

The Missionary Yacht "Iwyll" and Her Work on Kootenay Lake, British Columbia

WHEN, two years ago, it was found that the C. P. R. had about sixty ports of call on Kootenay Lake, and that our Church had but two missions there, the conviction was reached that more must be done in the way of missionary service to the whole region. If the immediate needs of the settlements being established all along the shores were to be met, and something like an adequate beginning be made for future expansion. It was clearly manifest that only by boat could these places be visited, and to secure such and equip her for the service became the supreme desire and purpose, for the time being at least, of Rev. John Calvert, then stationed at Grand Forks, B.C.

With characteristic earnestness and perseverance he set to work to meet the need. Six hundred miles or more farther west the Marine Mission on the Pacific Coast had demonstrated the value of

Morning Class of Centennial Church, Toronto, and says, "I appreciate their kindness very much." We know no reason why many more of our Adult Bible Classes and Sunday Schools may not help in so good a work and make the boat in every sense a bright and shining light. Dr. Calvert is regularly stationed at Kaslo, B.C., his work is regular and by direct appointment of his Conference, so none need fear that in assisting it they are in any way contributing to a vagrant or irresponsible scheme of a visionary or impractical enthusiast. We say this to give all assurance to our friends who are properly cautious about such matters. The "Iwyll" is worthy of all support and her missionary captain of all confidence.

From a letter written late in the fall (not directly for publication), we quote the following interesting statements of the missionary:



THE MISSION YACHT AND HER CAPTAIN.

water communication and a suitable boat service in reaching the scattered minor ports and settlements with the Gospel message, and Dr. Calvert saw no good reason why the great stretch of inland waterway should be left destitute of the Word of life. Guided by the Missionary Board and the councils of his own Conference, and assisted financially in his commendable enterprise by individual subscriptions as well as by the grants and loans of the Society, he has succeeded in placing in commission the staunch yacht "Iwyll," some photographs of which accompany this article.

Dr. Calvert's thought and aim have been to make the "Iwyll" a distinctively Sunday School boat, at least so far as her upkeep is concerned. Many of the Sunday Schools of British Columbia have already contributed to the maintenance of the yacht, and some very acceptable donations and gifts have been made from schools in other parts; e.g., in a recent letter he gratefully acknowledges the present of a fine electric searchlight sent by the Young Men's

"The 'Iwyll' has been in commission since the opening of spring; she has made many trips in the interest of gospel work; lonely settlers have been reached, the gospel preached where it had never been preached before; homes have been cheered and some lives made a little brighter by her visits. August 15th last was a great day in her history. In the morning I took her out in a nasty wind, visiting a lonely settler's home an hour's run from my home; made the run in safety, but had the misfortune to fall overboard myself just as I made the landing. My engineer helped to fish me out, and as I weigh upwards of one hundred and fifty pounds, he had the biggest thing on his hook he ever caught alive. I changed some of my clothes; went ashore, preached, dined, and commenced the return journey. I took some of the friends of Kaslo with me to help in the singing, and was obliged to hurry them aboard as I

saw a south storm was coming and the return journey might be dangerous. The storm broke upon us, thoroughly drenching me to the skin again. A tremendous sea rose, driving all on board but the captain down below. I had to stay with the wheel, and was thankful when I dropped anchor in our home harbor. I was dead tired out, as the helm is heavy work in rough weather. At 10:30 that very night a knock came to my door, calling me from bed. I found a gentleman waiting who told me his wife and her sister were marooned on the beach nearly three miles away and had been there for hours, that no one would go out in the storm and darkness, for it was like Egyptians night with a fierce wind howling, and a tremendous sea running; would I go to the rescue? He had been told that the 'Iwyll' was the only boat in Kaslo that could face the weather conditions obtaining. I nearly took my breath away for a moment. I knew what the trip meant, but I thought of the ladies, and, to make a long story short, I called my engineer, and we got under way as soon as possible, made a landing in the boiling surf, dragged the ladies aboard, and along the deck to safety, and returned home, reaching Kaslo safe and sound, after midnight, with a grateful crowd on board. The gratitude of the rescued ladies and of all their friends has been unbounded. I am so glad that your missionary and your boat had this opportunity of being useful.

"I am sure the 'Iwyll' is needed in these waters, and there seems to be a place for your missionary to fill. God give me grace to fill it."

The newspapers of the region have apparently the same conviction, and not only have they given due praise to the boat and her small crew for rescue work as above graphically described by the missionary, but from the Kaslo paper we incidentally learn the following additional facts:

"The mission yacht 'Iwyll' rendered good service to local boat and launch owners on Monday last, when she removed a dangerous sunken log from its self-selected anchorage in the bay opposite the K. & S. wharf. The log did not reach the surface, and was discovered by the engineer of the 'Iwyll' when returning to the yacht, his dinghy striking the log, the tip of which was more than a foot below the surface, a constant menace to all kinds of craft. Local boatmen would do well to note that the log, too heavy to tip, entirely removed, now lies on the rocky reef opposite the K. & S. wharf, near where the 'Iwyll' has her moorings, with point or tip of log exposed. Dr. Calvert, the captain, further marked the situation by lashing a floating stick to the tip of the log."

The Western Methodist Recorder, especially interested in British Columbia church work, says: "The 'Iwyll' appears to be doing fine work up and down the Kootenay Lake, visiting and settling among camps that heretofore would seldom hear the gospel preached and sung,"

and with this judgment many more who have first-hand knowledge of her work during 1912 fully agree.

But extracts from personal letters received by the editor from Dr. Calvert