

EDITOR'S PAGE

PROGRESSIVE CHURCH LIFE

"All fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates and men decay."

Edmonton, the capital city of Alberta, probably holds the record in the practical evidences of progress in Church life and work in our great western Homeland, but it is gratifying to find that on the Pacific Coast there are also ample indications that earnest effort and real headway in the higher life are not lacking amid the many allurements of material wealth and comforts.

The event of the month in church life in Vancouver city has been the opening of the new Chalmers church, the complete building of which for all-round equipment, it has been said by an experienced traveller, is unsurpassed and has few equals on the American continent today.

In Kitsilano, the district further west, the school room portion of another large church is already in use, and the completed building, we may assume, will not be long delayed; while away to the east, in the wide-spreading, fast-growing city of Vancouver, "St. Paul's on the Hill," in the Grandview district, to which charge Rev. Mr. Grant, late of Fernie, British Columbia, was inducted this month, may be expected to require a much larger building at a not very distant date.

In North Vancouver, the North Shore city already of some attainment, and now of greater promise, a new church building is also in course of erection for St. Andrew's congregation.

Similar evidence of activity and healthful development is to be found in the outlying suburban districts of both cities, which have ere this been referred to as the coming Liverpool and

Birkenhead of the West; and what applies particularly, to our knowledge, to the Presbyterian denomination may be held as true in differing degrees of the other branches of the christian church in western Canada generally and on the Pacific coast particularly.

That such interests and activities are essential to the healthful life of the community few sane people deny. Even men who are disposed to stand aloof from the christian church, and who may tolerate unchecked the cheap taunts and jeers of its antagonists, admit the wholesome and uplifting influence of the church.

The truth in the opening quotation from Goldsmith as to wealth and men has been demonstrated again and again in the history of the nations of the world, and we find that the same inexorable but beneficent laws are applicable in the individual life. Increase in material well-being carries with it temptations that may easily lead to atrophy of soul; and sometimes it seems as if the ultimate question might become, not whether a man's soul shall be saved, but whether he has a soul to save; whether he has, in the suggestive phrase of a modern writer, taken any real interest in the subject of or given time to, "growing a soul."

Poverty of soul-growth makes some people choose any company other than their own. However, beliefs of the evolutionary theory as applied to the physical world may vary, all men come to recognize that in the process of development of the mind and soul in this life, each being evolves "a mind not to be changed by place or time," for

"The mind is its own place, and in itself
Can make a Heaven of Hell, a Hell of Heaven."