

From Alberta. Mr. John A. Matheson, one of our missionaries, writes that "a new church was opened at Dewdney, Alberta, on the 20th of August. The unanimity and energy with which the work was carried on reflects credit on the congregation."

Four years ago there were no churches erected in any part of all this district to the south of Calgary. Since then Presbyterian churches have been erected at Davisburg, Pine Creek, High River, Shephard, Fish Creek Forks, and Dewdney; all of which are well attended and supported as well as could be expected by new settlers. The church in the East is doing a grand work by establishing missions in these localities, where by and bye, there will be seen flourishing and self-supporting congregations. The crops are very good this year for which the people are thankful."

An old Station. The Protestant half-breed population of Manitoba numbers perhaps 5,000 people, though it is no doubt less than it was twenty years ago. Most of the English speaking half-breeds belong to the Church of England. To the Presbyterian church, however, through the influence of Hon Donald Gunn, a faithful elder who came out with Lord Selkirk's colonists, Little Britain and its associated station, Parkdale, with their native congregations, have always adhered. Dr. Black in fact, opened it as a branch of Kildonan congregation. This summer Little Britain has been under the charge of a young Nova Scotian student of Manitoba College, D. M. Gillies. Never have the people responded more freely and generously than this year. Good work has been done, souls have been saved, and the roll of membership increased. The old Gospel recommended with youthful, loving zeal has all its pristine force and power.

A new railway. Railway construction on the American continent is almost at a standstill this year. One exception is to be found in the "Soo line Extension" which is being built by the Canadian Pacific Railway from St. Paul, Minnesota, north-westward through Assiniboia to Moose Jaw, on the main line of the C. P. R. This line will give a short cut for winter freight and will enable the C. P. R. to compete for traffic between the Pacific Coast and Chicago. The railway runs through eastern Assiniboia and taps the coal region of the Souris. Some of the land is along the Missouri Coteau, and will not be very valuable, but tracts here and there will no doubt attract the new settler. Regina Presbytery will need to keep its eye on the new settlements. The railway will give the Presbytery access to its South Eastern Stations.

Fort Frances In August Record we called attention to Fort Frances Mission on the Rainy River in Northwestern Ontario. Since that time Sir Oliver Mowat has visited the district, and it is to be hoped that his visit will result in opening up the region. The Rainy River is one of the most beautiful rivers on the continent, and the land along its banks for ninety miles is most fertile. But there is no market. The people are exceedingly poor. They must have the means of grace, and Roderick Gillies, a faithful young Highlander is holding the fort there. Lately Miss Hyndes, a Christian lady from Winnipeg, and matron of the Children's Home, visited the region. Her report is a sad one. Intemperance is very prevalent, is the scourge of the district. There is not a doctor in the whole region. People die of accident when they might be healed; but there is no one to care for their bodily ailments. No wonder the good lady wants a little hospital to be organized and at least a trained nurse to be sent to the district. In August we appealed for \$50 or \$100 for the church repairs which have now been made, but are not paid for. In these two things there is work for the philanthropists. Dr. Bryce of Winnipeg is H. M. Convener.

OUR GREAT HOME FIELD.

BY PROF. BRYCE.

OUR Canadian Church has a mighty mission field. From Lake Superior to the Pacific Ocean alone is a whole empire in extent. Upwards of seven hundred preaching places, and this the work of twenty-two years, is surprising! We do not forget the faithful pioneering of a Black, a Nesbit, a Fletcher, a McNabb, and a Matheson, but the chief growth has been since the formation of Manitoba Presbytery in 1870.

Not only is the work imperial in extent, but it is multiform in its agencies. The greatest work has been among the farmers on our prairies. It is one of the sights to do a traveler good to visit to-day some of the rural congregations in the Presbytery of Brandon. Fifteen years ago where many of them are now constituted was an open prairie. The wolf and the prairie chicken held undisputed sway. To-day a central building in the settlement, decidedly churchy in appearance, with tower and gothic windows, has thirty or forty vehicles about it on the Sunday, and the congregation of two hundred well-dressed people assembled to hear God's word.

The ministers are generally young men, and they have a free prairie swing about them; their auditors do not tolerate essays read from a paper, but want the living voice and keen eye of the speaker; the offerings of the people are liberal, twice or thrice what they were accustomed to be in sturdy Ontario or good old Nova Scotia. Sunday Schools with latest improvements and Christian Endeavor Societies are quite common in this good Presbytery.