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Communications.

STEVESTON HOSPITAL.

Bella Bella, Jan. 9th, 1900.

To the Editor of Recorder: My November copy of the Recorder duly arrived by last mail, so that this is the first opportunity I have had of commenting on the timely article of Mr. Deaville re Steveston Hospital. Anyone who has been at Steveston for a season will fully appreciate the need of such an institution. The Japanese have a little hospital of their own, and every year its necessity becomes more evident. A white man, Indian or Chinaman, taken suddenly sick at Steveston is seriously handicapped. He generally has to be sent to Westminster or Vancouver to the hospital, and the trying trip aggravates his malady. There are some difficulties in the way of establishing a hospital at Steveston. None of these, however, are insuperable with Rev. Thos. Crosby, stationed on the Fraser River. I am sure if the matter is taken in hand properly it will be brought to a successful completion. My heartiest sympathies are with the movement. If all the cannery managers were like Mr. Deaville the hospital would have been built ere this. Yours truly,

R. W. LANGE.

THE METHODIST COUNCIL.

To the Editor: It has been asked, very practically, "What advantage would a Methodist Council be to the

Methodists of Victoria?" It is the purpose of the present letter to answer the above question, and in doing so, the writer hopes that the readers of the Methodist Recorder will receive the ideas expressed in the spirit of goodwill, as it is under a deep sense of responsibility that he has ventured to give utterance to his views on Methodist policy. Now it seems apparent to the writer and others whom he has heard expressing similar views, that some of the staunchest supporters of Methodism think that the policy of the Church has been one of drift, viz., that we are gradually drifting into Congregationalism. It is the writer's opinion that many of our ministers have felt this to be so, and while deploring that such is the case, seem unable to grapple with it. Perhaps the greatest factor in bringing about this unhappy condition of affairs has been the enormous Church debts, while a good second place may be accorded to the desire on the part of our preachers and stewards to meet the views of the congregations under their particular charge.

Now these congregations are very cosmopolitan in their make up, consisting of Methodists and some few Baptists, Presbyterians and Congregationalists, who, residing in the particular locality, for convenience, attended our services. It is only natural that each of these parties desires to have what they have been accustomed to, in its essential features. Now the contention of the writer is, that while we welcome into our ranks all who love the Lord Jesus Christ, we should keep inviolate the right to work Methodism as a connection and if others join us it must be on the distinct understanding that our Methodist policy is not to be infringed upon, and that there will be no yielding by the Methodists of British Columbia in this matter. It is one of the objects of the Methodist Council to assist our ministers and laymen in carrying out the policy of Methodism as laid down in the discipline of the Church. Again, it seems to the writer, that the setting apart of one preacher for every church is another factor that is tending to foster congregationalism. This may be right on mission stations, but when it is possible to carry out the circuit system, as in Nanaimo, New Westminster, Kamloops, Vancouver, Victoria, etc., the system should be fostered. An interchange of pulpits by the ministers is of very great advantage to our people, for every minister has his limits. His thinking is incidental to himself. To listen

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three years twice every Sabbath to the same way of presenting the truth, is not so good as through other channels to have the truth presented differently. It is further suggested that the constant appearance of the preacher before the same congregation limits his capacity and puts upon him physical fatigue (that is if we are to have serious worthy of Methodist preachers), that he ought not to be called upon to endure. No wonder that, with the constant strain, the freshness and activity which marks the minister upon his arrival on his new charge begins to tell upon the tissues of life, and worn out with brain fatigue, his church suffers, and the stewards begin to look out for a change. Is there any wonder then that so many of us deplore the fact that we are fast becoming Congregational churches, and stamping out the very life of Methodism. The Methodist Council would have the effect of checking this tendency, and developing the aggressive connectional spirit and policy. At a later period I will, with your permission, present other features germane to this subject.

VERAN.

THE UNCOMMON HEADLINE. "Our Leading Laymen."

To the Editor: In glancing over the Western Methodist Recorder, at times my attention is taken by the hint of reference made regarding leading laymen. I am struck with the rarity of this question, connected as it is with the large field of B. C. Methodism, and more especially as it stands in such prominent contrast with the vast aggressive body of Methodism as that of England. There the subject is a most common one; so common that it employs a very large army of laymen, many of whom equal the ministers in charge, in planned

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