

Along the Line

The Indian Work.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

*Letter from REV. B. C. FREEMAN, dated SKIDEGATE,
Q. C. I., B. C., September 3rd, 1895.*

I HAVE recently returned from an evangelistic trip on *Glad Tidings* around the west coast of Vancouver Island. My people had gone to Skeena River for salmon fishing; so I volunteered to the chairman for a trip on *Glad Tidings*, and was readily accepted.

Our first call out of Victoria was at Neeah Bay on the American side, and from there we ran to Nitinat, where we found Brother and Sister Stone well and busy on their new mission. A comfortable mission house is nearly completed, and the government has erected a neat and commodious school-house. We spent in all sixteen days on the coast, holding a service wherever we could find a company of people.

Three Oiat villages in Barclay Sound are without other spiritual help than the brief annual visit of a Roman Catholic priest. At Ucluelet, to the north of the Sound, the Presbyterians are opening work. In Clayognot Sound there is no Protestant missionary at any of the four populous villages on this sheltered water. A-housett village, with a population of about four hundred, and anxious for a teacher, seems a particularly inviting field. North of this are Nootka, Noochatlet, A-hatchet and two other villages, with a population each of from one to two hundred, all desiring teachers to be sent to them. Kyuquot, population over four hundred, is a Roman Catholic mission, but the people turned out almost unanimously to our service. At Quatsino Sound the Indians do not number much over one hundred, but the place demands special attention because of the numerous white settlers coming in along the Sound. Then there is the long standing appeal of Nahwittie for a teacher still unanswered. Surely the cry of these places comes up before the Lord and demands a response from His church.

We reached Skidegate August 20th, and found all well under our Heavenly Father's care.

The Foreign Work.

JAPAN.

PROGRESS IN YAMANASHI KEN.

BY REV. WILLIAM ELLIOTT.

NOTHING has appeared in your columns this year from the Yamanashi District, Japan. Though somewhat late, I send a copy of the District Report presented at our last annual Conference by the Rev. N. Kobayashi, Chairman:

"Though we are unable to report any remarkable progress in connection with this district, still we are thankful to God that our Methodist work in this field has met with some degree of substantial success. . . . The increase in membership is thirty-eight, in contributions, 173 yen.

"It has been, especially since the beginning of the year, a period of disquietude. Perhaps our Lord's words, 'Let him that hath a cloak sell it, and buy a sword,' would not be altogether inapplicable. Still we have not been able to turn to account this very feeling, and the meetings we have held throughout the district, with a view to inspiring the people with Christian patriotism, and to relieve their families at home from want, have had a good influence in setting forth the real nature of Christianity, and the relation it bears to the State. As a consequence, much of the misconception and prejudice which has existed in years past has been removed.

"This year we have begun work in six new places, namely, Matsushema, Momozono, Oi, Aoyagi, Kuraichi, and Saruhashi. At these points we have held regular services, and have found the work encouraging.

"During the year we have held throughout the District some fifty or sixty special meetings. For doing this work we divided our staff of workers into groups of two or three, and these went about the district preaching the Kingdom of God. We continued this kind of work for about six months, expending on it much labor and money. But we had the satisfaction of seeing large audiences everywhere, and found the work exceedingly interesting.

"Last year, with the consent of Conference, we made a request to the Mission Board for a subsidy to enable us to start a boys' school in Kofu. But the amount was not granted, on the ground that there were large extra expenses incurred on the Tokyo District because of the damage done by the earthquake. The members of the Kofu Church, however, feeling that the necessity for such a school must be met, and that the opportunity offering must be taken advantage of, started the school last October on a small scale themselves. It has gradually grown until we have now, in the day and night classes together, seventy scholars. The course of study consists of Chinese, English and Mathematics. Half an hour is spent each day in Bible study, and every opportunity is taken advantage of to inculcate Christian principles. Since January last Misses Preston and Cartmell have kindly aided in the English teaching, and have thus in no small degree contributed to the success of the school. We cannot be too grateful to these ladies for their assistance. This year we have again presented our request for a grant, and we have full confidence that the Board will give such assistance as shall put the school in a position to effectively supplement the work of the Church in accomplishing the glory of God and the salvation of the people in this district."

To this I may add that, according to the *Gokno* (publication of the three leading Methodist Churches in Japan), most interesting and encouraging lecture-meetings were held in Yamura, Katsunuma, Kutsukaki, Ichekawa, Ooe, and various other places in Yamanashi Ken in the spring. The principal speaker was S. Abara, M.P., who was assisted by the leading pastors of the various fields. It was stated that about two thousand people heard these lectures, that they were the most successful that had been held for many years, and that several churches were greatly quickened as a result. A number of baptisms followed shortly after, and young people's Christian associations were organized.

Mr. Abara is a simple, earnest Christian, faithful rather than brilliant, emphatically an everyday worker. As president of our school in Azabu, a member of nearly every annual Conference, and associated in a wide range of activities, besides he is a most useful and deservedly popular man. The people were naturally eager to hear what this Christian M.P. had to say about "The War and Christianity," and "The Relation of Religion to the State." And he did them good, and helped them much to pave the way for the chariot of the Gospel. May it roll on unceasingly and more rapidly.

COMPANIES of priests and nuns have arrived in New York from Ecuador, South America. They call themselves exiles, driven out by persecution. They are nothing of the kind. All travellers for years have represented Ecuador as the most priest-ridden country in the world. Education was limited, enterprise hardly existed, a low state of public and private morals prevailed. There has been a revolution, of which very meagre reports have been made. As far as they go, they indicate that Ecuador has thrown off the yoke of the Roman hierarchy, as Mexico, the Central and South American Republics generally have done, and it is possible that some of the chiefly obnoxious orders have been banished from the country. No country in North or South America has been so far behind the times in desirable attainments as Ecuador, and the fact has been due to the supremacy of Roman Catholic priests and sisters.