

often by example of white Church members, and in some cases ministers of the Gospel, not in every instance those of other denominations spend God's day in travelling when nothing but their own convenience would be sacrificed by its proper observance. These and other things make it hard work at Victoria, and there is a great lack of that real appreciation and acceptance of Spiritual truth that every real minister delights to see. But we are hopeful that this will change. God's messenger, sickness, is abroad, and some of the most careless have felt its power. An increased attendance at prayer-meetings and Sabbath Schools, and greater interest in Sunday services, are some of the indications that lead us to expect better things. Since I came here I have opened two appointments at Beaver Lake, some forty miles south, where there is a considerable settlement, and is one of the most splendid farming localities in this part of the country. The population, I should say, on both sides of the lake, consists at present of about fifty families, white and half-breed, and as soon as spring opens there promises to be considerable immigration. Of this part of my work I will write you more fully later.

The most encouraging feature of my work is that among my Indians at Wahsatenow. The position of these people is most unfortunate. Originally the band of which they formed a part was of considerable size, but by death and removals it has dwindled down, till only about thirty souls remain. These are miserable creatures; some of them are sick, some lame, some aged, others insane—in short, at present I think there are not more than two men among the whole able to do a day's work. Their poverty is extreme. Being so few in number, the Government, to lessen the cost of maintaining them, are trying to force them to join some of the larger bands in the vicinity by diminishing the quantity of their rations. This is causing considerable trouble to the poor people; they are attached to their homes and the graves of their parents and children and friends, and the dilemma between this and an entire cessation of help from the Government, which is threatened, is, to put it mildly, unpleasant.

Besides this help they have not much else on which to depend. They have neither ammunition nor traps to procure game, and were it not for rabbits, which they manage to secure, their position would indeed be desperate. For clothing they are probably most in need, but I am expecting help from the East soon that will in part remedy this. These difficulties are augmented by the fact that their Reserve lies in the main trail to the north, exposing them to temptation to vice from passers by, from which, however, I am glad to say and believe, they keep themselves, for Indians, remarkably free. (From anything I may have mentioned above, I would not have you believe I am condemning the Government policy. From all I can see of the matter it seems to me in the long run to be the wisest and best for all concerned to get them to move.) But, for all this, I have much to encourage me every time I visit them. At no place on my mission have I so large a percentage of the population, such good attention, nor so good results at my services. I have taken the head man into Church membership, two or three have been baptized, now there remains but one unbaptized member in the whole band. Several have professed faith in Christ, and a desire to lead a new life, and would join the Church, but I judge it better to wait till a little more instruction is given before taking them on trial.

#### LONDON CONFERENCE.

**St. Clair.**—I have delayed sending you a report of our work because we were not done with the repairs on the mission house. The amount granted by the Missionary Society was well expended, the work being well and cheaply done,

and was necessary to the preservation of the house, and the comfort of those who live in it.

After all was done, the dining-room and bed-room off it were not comfortable. The floor of these rooms was imperfect, and there was a damp cellar under both. I feel sure that these rooms hastened Brother Ivison's death. So we were compelled to put in a matched floor above the old one.

We do not intend asking for any further grant at present, but intend to raise most of the money here.

We have also improved the inside of our church; it is now said to be the prettiest country church in the district; cost \$193, all paid but \$70, which is mostly provided for by subscription. We have also improved the inside of the school-room. Inspector Brebner says he has but one prettier in his district. The school is in a greatly improved condition, as to attendance, study, appearance, and everything that goes to make up a strong civilizing force.

The Sarnia people are remarking the rapid improvement among the Indians, and are taking a greater interest in them. We hope by the time we leave here to see this a desirable station, as much so as the best country circuits, so that younger and progressive men may be willing to be appointed here.

In all the above work the Indians have assisted to the extent of their ability. We are looking for and expecting a gracious revival. May the Lord send it.

A. S. EDWARDS.

#### THE CHINESE WORK.

*Letter from MR. CHA'N SING KAI, Native Missionary, dated NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., March 30th, 1892.*

I WISH to express my thanks to the Missionary Society of Canada, for having erected a Chinese Church in New Westminster, for the benefit of our people. The Chinese people of this city appreciate and are rejoiced very much over the manner in which they have been looked after by the Society, and as a consequence, the Chinese merchants of this city subscribed most liberally towards furnishing our new church. Since dedication, 6th March, to date, we have had large congregations, and I earnestly hope that with God's blessing, our mission work here with the Chinese will remain, as at present, in a very flourishing condition—like the various missions throughout the Province.

In conclusion, I wish to say a few words more and on behalf of the members of our church. They wish to express their heartfelt thanks for kind interest taken for their future welfare by the Methodist Missionary Society.

#### CHINA.

*Letter from O. L. KILBORN, M.D., dated ICHANG (1,050 miles up the Yangtse River), March 15th, 1892.*

IF none of our party have yet written you from China, it is high time you heard from us. We sailed, nine in number, from Vancouver, October 4th, arriving at Yokohama, October 20th. Ten days spent very pleasantly and profitably amongst our missionaries in Tokyo, Shizuoka, and Kyoto, we again took steamer from Kobe, October 30th, and arrived at Shanghai, Tuesday, November 3rd.

We enquired anxiously as to the prospects for an immediate advance up the great Yangtse, towards Sze-Chuen. We were disappointed, because riots and rumors of riots forbade us to leave Shanghai for a few months at least. As soon as possible, a good-sized English house was rented, and we began house-keeping together. Two or three days later,