

WINNIPEG'S DARK SIDE,

SHOCKING PICTURE PAINTED BY
REV. JAMES ALLAN.

Foreigners Crowded Into North End
Under Conditions That Render
Vice Inevitable—State Not Doing
Its Duty Regarding Education.

(Special Despatch to The Globe.)

Ottawa, Oct. 11.—At a missionary meeting in Dominion Church last night in connection with the annual meeting of the General Board of Missions of the Methodist Church, luminous statements of the problems confronting the missionary movement of the Church, both in the home and foreign fields, were given by Rev. James Allan, Superintendent of the Home Mission Department, and Rev. J. E. Egerton Shore, Assistant Secretary for Foreign Missions.

Rev. Mr. Allan dwelt particularly with the problem of evangelical education and social work among foreign immigrants. During the last ten years, he said, of the 375,000 European immigrants who had come to Canada, about 75,000 were Protestants. In Winnipeg from one-quarter to one-third of the total population was now composed of foreigners, housed principally in the north end of the city, and, for the most part, under appalling conditions of overcrowding and of disease and vice bred by unsanitary surroundings. In a country where almost half a continent of fertile land lay undeveloped, there was being reproduced all the misery and poverty of the crowded centres of Europe. He instanced some cases where several families were lying together in single rooms in unsanitary tenement houses, and declared that under the present conditions in north Winnipeg whole sections of the female population were being driven into virtual prostitution. The children of the district were not receiving proper school education, and the school accommodation in the north end was quite inadequate. These conditions, urged Mr. Allan, urgently demanded municipal and legislative action.

The financial statement of the Treasurer of the Board, Mr. H. H. Fudger, was read to the meeting. The total receipts for the past year amounted to \$538,600, an increase of \$54,000 over the previous year. The total expenditure was \$544,000, of which \$186,200 was for Indian work, \$108,000 for Japanese, and \$34,000 for work in West China.

The sweeping charges as to the moral and social conditions prevailing in North Winnipeg, made by Rev. Mr. Allan, have created a sensation, and prompt steps will be taken to require the reverend gentleman to prove or retract his statements, which are believed to be unwarranted and incorrect.

The attention of the Council was called to the matter this evening, and the proper officials were requested to report on the situation and to prepare evidence which will effectually refute the exaggerated sensationalism which characterizes the charges. Among those who will be quoted in this respect will be Rev. Mr. Woodsworth, Methodist minister, in charge of foreign work in that section of the city. Conditions in a small section of North Winnipeg may not be entirely all that may be desired, but the health department is most vigilant in preventing such conditions as Rev. Mr. Allan depicts, and the sanitary laws are enforced with the utmost vigor.