervent desire that they may give at least some impulse or guidance to the taking up of this promising means of furthering the Kingdom within the great sphere of influence of our own Church. There is a wide and fresh field here.

Galt, Ont.

A Straight Talk

By Rev. Jas. Robertson, D.D., Superintendent of Missions.

The Editor asks me to give "a straight talk about home missions in Western Canada to boy and girl readers of THE HOME STUDY QUARTERLY from my own view point."

"But what and where is Western Canada?" Look at a map of Canada, and you will see that Lake Superior humps itself up, and Hudson's Bay sends a long tongue down, making Canada look like a large dumb-bell. The large end to the west is Western Canada.

The Canadian Pacific Railway crosses the country from Lake Superior to the Pacific. Take a train at Port Arthur, and the first 400 miles will be through a rough, rocky country, covered with timber and full of lakes. The next 1,000 miles over prairie, then 400 more through the Rocky Mountains. This will take three days and a half; and you will need to put your watch back three times, and an hour each time, for when it is 12 o'clock at Port Arthur it is only 11 at Winnipeg, 10 at Regina, and 9 at Vancouver. Before you reach the Yukon you must travel 1,500 miles more from Vancouver.

This wide country is rich in farming and pasture lands, in timber and coal, gold and silver, copper, lead and iron. It can hold and support in comfort five times as many people as are in all Canada now.

It is only 30 years since settlers began to go in; in 1871 Winnipeg had only 241 people, now about 50,000. Vancouver began to be built 15 years ago. Now there are about 25,000 people there. Before 1870 only Indians, half-breeds, and fur traders were in the West. Where farms and villages and towns are now large herds of buffalo roamed. These Indians and half-breeds hunted on horseback. Buffalo meat made good food; the skins with the hair on were dressed and used for clothing and bedding; the hides made moccasins, harness, tents; the sinews thread. The flesh dried, pounded, mixed with melted tallow and packed in skin bags, they called pemican. Strangers preferred to