

The Carleton Sentinel.

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WOODSTOCK, N. B., FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 1905.

WHOLE No. 3029

The Mission of Wilmot and Wicklow, New Brunswick.

This is one of the most interesting missions in the diocese of Fredericton. It is spoken of as the mission of Wilmot and Wicklow, although it includes the civil parishes of Simonds, Peel and Aberdeen. Previously to the year 1870 there was

only one clergyman of the Church of England stationed north of Woodstock on the St. John River. This was the rector of Andover. These two rectories were fifty miles apart. The rector of Andover worked south over the civil parishes of Wilmot and Wicklow and was responsible for all the work in the two north-western counties, Victoria and Madawaska. When the Rev. Leo A. Hoyt became

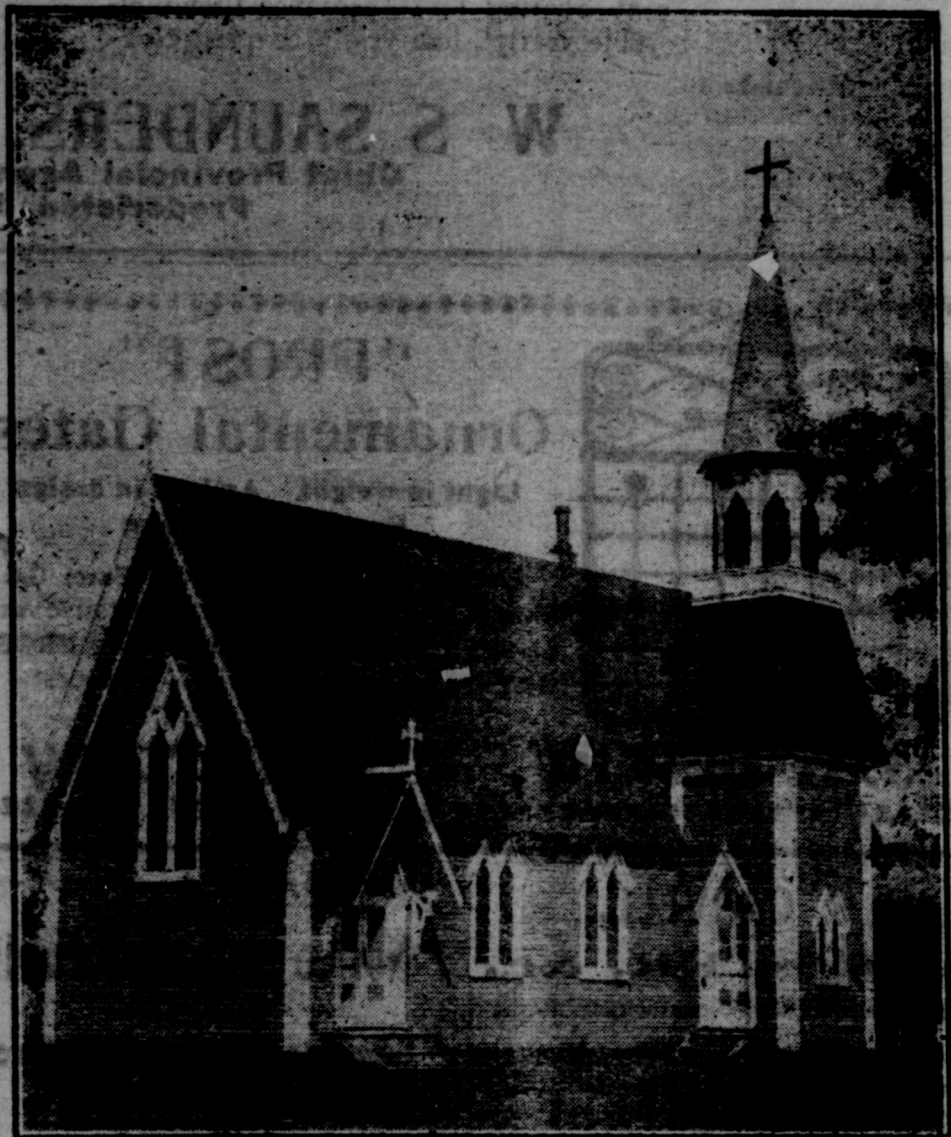
rector of Andover in 1871 a most aggressive missionary campaign was opened, which has since resulted in the establishment of three or four separate missions. The first of these was the mission of Wilmot and Wicklow. The first missionary in charge was Rev. Wm. Russell Almond. He was appointed in 1874, but his health failed and he returned to England after a few months' labor and was succeeded in 1875 by Rev. J. E. Flewelling. Mr. Flewelling remained as rector until 1899, when he resigned to accept his present position as rector of Canterbury. Under his pastorate the Mis-

