

A GREAT GRIST FROM COLUMBIA.

The law closing drinking places in British Columbia from 11 o'clock Saturday night till 1 o'clock Monday morning came into force with the new year, and there is a disposition to observe its provisions. Test cases were brought before the courts to ascertain the scope of the statute, and although criticising adversely the drafting and phraseology of the Act, the judges ruled in favor of the evident intention of the Legislature. Only those who have spent a sabbath after pay day in mining districts in British Columbia can appreciate the boon such a law will confer.

VANCOUVER ISLAND.

Rev. W. Staples Smith left Victoria in November with lumber for a church at Alberni, and already a good beginning is being made in giving visibility to Presbyterianism. Saw and paper mills are in course of erection and these with farming and mining will make Alberni a place of some importance.

Rev. Alex. Young has done good work at Wellington and Northfield. A manse has been erected at Wellington, to be followed by a church in spring, while a church has already been erected at Northfield. The people are most hearty. Wellington will form a congregation by itself in the near future, and Northfield can then be attached to a mission in East Nanaimo.

The congregation of Nanaimo is taking steps to build a \$25,000 church next season. Since Rev. D. A. MacRae arrived there has been a marked growth.

The people of West Victoria have built a neat and commodious church and the prospects of the congregations are brightening.

Rev. Dr. J. K. Smith, who last summer was supplying Dr. Fraser's Church in London, is now ministering to Pandora Street Church, Victoria, with much acceptance.

St. Andrews, Victoria, is now a strong congregation and there is some talk of getting a city missionary.

THE LOWER FRASER.

Mr. J. W. McMillan was appointed to Mt. Pleasant (a suburb of Vancouver) in December, and already over 60 families are connected with the mission. The sabbath attendance crowds the Temperance Hall, which has a seating capacity of 150, and steps have been taken to build a church without delay. As the collections already amount to upwards of \$20 per sabbath, it is likely that the mission will soon be self sustaining.

The First Presbyterian Congregation of Vancouver will build a new church in spring, and Zion Church is moving in the same direction.

The Westminster Mission, which was started only a year ago, has so developed that one of the stations has called Mr. Mills with a salary of \$1,200, and a free manse. Sapperton, the other station,