

**The Danger of Delay.** Prof. Baird, in writing of our work in giving the Gospel to the new settlements of the great North-West, says:—"An instance of the danger that lies in neglected duty is to be found in the character of much of the immigration which is now flowing into Northern Alberta from the Western States, especially from Nebraska and Washington. Church-going in some communities is almost unknown. The Sabbath is used for sport, or, in a busy season, for work, and there is an ignorance of Bible truth sadly out of keeping with the vaunted Western intelligence. The student, or other missionary, has up hill work indeed, if his lot is cast among such Westerners.

Still more arduous is the work and still less cordial is the welcome of the ambassador who is sent to carry the glad tidings among the Mormons who have established themselves in Southern Alberta. This work was undertaken a year ago, and the benefits are enjoyed also by scattered settlers who are adjacent to the Mormon settlers."

## HOME MISSIONS IN WESTERN CANADA

BY REV. DR. ROBERTSON.

For the RECORD.

THE Home Mission field in Western Canada extends from Lake Superior to the Pacific—a distance of nearly 2,000 miles. The country is being gradually settled by immigrants from Eastern Canada, the United States, Great Britain, and the Continent of Europe.

The aim of the H. M. C. is to plant a Mission wherever the number of Presbyterian settlers warrant, and to give occasional supply to districts but sparsely settled. Missionaries endeavour to care for all who are without pastors of their own. Last season Western missionaries preached the Gospel in 10 languages—the Home in 6, the Foreign in 4. For this work, men of piety, education, zeal, and common sense, are urgently required; but, if they are to succeed, they must be suitably supported; and for financial aid we must depend on the members of the Church, East and West.

### HEAVY AND UNEXPECTED DEMANDS

will be made on the Home Mission Fund this year.

(1). Floods in the valley of the Fraser River, B.C., destroyed crops and crippled the people. Fire and flood inflicted heavy losses on the Kootenay River. Kaslo, *c.g.*, lost 60 houses in a night, so that 14 families were forced to find a home in the Presbyterian Church and 4 in the manse. Special help must be given these people to maintain ordinances.

(2). Drought in some parts of the Territories has ruined crops and thrown the support of missionaries on the H. M. C.

(3). Work has been begun this season among

the foreign population in the West. To 2 Icelandic colonies with over 100 families in each, to Hungarian settlers, to Germans and Swedes, missionaries have been sent, at their own request, and with gratifying results. This work should be extended, for these people form a large proportion of our population, and are like sheep without a shepherd. They are industrious, thrifty, and will make good citizens.

(4). The Cariboo country, B.C., was explored last summer from Ashcroft, on the C. P. Ry., to Barkersville, a distance of 285 miles. A large number of settlers were found, the majority of whom are Presbyterians, anxious for services, and ready to do their part in support. For 250 miles there is not a single Protestant missionary. Two should be sent in at once.

(5). Settlement stretches down to North Saskatchewan from Edmonton for 150 miles. A mission was started last spring at Beaver Lake, 60 miles from Edmonton; but 2,000 people are located beyond that point, and should be cared for. In a district on the Battle River there were two settlers in 1893; in May, '94, a service was held with an attendance of 55. Three new stations have been opened and a missionary put in charge. These are but samples.

THAT THIS IS A LIVING, GROWING WORK a few figures will show. In 1884, west of Lake Superior, 1 Presbytery, now 2 Synods and 13 Presbyteries. In 1884, work in B.C. disorganized, and our Church with 1 missionary, now all interests united and consolidated and 3 Presbyteries. In 1881, in all the West, 2 congregations, now 82. Preaching points, in '81, 116, in '94, 765. Communicants, in '81, 1,153, in '94, over 16,000. Revenue, in '81, \$15,100, in '94, \$234,000. Between '82 and '94, Ch. & M. Brd. helped to build 222 churches and 49 manses, worth over \$400,000. not to mention buildings erected by self-supporting congregations.

### INSTANCES.

Three years ago work was begun in a mining district; now a congregation, self-sustaining, with 73 families, 49 communicants, equipped with church and manse, called a pastor in January last. A Mission started 30 months' ago, now self-sustaining, S.S. of over 150, and starting a Branch Mission for itself. Three years ago a station with 5 families given supply, wishes now to call pastor, promising \$700 for his support. District, wide, occupied in '93, people hostile, missionary warmhearted and tactful, in '94 three churches built, one costing \$1,200 and others \$800 each, and, with little outside help, paid for. Missionary sent to a mining district two and a-half years ago; people opposed his work and he was obliged to sleep the first three nights under a lumber pile. Success attended his labors, and when he left the place this autumn the town council presented him with an address which