sion grew until it assumed a high and much more independent life, a sign of which was an increase of about \$300 to the Home Mission Board. The church in Wicklow, (St. Barnabas), which had been started about three years before was finished and consecrated on the 13th of June, 1876. About ten years later St. James' Church, Centreville, was consecrated. The present rector, Rev. E. W. Simonson began his work within the mission in 1900, and since then its interests have been brought prominently forward. Within three years a beautiful new rectory has been purchased. The "Church of the Good Shepherd" has been built at East Florenceville. The extensive mission of Aberdeen has been reopened and a new church almost completed at Glassville and other extensions made to the work, altogether increasing the temporalities of the mission to the extent of over \$7,700. The communicants have almost doubled; and one hundred have been confirmed. The mission is most favorably situated in the very centre of the County of Carleton, and Mr. Simonson in his reports at Synod forecasts a very successful future for the older section of his present mission, and confidently looks forward to the establishment of Aberdeen as a separate parish.

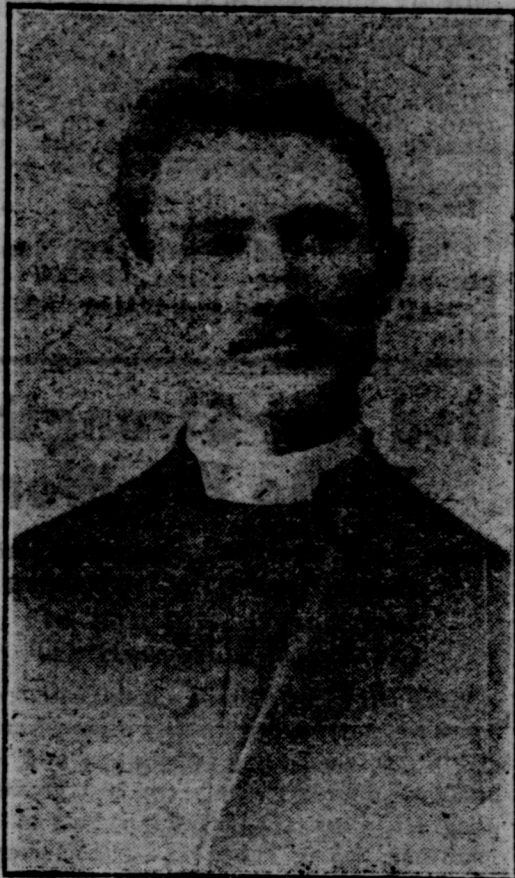
Rev. E. W. Simonson, the rector, is a direct descendant of the Loyalist Lieutenant John Simonson of the Kings New Brunswick Regiment, who was commanded by his ex-cousin, Brig. Gen. Thomas Carleton. He was born in Jacksonville, N. B. in 1859 and after a brilliant course was graduated from Kings College

in 1894. He was ordained Deacon the same year and advanced to the Priesthood the year following. His whole ministry has been within his native Diocese. After four years in St. Andrews as curate, he was elected to the rectory of Wilmot and Wicklow where he has distinguished himself through an exceptionally successful rectorate as a wide awake

