

SKIDGATE.

Skidgate is our mission on Queen Charlotte Island, and Mr. Freeman, supported by Guelph District Epworth Leagues, is our representative there. This village has a church, a school-house, a public hall, three trading stores, and a post-office, besides about sixty dwelling houses. There is a fish-oil manufactory, owned and operated by a white man. This industry furnishes work to a number of the 260 Indians. These people have a good brass band and a fur company. The school attendance averages about ten pupils, and there are about thirty-three names on the roll. The church membership is 120. Last year they contributed \$298.00 to our missionary fund.

BELLA COOLA.

This village has a population of over 200 Indians, most of whom are pagan. The church membership is twenty-four. The country is quite well adapted for agriculture, and the people settle down to farming instead of running off to the fisheries every year, much more satisfactory work can be done among them. Our missionary, Dr. Spencer, who represents Waterloo and Stanstead District Epworth Leagues, spent part of last year in hospital work in Toronto. While in Ontario, Dr. Spencer met a great many of our Epworth Leaguers, and preached missionary sermons, through his efforts a deeper interest in our Indian work has been created.

KIMSQUIT.

This village, with a population of about seventy-eight, is a sort of outpost of Bella Coola. The Indians here are nearly all heathen. We have a native agent in charge.

LOWER FRASER MISSION.

Rev. Thos. Crosby, our pioneer missionary in British Columbia, has this field in charge, which is situated in a lovely valley, well adapted to agriculture. The Indians live by fishing and farming. Some of them earn a good deal of money by hop-picking. The institute at Chilliwack is doing a good work among the Indians of this section. Many pagan customs and superstitions still exist. The missionaries are constantly called upon to combat the influence of strong drink. The membership is ninety-one. One hundred and one dollars were given to missions last year. Mr. Crosby represents the Kingston District Epworth Leagues.

KITAMAAT.

The church membership at this mission is now 211. The village has a good church, temperance hall, school-house, two trade stores, forty-two frame houses, and a boarding-school for Indian children. The Girls' Home here is under the direction of the W. M. S. Nearly all the people have good gardens on a reserve situated at the mouth of the river, not far from the village. Rev. Geo. Raley, who represents the Wingham District Epworth Leagues, is missionary here. Fifty dollars were given for missions last year.

KITLOPE.

Kitlope is in charge of a native teacher. This village is small and is nearly seventy-five miles south of Kitamaat.

CAPE NUVOG.

Mr. Walker, a missionary teacher, is our worker in this discouraging field. There are only about nine church members among a band of Indians, many of whom still practice the old heathen customs. The latest reports from this mission are the best, so the future may be full of promise in spite of the difficulties in the way of the work.

STEVESTON.

This is a cannery centre, and during the fishing season is one of the busiest places in the West. Many of the Indians

who gather here are Christians, but the pagans outnumber the Christians. These, with the Japanese, the Chinese, and the representatives of other nationalities employed here, keep our missionaries very busy, looking after the physical and spiritual well-being of the people. Our medical department here is a valuable feature of our work.

NITENAT.

The reserve at Nitenat has about 250 acres. Sealing and salmon fishing are the leading industries of the Indians. There are thirty church members, and the names of twenty children appear on the school roll. Rev. W. J. Stone, supported by the Goderich District Epworth Leagues, is the missionary. This mission is on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

COWICHAN.

The Indians of this village have always been an agricultural people. The work here is attended by considerable difficulty. There are about 800 Indians in the village, and 600 more in the immediate vicinity. As yet there is neither church nor school, the services being held from house to house, and so far there are only six church members. Rev. C. M. Tate is our missionary in charge.

NANAIMO.

The mission here is under the care of a missionary teacher. The average school attendance is about eleven, and the church membership is fifteen. Something like thirty attend Sunday-school, and the workers are looking for a church increase from this source. The Indians live by farming and fishing. The great stumbling block in the way of their progress is their close contact with godless white men.

VICTORIA.

