

Methodism in Vernon



EARLY settlers in the Spallumcheen country, as in other places, suffered from many disabilities not the least of which was the lack of opportunities for religious worship.

In 1891 the country south of Sicamons was without a Methodist place of worship. During that year the Rev. J. P. Hicks, now editor of the Western Methodist Recorder of Victoria, B.C., conducted services in Vernon and also in private houses between Vernon and Enderby, the latter place being his headquarters.

The following year, 1892, Vernon and vicinity was entered on the list of stations as a mission in the British Columbia conference and the Rev. Thomas Neville, now of the Manitoba conference, was sent as the first settled pastor. Those were days of large fields and few laborers, and Mr. Neville often preached in Vernon in the morning and conducted a service in Kelowna in the evening of the same Sabbath. Vernon was then but a little village of a few hundred people, but they were enterprising, and by the time conference of 1893 had arrived a Methodist church was erected and opened. Of



REV. THOMAS NEVILLE