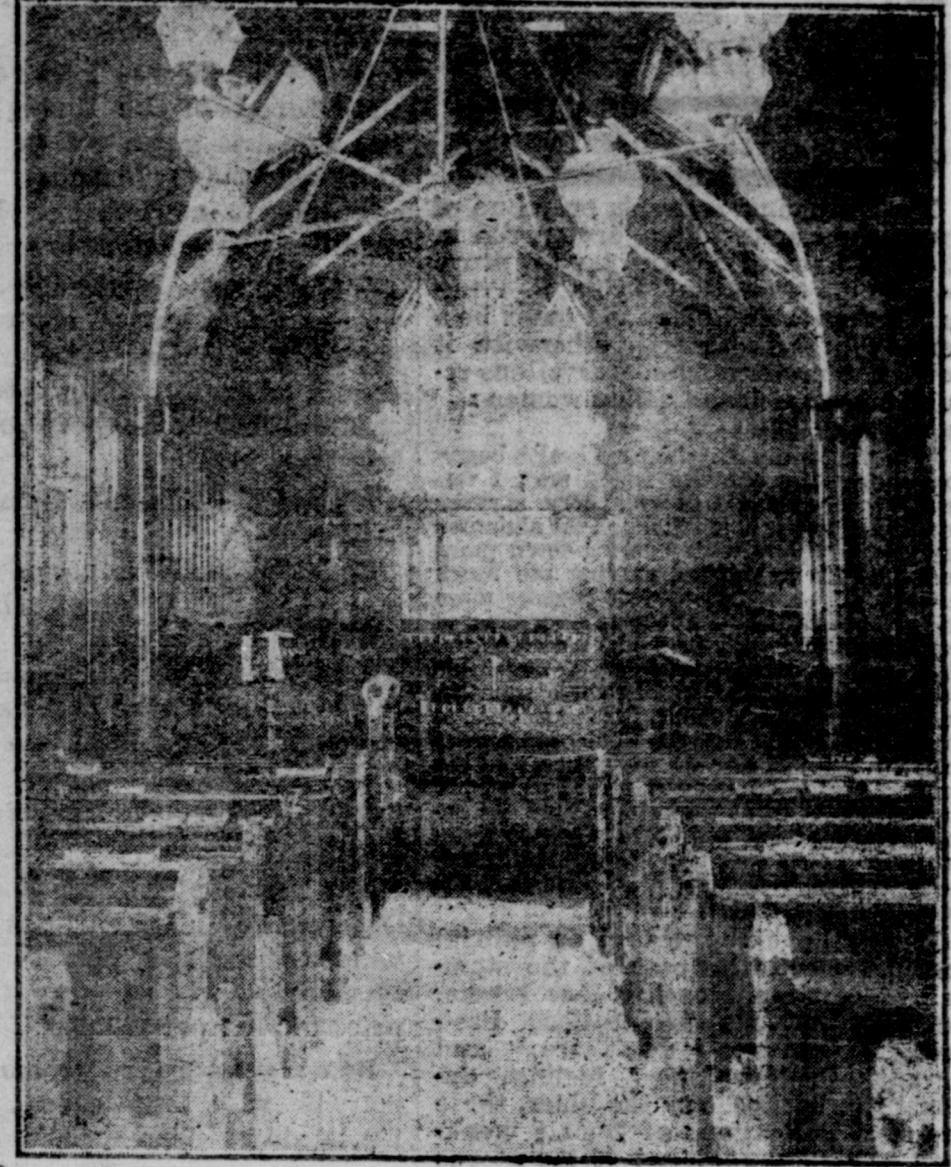
and well endowed worker. New missions have been opened, and a Rectory and two churches built at a cost of upwards of \$7000.00. Mr. Simonson is a member of the Board of Gove. of Kings College and has always taken an active part in the maintenance of the College upon its old foundation. He married in 1899 Miss Alberta Quinn of Wolfville.



Church of the Good Shepherd, East Florenceville.



Rev. Ernest W. Simonson.



Interior of Church of the Good Shepherd, East Florenceville.

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ISSUER OF MARRIAGE LICENSES.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

In order that the discussion now taking place in the Dominion Parliament regarding the school clause of the Autonomy Bills for the new Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan may be fully understood we deem it our duty to give the readers of this paper a short history of educational matters in the Northwest Territories, from the beginning up to the present time, and would ask them to draw their own inferences as to whether or not the Government is acting wisely, considering all the circumstances. In the first place it may be stated without fear of contradiction that Confederation was the result, very largely, of differences existing in the old Province of Canada regarding educational matters. From 1841 to 1867 what now constitutes the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario

were joined together in a Legislative Union, known as Canada. In the Province of Quebec there was a Protestant minority claiming the rights of separate schools, and in the Province of Ontario there was a Roman Catholic minority claiming the same rights, and for more than two years prior to Confederation conferences were being held by interested parties to see if some scheme could be worked out which would protect the rights of both these minorities, the result being that in the British North America Act provision was made under Section 93, which reads as follows: "In and for each Province, the Legislature may exclusively make laws in relation to education, subject and according to the following provisions:—

(1) Nothing in any such law shall prejudicially affect any right or privilege with respect to denomina-

tional schools which any class of persons have by law in the the Province at the Union."

There are three other sub-divisions of this Section, the last of which provides for remedial legislation in case the local legislatures of the Provinces should fail to carry out the provisions of the above section.

The first difficulty which arose over the provisions of this Section was in the Province of Manitoba, and in that case when Manitoba became a Province in 1870, there had been no system of Government prior to that time. No laws had been passed and consequently it was considered by the Provincial authorities in 1890 that no person had any rights under sub-section 1 of Sec. 93, or in other words, that no persons have any right or privilege with respect to denominational schools in the Province of Manitoba at the time of the Union, and, therefore, the Legislature of the Province of Manitoba passed a general school law, making no provision for separate schools therein. This was contended by the minority to be an infringement of their rights as guaranteed under Sec 93 of the B. N. A. Act, and as a result appeals were taken from one Court to another until finally in 1895 the General Committee of the Privy Council held that no such rights existed at the time of the Union, consequently the law passed by the Province of Manitoba was within the jurisdiction of the Province alone and did not come under the provisions of Sec 93.