Mr. W. H. Gibson, a lay agent, looks after our Indian mission here. He not only works among the Indians who live in Victoria, but among those who come to the city as visitors. The church membership is twenty-three, and much household visiting is done. Cottage prayer-meetings have been found particularly helpful.

Totem Raising, and Potlatching in British Columbia.

Heraldic columns are erected by the British Columbia tribes to commemorate the event of a chief taking his position in the tribe by building a house. These posts vary in length from forty to sixty feet. The general name for them among the Haidas is Keang, and each column has also a distinguishing or individual name. The keang or lodge-poles are hollowed out at the back and carved in front. When a chief decides to erect a keang and build a lodge, invitations are sent to the tribes in the vicinity to attend who, upon their arrival, are received by dancers in costume, and are hospitably entertained. At the appointed time the Indians move the pole upon rollers to a hole, from seven to ten feet deep; long ropes are fastened to the pole. These ropes are grasped by gangs of men, women, and children, who stand at a considerable distance, awaiting the signal to haul. The strongest men in the company raise the pole in their hands until it reaches their heads, when stout poles, tied together in the form of shears, are placed under it as support. Sharp-pointed poles are used to raise it to an angle of forty-five degrees, and then the signal is given for the persons at the ropes to haul it into position. With loud shouts, the butt is dropped into the hole, and the column being set plumb, it is firmly set in position with earth. The crowd then repair to the house of the owner of the column, who gives a pot-

latch—a feast being provided of berries and grease, seaweed and other native condiments. Then follow the distribution of all his property, consisting of blankets and numerous trinkets. These gifts are bestowed upon the members of all the potlaches, except the one to whom the column belongs. Mortuary columns erected upon the death of a chief are solid, circular poles, carved only on the base and summit. When these are erected, a feast is given to the multitude, and blankets are distributed to the makers of the column. —From Canadian Savage Folk, by McLean.

News Items.

The Epworth League of Paisley Street Church, Guelph, are studying the Forward Movement for Missions. They give toward the support of Rev. B. C. Freeman, Queen Charlotte Islands.

The second annual Missionary Conference of the Ottawa District Epworth League was held in Dominion Church, Ottawa, February 17th and 18th. Rev. Dr. Henderson was present. Rev. S. P. Rose, D.D., conducted an open parliament on missionary work.

The Montreal Conference Epworth League, which was to have been held in Cornwall in February, had to be postponed on account of several cases of smallpox in that town. Announcements will be made later regarding the convention.

In last month's Era it was stated that the Epworth Leagues of St. Mary's had raised \$40 for missions, and now aimed at \$100 for this year. We are informed that the facts are as follows: Last year, Senior League, \$43; Junior, \$30; total, \$73. It is expected that the results for this year will probably be, Senior, \$100; Junior, \$35; total, \$135. This is a fine showing.

First Methodist Church Epworth League, of London, is keeping in touch with the work of our West China Mission. Several letters have been received asking for information about China. This indicates that the members are in earnest, and that Mr. Hartwell, their missionary, is being supported, not only by money, but by prayer and intelligent interest in his work.

A League has been organized on the Bruce Mines Circuit. Rev. R. A. Spencer, who is one of the old campaigners of the Forward Movement, writes that this League will help in the effort they are making to change Bruce Mines from a Home Mission to a self-supporting circuit. He adds, "We hope that this will be accomplished this year. Our giving promise to be about fifty per cent. ahead of last year's, together with self-support."

Miss Hannah E. Barney, 224 Earl Street, Kingston, Ont., has been appointed missionary vice-president of the West Kingston district. The district officers have arranged to visit the Leagues of the city, and will reach as many of the outside appointments as possible. They are making a strong effort for more systematic work in the district, and are encouraging The Rev. Thos. Crosby represents Kingston district in the mission field.

In preparing for the Winter School, held on the Welland District during last month, a novel plan for the development of missionary interest was carried out. A district was carried out. Many members were given missionary books to read and prepare a review to be given during the sessions of the school. One of those to whom a book had been allotted when ordering it, said, "The Winter School has begun, for we are all working at missions in getting ready for it."