

Our Contributors.

CHURCH BUILDING IN THE NORTH-WEST.

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For several reasons church building in the North-West was not carried on so extensively this year as last. The early frost of 1883 seriously disarranged financial calculations. Except in the mountains and along the north shore of Lake Superior, railway construction was at a standstill. Branch lines had been projected but not a mile built. Tens of thousands of bushels of wheat lay rotting in granaries because it would not pay to haul it to market. And where branch railways were surveyed there was no certainty as to the route that would be adopted finally. No village knew whether it would get the railway or the go-by—and yet the record of last season in church building is creditable.

PORT ARTHUR

must be the door at which much of the produce of the North-West is to leave the country. The town has made decided and substantial progress this summer. Our congregation there built a fine church at a cost of about \$10,000. The Rev. J. Herald has proved himself an efficient missionary since his connection with our cause there.

SPRINGFIELD

is one of the older settlements in Manitoba. Its proximity to Winnipeg attracted a number of settlers there early. There is not a more flourishing district in the country. Two or three years ago the congregation built a church, and to give completeness to ecclesiastical equipment they built a manse this year. Rev. D. B. Whimster deserves much credit for the work done lately in this field. The manse will cost about \$1,200.

BURNSIDE

is another of the old Canadian settlements in Manitoba and one of the best. It is situated about six or eight miles west of Portage la Prairie. The congregation called the Rev. James Todd this year and erected a manse for him at a cost of \$1,200.

MINNEDOSA

is a growing town on the Manitoba and North Western Railway, at the crossing of the Little Saskatchewan. Last year the congregation built a commodious church and this year a comfortable frame manse lined with brick. The cost was about \$1,500. The Rev. J. M. Wellwood is pastor.

CLANWILLIAM

is a country station, about twelve miles north of Minnedosa. For years the congregation suffered through want of a church, and yet differences about the most suitable site prevented action. Mr. J. MacAuley, who laboured in the field last summer and the previous winter, got them to work and a neat log church free of debt is the result. In labour and cash it cost about \$500.

SHANKS

lies west of Rapid City about eight miles, and in a good agricultural district. The congregation and Sabbath school have outgrown the accommodation so cheerfully granted by the Shanks family, and steps were taken this summer to build. The teaming and a good deal of the work were done by the people themselves and the balance of the cost contributed in cash. The building is of frame and worth about \$1,200. The Rev. T. Davidson was pastor.

WELWYN

lies about sixteen miles north of Moosomin and in the midst of fine farming land. The missionary at Moosomin, the Rev. W. Nicholl, preaches there and is much thought of by the people. They erected a neat frame church at a cost of about \$750.

WOLFSELEY

is an important station on the C. P. R., about 300 miles west of Winnipeg. Farming has been extensively and successfully carried on in the country north and south of it. Mr. A. Robson, of Ayr, has been stationed there for a year and has gathered a compact congregation. They are building a commodious frame church at a cost of about \$1,300.

ELLISBORO

is a station connected with Wolseley, and lying in the valley of the Qu'Appelle. Mr. Robson succeeded in getting the people there to build a church at a cost of about \$600.

WOLF HILLS.

About eight miles south of Wolseley lies the Wolf Hills station. The settlement is largely Presbyterian. Led by their earnest pastor, the people are building a church at a cost of about \$900.

MEDICINE HAT

is situated about 650 miles west of Winnipeg, where the C. P. R. crosses the South Saskatchewan. Here are the coal mines that furnish fuel to the most of the cities and towns of the North-West. From Medicine Hat a railway is to be built next season to the Galt coal mines. The contract is already let and the road is to be finished in August. Mr. D. Anderson, a student of Manitoba College, laboured here last summer with much acceptance and the congregation built a comfortable frame church, costing about \$1,100.

REGINA,

the capital of Assiniboia, is situated about 350 miles west of Winnipeg. The congregation has hitherto been worshipping in a hall which was not suitable for congregational purposes. The growth of the congregation was retarded and the people determined to build. Finding that the difference between a permanent and temporary structure would not amount to very much they decided to erect a brick veneered church and of such a design as would enable them to increase as circumstances required. The contract price is about \$4,500, and the building is to be finished this autumn. Mr. A. Urquhart, of Knox College, was inducted as pastor this summer.

STURGEON RIVER

is one of the stations connected with Edmonton. The people built a comfortable log church this summer at a cost of about \$450. Mr. Baird is pastor.

BATTLEFORD

was re-occupied by our Church this summer. In the time of Governor Laird the Rev. P. Straith laboured there. After the removal of the seat of Government to Regina, Battleford suffered. Within the last two years, however, it has advanced a good deal. The surrounding country, except in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, is well adapted for farming, and a number of settlers are going in. The Presbytery of Manitoba sent the Rev. J. H. Cameron to labour there this season and he is doing a good work. The people have rallied round him and a comfortable log church is in course of erection. The building will cost about \$500 or \$600. A much more pretentious structure is contemplated in the near future.

