

per month are offered, and there is a grand opportunity for consecrated men and women to do successful missionary work along self-supporting lines.

THE CHINESE WORK

in British Columbia has made substantial progress. The agencies employed consist of a layman, who devotes his Sundays, week-evenings, and other available hours to the work; two evening-school teachers; and, for a part of the year, two assistant teachers. The evening-school has been successfully conducted on five evenings of each week. Sunday-school and a select meeting have also been sustained. But the centre of attraction in connection with this mission is the Sunday evening preaching service, which has been crowded, often to discomfort. By this agency the saving truths of our glorious Christianity are being cast upon the waters of a migratory population, by which they are carried to every corner of the Province, and to Asia as well. By the self-denying efforts of the missionary, ten Chinese girls (the youngest only nine years of age) have been rescued from a life of slavery and present or prospective degradation of the vilest character. One of these, after being well instructed in the way of life, has returned to her parents in China; another has been placed in a Christian family; and six are now cared for in a temporary home, provided by the missionary at considerable expense and trouble to himself, assisted by a few contributions from some Christian friends, and a small grant from the Woman's Missionary Society of our Church. For the full accomplishment of its beneficent design, this interesting mission requires suitable premises for church, school, missionary's residence, and girls' rescue home. It should also have a missionary whose whole time will be available for the mission work; and, in addition, there should be evening and Sunday-Schools established in other towns of the Province, where there are considerable Chinese populations, so that the converts might have in each place a home and an adviser, who could also utilize them as a medium through which to reach the other Chinese in these towns.

THE INDIAN WORK.

This work, perhaps more than any other, tries the faith and patience of the workers; but faith and patience alike have their reward in trophies won for Christ, and in the gradual elevation of whole tribes to a higher plane of civilization. When we remember the isolation, the lack of society, the hard fare, the long and perilous journeys, the exposure to storm and tempest, not to speak of "hope deferred" that "maketh the heart sick," the devotion of the laborers on our Indian Missions is deserving of all praise. During the past year one faithful missionary—the Rev. W. B. Cuyler, of Bella Bella—succumbed to disease contracted through exposure on his long missionary journeys, and was obliged to desist from active work. "Faithful unto death," he has received the "crown of life," while his place in the ranks has been promptly filled by another.

On the Pacific Coast the Indian work demands extension. There are vast numbers of villages yet unreached, and from some of them the cry for mission-

aries and teachers is earnest and pathetic. An Industrial Institute for Indian youth of both sexes should be established at some suitable point in the Valley of the Fraser. To provide the necessary land and buildings is the duty of the Dominion Government, and we trust the duty will not be long delayed. Our work in the past among this people has been most encouraging. The membership in the British Columbia Districts is now 1,280, which shows a net gain of 178 for the past year. From the North-West the reports on the whole are encouraging. At Norway House there are signs of spiritual quickening. Attendance upon the means of grace has largely increased. Old members are waking up and young people are coming to Jesus, affirming with tears and earnest words their faith in Christ and their purpose to work for His glory. At Nelson House, though without a permanent missionary, the work flourishes, and the people live the religion they profess. On the Saskatchewan District there has been steady progress, and as there is now a prospect of an Industrial Institute at Battle River under Methodist control, the educational needs of Indian youth in that region will be met, at least in part.

THE FRENCH WORK.

The year has been one of much anxiety and not a few changes in the French work. The small stipends paid, coupled with the discouragements of the work itself, have caused the retirement of several laborers from the field. The resignation of Mr. Beaudry left the French District without an official head, and this, with other circumstances, necessitated an entire readjustment of the work. For the time being the French missions are connected with the English Districts, within the bounds of which they are located, and it is expected this arrangement will continue till such time as the number of missionaries, and their knowledge of Methodist doctrines, discipline, and usage, will justify the reorganization of the work as a separate District.

The gravest problem which the Dominion of Canada has to face is the attitude of its French population; not because it is French, but because it is Roman Catholic in a sense which makes it intensely hostile to the principles of civil and religious liberty. Every year the danger to our free institutions becomes more threatening, and the grasp of the hierarchy more fixed and unyielding. Ultramontane Rome dominates, with absolute sway, the political, educational, and social life of the Province of Quebec, and holds the key of the political situation in other Provinces of the Dominion. It is the sinister power behind the throne in matters of legislation, and is the only power which dares to interfere with the administration of justice; and its avowed policy is to dominate in every sphere, whether pertaining to Church or State.

If relief is ever to come, it must be through educational and evangelical agencies, and the spread of information. The French are a people of many excellent qualities, and under the influence of free churches and free schools would become an invaluable part of our population. But if the agencies referred to are to be effectual, better methods are imperatively demanded. The Church can no longer afford to play at French