It has been contended by many of the conservative papers, and especially by the *St. John Sun* that the case of the Northwest Territories is in exactly the same position as was that of Manitoba, but we think that any fair minded person upon an investigation of the matter will come to the conclusion that it is a very different proposition indeed. In 1870 an act was passed by the Parliament of Canada creating a system of government for the Northwest Territories which did not in every respect make it a Province, but which gave the Northwest Territories very large powers for making laws for their own guidance, which laws were called "Ordinances" and had to be from time to time ratified by the Governor-in-Council for Canada, and by Section II of this Act, it was provided as follows: "When, and so soon as any system of taxation shall be adopted in any district or portion of the Northwest Territories, the Lieutenant-Governor by and with the consent of the Council or Assembly, as the case may be, shall pass all necessary ordinances in respect to education; but it shall therein be always provided, that a majority of the ratepayers of any district or portion or subdivision thereof, by whatever name the same may be known, may establish such schools therein as they may think fit, and make the necessary assessment and collection of rates therefor; and further, that the minority of the ratepayers therein, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic, may establish separate schools therein, and that, in such latter case, the ratepayers establishing such Protestant or Roman Catholic separate schools shall be liable only to assessment of such rates as they may impose upon themselves in respect thereof."

It will be seen that by this statute it was provided that the principle of separate schools should always be maintained in the Northwest Territories, and shortly afterwards the Assembly of the Territories commenced passing Ordinances, or laws, for the working out of their school system, which were practically complete in the year 1894, and have been since consolidated and are known as Chapters 29, 30 and 31 of the Northwest Territories, passed in 1901.

These three Chapters comprise altogether about 90 pages of ordinary printed matter and in them is provided a complete working out of their school system, just the same as the school law and regulations made by the Board of Education provide for the working out of the school system of New Brunswick, and in fact they are modelled very largely upon the pattern of the N. B. and N. S. schools with the exception that provision is made for the establishment of separate schools, either by Protestants or Roman Catholic minorities, whenever they are able to fulfill certain conditions, but no matter whether the school be a public school or a private school, they are all bound by the same laws and regulations. If a separateschool, then direct taxation, or property tax can only be levied upon property belonging to persons of that certain denomination, and if taxed for the support of separate schools the same property cannot be taxed for the support of the public schools. With this principle perhaps no person could find any fault.

Then again all the schools are required to use the same text books, must have a duly qualified teacher, and rules for the proportionate share of government assistance on the recommendation of the public school inspector, and are in every respect run like a public school until half past 3 o'clock in the afternoon, after which a clergyman or priest, previously designated by the Board of School Trustees, has the right to give half an hour of religious instruction, but that only to such pupils as wish to remain.

The important sections bearing upon this will be found in Chapter 29, section 95, as follows: "It shall be the duty of the board of every district and it shall have power:— Sub-Sec 15: "To require that no books or apparatus be used in the school under its control, other than those authorized by the departments."

Sub-Sec 17: "To engage a teacher or teachers duly qualified under the regulations of the department, to teach in the school or schools in its charge on such terms as it may deem expedient; the contract wherefore shall be in writing and must be in form prescribed by the commission, and a certified copy of such contract shall forthwith be transmitted to the department."

Sec 149: "No person shall be engaged, appointed, employed or retained as teacher in any school unless he holds a valid certificate of qualification issued under the regulations of the department."

It will be seen from this short sketch of the law now existing in the Northwest Territories that the minority in these provinces now have, by law, certain rights when entering the union and if the court should so hold, then there is no question that under the Provisions of the B. N. A. Act Parliament has no right to interfere with the management of schools, and it is upon this point that the debate is turning very largely in the House of Commons.

We leave it for our readers to judge from the reading of these acts and taking into consideration the fact that a thorough system of laws have been enacted and worked out by the legislative council of the Northwest Territories for the management of the schools as to whether or not the minority have rights in these provinces, such as were intended by the B. N. A. Act, such as should be recited in the bill creating other provinces in the fullest sense of the word.

The Bill, as drafted by the Government in the first place, re-enacted Section II. of the Act of 1870 and provide that "in the appropriation

(Continued on eighth page)

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