

of to-day are represented by the millions of the future. There can be little doubt that when cultivation becomes general, early frosts will almost disappear, and then, with sufficient outlet for its surplus products, the North-west will be the great bread field of the world.

The mountain scenery, especially in the Selkirk range, is magnificent in the extreme. There are places where the cliffs rise to an altitude of over 6,000 feet above the level of the track, and, as they open into deep and gloomy canyons, and tower beyond each other, peak on peak, present scenes of rugged grandeur unequalled on any other route in the world. "Why," said an English gentleman who had travelled extensively, "the Alps are pigmies beside these giants." One is amazed at the indomitable courage that faced and overcame the engineering difficulties encountered in the building of this road. A fellow-passenger, an ex-M.P., told me that when crossing by this route a year or two ago, a party of Englishmen, among whom was the Bishop of Liverpool, were on board, and for a time stood on the rear platform admiring the wonderful scenery. As the train swept round a curve in the face of a cliff, with a seemingly fathomless canyon below, and mountains towering many thousands of feet above, the M.P., addressing the Bishop, said, "Don't you think, my Lord, it was enterprising for a young country like ours to attempt the building of such a road?" "Sir," said the Bishop, "enterprise doesn't express it; audacity is the only word."

As my first objective point was Victoria, no delay was made at Vancouver. The distance between the two places is some eighty or ninety miles, but after leaving the mainland, islands are numerous, and as the climate is superb, rough water is seldom experienced. A magnificent new steamer for this route, with all modern conveniences, has recently been launched from a shipyard on the Clyde, and will be ready early next spring. I understand, also, that the C. P. R. people contemplate putting some first-class steamers on the West Coast, both north and south, and as the former route presents unrivalled scenery, it will soon become a favorite route for tourists from all parts of the world.

My arrival at Victoria was most opportune, as changes had taken place in connection with the Chinese work which rendered careful consultation and prompt action highly necessary. In addition to the valuable advice of ministers on the spot, the Secretary was fortunate in having the presence of three members of the General Board and two members of the Committee of Finance. Aided by the counsel of those esteemed

brethren, he was able to make arrangements which have placed the Chinese work upon a safe and efficient footing. The arrangements involved the re-engagement of Mr. Gardner, who will now devote all his time to the work; the purchase, under authority from the General Board of 1887, of a house and lot for a Chinese Girls' Home; and steps toward securing a site for a mission hall and school in the heart of Chinatown. The "Home" will at once be handed over to the Woman's Missionary Society, and will be maintained by them. Another hopeful feature in the work is the arrival of a native Chinese missionary, Mr. Ch'an Sing Kai, who has been secured through the kind offices of Dr. Wenyon, Superintendent of Wesleyan Missions at Fatshan.

Returning from Victoria, a day was spent at Vancouver, where I had the pleasure of laying the cornerstone of a new Methodist Church. When I visited this place three years ago, it consisted of some ten or a dozen very inferior houses, all of which, with others subsequently built, were swept away by a destructive fire. Phoenix-like, the infant city arose from its ashes, and now boasts of a population of 8,500, with well-graded streets, electric lights, handsome stores, a hotel superior in point of architecture to any hotel in Toronto, and last but not least, a public park, of large extent, upon which some \$30,000 have already been expended. The church above alluded to, will be a handsome wooden structure, to accommodate 600 people, and will cost about \$10,000.

While on the coast, some attention was given to Indian affairs. It should be understood that, since Federation, the Indians are under control of Dominion officials, and that the local authorities have little to do with them, save that their land policy is still adhered to. It appears that the British Columbia Government never acknowledged the Indian title to the soil, as was done in all the other Provinces, and consequently that title has never been extinguished by treaty or by money payments. In short, the Government went upon the policy that "might is right." Politically, the policy was a blunder; on ethical grounds, it admits of no defence. The practical question now is, Can a policy which has been pursued for twenty-five or thirty years be safely reversed? That there will be enormous, or even insurmountable, difficulties in the way cannot be doubted; and perhaps the only thing that can now be done is to treat the Indians with a liberality that will leave no ground for complaint on the score of injustice. It must be confessed that the policy of the local Government has not been a liberal one. In regard to the