

LEADING LAYMEN.

3. MR. A. C. WELLS, CHILLIWACK.

It is our pleasing duty to present this month the photograph and a short sketch of the life of a pioneer Methodist of British Columbia. Bro. Allan C. Wells came to the province in 1862, and to Chilliwack, where he has resided ever since, in 1867.

He was the first J. P. appointed in the settlement, and has been prominently identified with every interest of the community—political, social, industrial, moral and religious, from the beginning of Chilliwack's history to the present. He has held the Reeveship of the municipality for three consecutive years.

In the exercise of many sterling qualities of mind and heart, his life has always stood with undiminished consistency for all that makes for the moral elevation and material improvement of his fellow-men. His conversion to God and identi-



fication with the Methodist Church date from the year 1859, forty years ago. Every one conversant with the history of the Methodist Church in British Columbia knows how leading a part Bro. Wells has taken in every department of the church's work, and how continuous and progressive has been his official connexion with it. He has been successively elected to membership in every session of the B. O. Conference, and to every General Conference but one, since British Columbia Methodism has had representation in the great legislative conference of our church. Columbian Methodist College has no warmer friend; his place on its Board of Directors has therefore been continuous from the beginning. From the first he has also been a member of the Advisory Committee of Coqualeetza Institute.

He is the founder and President of the Edenbank Creamery Company, and his prosperity in worldly things has ministered benefit to the Church of his choice, for he is one of her most liberal supporters.

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J. HORNER.

OUR CHINESE WORK.

A Steveston Note.

Circumstances have this year prevented a continued stay of any of our missionaries to the Chinese at the canneries. But we were able to arrange for five three-days visits. In the last week of the season I was at liberty to accompany our missionary, Chan U. Tan, to the grounds. I had the pleasure of half an hour's conversation with Dr. and Mrs. Large. Part of the afternoon I spent in getting acquainted with the leading Chinese shop-keepers. Water street, in Steveston, for the most part, consists of the narrow summit of a dyke. The walking along it, and the feat of passing people without tumbling off takes one back to China and Chinese highways. Some six thousand Indians, Japanese and Chinese were about the place. Our evening meetings for the Chinese are held in the open air in the Chinese quarters. I noticed that we were not able to gather anything like the crowds we do at such meetings in Victoria, Westminster and Vancouver. The people are very excited over their fishing and gains, and it is not possible, as at other times, to collect them; nor to hold for any time those who are gathered. All about is a laughing, frolicsome crowd. Even the Chinese, when out of their boats in the evening, unbend to the adage, "Dulce est discipere in loco."

The gaming houses during the night are crowded. The hard working fishermen part easily with their gains. The large amount of earnings intoxicates the toilers with joy. This season the average gains of each was \$200. I heard of one man who had lost every cent of his wages in a Chinese gaming house. I saw dollars scattered about, with the greatest freedom. People seemed to think they had so many that they might spend any number and have plenty left. Alas, that means for many a poor fellow, an empty purse and the old pant's pocket still to put it in, at the close of the season.

In China public readers of novels and plays are an institution. Our workers adapt the idea in Steveston. During the day the missionary takes his place in one of the eating houses and reads aloud from the New Testament to the people. No doubt much good seed is sown in this way.

Native Christians working at the canneries are helped and strengthened by having the Gospel preached in their midst. The conversion of non-Christians upon the ground may not be common,

but they hear the truth presented, and upon their return to our cities, in calmer moments, the words heard will recur to them and lead to bringing some of them into the class of inquirers. Next year I would hope to be able to arrange for the presence of one or another of our missionaries at the canneries during the entire season.

D. S. MOORE.

FROM THE FRASER FISHING CAMPS.

(Rev. T. Crosby.)

A word about the 30 or more camps and different canneries at the mouth of the old Fraser. I spent four Sabbaths there, with an average of seven services each Sabbath, and a good number during the week.

At the early part of the time the services were better attended than towards the last.

There are not nearly so many Indians on the river as formerly. I suppose the increase of white men and Japs accounts in part for it, and then, by reports, they have not always been very well treated in recent years; indeed, all the fishermen complain of that. And then, though I am told the sanitary conditions have been improved, yet it is still bad enough in many places. Bad water, no drainage, miserable, dirty, filthy places, where they are camped, caused much sickness and death. We lost one of our best men from Chilliwack by the bad water he and others were forced to drink.

But the worst of all is the dreadfully immoral condition of things about Steveston. Many nights you could not sleep on account of drunken Indians, and more degraded white men carousing around with poor, deluded women. In the day time, towards the last of the season, you could hardly walk the streets without meeting white men staggering along drunk, and using shameful language. One fellow comes along with his face all bleeding. Another poor fool, with 200 fish in his boat, selling them at 20 cents, no sooner gets them sold than he is off to one of the holes where liquor is sold, and is soon rid of the money, and in a drunken quarrel has his head split open. Two Japs, with their desire after liquor, have a quarrel with a bartender, and both get their heads cut, and the doctor is called in to sew up the wounds. So, that, take it all in all, it need not be wondered if the friends of the natives urge every one they are acquainted with, to keep away from the Fraser fishing camps.

Most of them would be better off if