

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

MRS. M. A. CUNNINGHAM.

BELOVED SISTERS AND FRIENDS:

In response to an invitation given at our last year's convention, we are assembled in this the terminal city of our province, for the first time in the capacity of a provincial union, and it is with a peculiar feeling of satisfaction we note the progress made by the Vancouver W.C.T.U. simultaneously with the marvelous commercial growth of the city.

Memory recalls the original townsite, known but a few years ago as Granville, vulgarly as Gastown, with its one street near the water's edge; the most conspicuous business being that of drunkard making and the chief buildings saloons. Here, one dark and stormy night, a few earnest Christian workers, accompanied Miss H. G. Moore, United States national organiser, to a room over a saloon, kindly furnished for our use by the proprietor, Mr. Blair. The place was lighted by coal oil lamps and the audience seated upon backless benches; the gospel prohibition for the individual and the nation was proclaimed; and at the close of the lecture, a Woman's Christian Temperance Union was organised, Mrs. Rev. J. Hall being chosen as president. Under circumstances so different to the present, surrounded by so much to discourage, these heroic women struggled on till the great fire, which consumed all traces of the former town, scattered them for a season.

The present indefatigable president, our own Miss Bowes, deserves the credit of reorganising and establishing the union in its now prosperous condition, composed as it is of loyal, true-hearted women of whom any W.C.T.U. president might be proud.

The past year has been one of progress in all departments of Christian effort. The churches have had times of revival and refreshing, not only during the special services conducted by the evangelists, Hunter and Crossley, but continuously as the result of unremitting gospel activity. The temperance societies too have employed noted revivalists, Messrs. Smith and Webb and Major Hilton in turn proclaiming to large audiences God's law of total abstinence from all that tends to destroy the souls and bodies of men. As a consequence the membership increase has been large and the different organisations are in a better position to work together for the overthrow of a common foe.

Since last convention many of us have become practically acquainted with the W.C.T.U. school of methods then brought to our notice, by being privileged to attend the instructive all day meetings, conducted by Mrs. Buell and Miss Pugh, in Victoria and New Westminster, last June.

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