

in Montreal. As an elder of St. Andrew's Church there, Superintendent of its Sunday school, President of the Young Men's Association, and a member of nearly all the missionary and benevolent boards of the Presbyterian Church in connection with the Church of Scotland, his services were invaluable. He was many years the representative of his native country in Parliament, and contributed in no small degree, by his writings and otherwise, to bring about the confederation of the provinces. He was appointed Minister of Inland Revenue in 1869. In 1872 he was appointed the first Chief Justice of Manitoba, and in that same year was gazetted the first Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba and the North-West Territories, and rendered important services to that new country, the value and resources of which he had brought into notice many years in advance of its actual settlement, by means of his well-known prize essay on "Canada and Her Resources," published in 1855, and his famous lectures under the caption of "Nova Britannia" in 1858, which shewed how far he was in advance, even then, if his contemporaries in forecasting the future of these territories. With like far-seeing discernment, he used his influence to promote the union of the Presbyterian churches in 1875, and from that time, until summoned to higher service, he remained one of the staunchest friends of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

MR. GEO. SMELLS, elder in the congregation of Pine River, Ontario, died on the 1st of August last, aged 90 years and five months. He was a native of Fifeshire, Scotland, was ordained to the eldership in 1843, and came to Canada in 1862. He took a deep interest in the welfare of the congregation and greatly strengthened the hands of his minister. He bore without murmuring a long illness, and passed away peacefully to the better country.

Our Home Missions.

REV. ALLAN FINDLAY, speaking for Muskoka and Algoma, says:—

I beg leave to report for the half year closing on the 30th September last as follows: The term just closed has been marked by steady progress in every field which has come under my notice, in some cases greater than in others it is true, but in all sufficient to cause devout thankfulness to the great King and Head of the Church. Two causes have, I think, contributed to this: 1st. We have a band of faithful men on the field, each, so far as I could judge, striving faithfully to discharge his duty, in some cases in the face of great difficulties; and 2nd. The season, because of the comparatively abundant harvest, proves to be one in which there will be less difficulty in meeting financial obligations in

the stations. Work was commenced in the beginning of the half year as usual in the stations in the Muskoka field. As many of the stations here were visited as possible before going to Algoma, where I commenced work early in June. Of the fields visited in Muskoka, I found in Sundridge a very strong desire to enjoy the services of an ordained missionary. As the village is now incorporated and is the centre of a prosperous community, it is all the more necessary that our interests there should be represented by something more permanent than ordinary supply by catechists. I am glad to report that Rev. J. L. Robertson, formerly minister at Strabane, Pres. Hamilton, has been recommended to this field for appointment by this committee. Another field, Byng Inlet, which has been a source of anxiety to the Presbytery, on account of its isolated position, has been arranged for by the employment of Mr. G. W. Logie, student, who has agreed to remain on the field for one year. Hitherto this field has been wrought by the Missionary Association of Knox College with no expense to the committee, but now a grant of \$3 per Sabbath will be necessary. Every field in Algoma was visited in turn. In some cases considerable time was spent in dealing with those in arrears, a condition of things not to be wondered at, when we consider the almost calamitous experience of some of our people during the past season. However, I am glad to report that in every case there was manifested a desire to make good past deficiencies, and in most cases active efforts were immediately put forth to this end. The fields so visited were Day Mills, Gore Bay and Providence Bay. Without specifying each field, as has already been done in my report to the Presbytery of Bruce, I may note the following changes affecting the working of these fields. As reported to the Convener in June, Mr. Rennie has opened a mission at the new canal at the "Sault," which gives promise of being a centre of usefulness during the progress of the works, and may eventually become a permanent organization. St. Joseph's Island has sent in papers promising \$300 a year for the support of a missionary. It was understood at my visit that this was for a catechist, but since then I have a paper from one portion of the field asking for the appointment of Mr. Jas. Ferguson, a former ordained missionary on this field, and also a note from Mr. Ferguson stating his willingness to go for what the people raise and the grant, which at present is \$2 per week. The whole matter is left in the hands of the committee. Tarbut promises \$7.50 per week, which will cover the expenses of Gaelic-speaking missionary, Mr. H. Currie, who has been appointed by the Presbytery; his expenses to the field being the only claim on this committee. Bruce Mines field occupies the same position, no grant being required. The Algoma Mills field and that of Blind River, hitherto separate fields under the care