SOURIS

is situated about twenty-four miles south west of Brandon. The district is famous for the excellence of its wheat. The congregation finding it inconvenient to worship any longer in the hall kindly granted by the Methodist Church went to work to build. They subscribed liberally and a church at a cost of about \$2,500 is being erected. Mr. J. L. Simpson is missionary and he is much esteemed by the congregation.

GREENRIDGE

is a station connected with Dominion City and about ten miles from the international boundary line. It is a rich agricultural district, settled with shrewd and industrious farmers. The congregation built a good church and substantial sheds this year at a cost of about \$1,200 or \$1,300. Mr. D. Munro, of Queen's College, is our missionary here and is universally liked.

These figures foot up over \$29,000, and accommodation is provided for three pastors and thirteen congregations. It is needless to say that the Church and Manse Building Fund was drawn on except in one or two cases to assist these congregations, and that aid was cheerfully given.

Arrangements are made to build next spring at Manitou, Birtle, Carlyle, Moose Mountain, Alameda, Lunnymead, Virden, Minniska, Oak Lake, Fort Qu'Appelle, and some other places. Should the branch railway lines now projected be built, no doubt a large number of congregations will build, as they feel now the need of accommodation for Sabbath school work as well as for other meetings.

The erection of churches is rapidly increasing the size of our congregations and swelling contributions for the support of ordinances. Every manse built means a saving of \$50 to the Home Mission Fund, beside furnishing a home to one of our hard working missionaries. The manses built already save the fund \$500 annually.

This statement would be incomplete without mention being made of the enlargement of St. Andrew's

manse, Winnipeg, and the completion of Knox Church in that city. The cost of Knox Church was about \$50,000.

The Board feels grateful for the encouragement and support given so far. If the good work of the past three years is not to receive a check, funds must be forthcoming. The General Assembly commended the work of the Board and advised members and adherents to assist it. Of course all good Presbyterians will obey the Assembly.

INDUCTION AT EDMONTON.

Travelling a thousand miles to an induction is not common even in Canada and hence a brief account of a trip to Edmonton may be of interest to your readers. The Rev. D. M. Gordon, of Winnipeg, and myself were appointed by the Presbytery of Brandon to induct the Rev. A. B. Baird into the pastoral charge of the Edmonton congregation. Mr. Gordon was at Fort McLeod and agreed to meet me at Calgary. Two days and a quarter by the C. P. R. took me from Winnipeg to that point. Preparations having been completed we started northward on Monday afternoon, Sept. 22nd, with a team kindly provided by Major Walker. We camped ten miles out of town on the edge of Nose Creek. The night was clear with a slight touch of frost and tenting delightful. Our road lay next day through rolling prairies with wide valleys at intervals. No better country for dairying could be desired. There is abundance of rich pasturage, good water, and enough hay to meet the requirements of the open winter of the West. There is no trouble. To the left of the trail the Rocky Mountains rear their heads aloft. They are seventy or eighty miles distant, and yet they seemed behind the first hill, and reachable by a brisk walk before breakfast. The "Devil's Head" a huge conical shaped mount seemed to follow us all day. It looked to be bare of snow while all the neighbouring hills had evidently taken on the first layer of their winter covering. We camped at the "Lone Pine" sixty-five miles from Calgary. Here the appearance of the country changes. The soil is fertile but full of ponds and lakelets. There is also a good deal of timber. The next day late in the afternoon the Red Deer River is crossed. This is a noble stream nearly 500 feet wide and with well defined banks. The bottom is gravelly and the water clear and good. At certain points the banks are bold and precipitous while at others they gradually slope away from the water's edge. About thirty homesteaders are settled along the river and more are expected next season. Mr. Baird and his assistant attended to the spiritual wants of these people during the summer. The Blind Man's River was forded in the evening and we camped on its left bank. Like all streams from the Mountains the water is excellent. As we descended to the river freighters horses were seen grazing to the north and groups of carts and smoking tents told that the owners had halted for the night. During the next day we passed over a country of great natural beauty, and adapted for agriculture. The herbage was very rich. Heavy grasses, pea vines and vetches lined the trail for miles. On our right lay the hills along the Battle River. They are covered with wood and the foliage wore all the beauty of its autumnal colouring. The Battle River was forded about one o'clock and a halt called.

Late in the afternoon Samson's Indian Reserve was passed. The Chief wished us to go to his house and hold religious services but as he could not understand English and we could not speak Cree we were reluctantly compelled to decline. We did not suspect that he wanted anything but spiritual food. The Rev. Mr. Glass, of the Methodist Church, and a Roman Catholic priest are labouring among this band. We could not help regretting that since so many bands are without any spiritual guide two ministers should be labouring here. The next forenoon we passed the Indian Farm (forty miles from Edmonton), and crossed the North Saskatchewan late in the afternoon. Ascending about 250 feet from the ferry we were on the main street of Edmonton. Driving towards Mr. Baird's residence we met friendly faces who greeted us and informed us of arrangements for the induction and for our entertainment. Mr. Gordon was to be the guest of Mrs. Anderson and I of Mrs. John Cameron. The induction was fixed for Sabbath forenoon. Mr. Gordon preached an eloquent and very appropriate sermon in which the relations of the minister to his Master and to the people were ably set forth. I was