

## The Fourth Pacific Coast Theological Conference

Judged by the standard of some of the addresses given and papers read before the Conference, probably it would be maintained that the Fourth Pacific Coast Theological Conference held at Bellingham this year was second to none. But in so far as local arrangements for the conference were concerned, it may be frankly recorded that the experience was disappointing.

This was the second conference held "across the line," and on this, as on the former occasion, the meetings were on Chautauqua grounds, but the Bellingham conference will probably be the last one arranged in association with a Chautauqua programme. Of the natural beauty of the Bellingham Chautauqua grounds there is no question, but something more is needed in arrangement to ensure a time of healthful rest and recreation of body and mind and spirit.

As the conference officials learned by experience, the Chautauqua was a "business proposition," the management of which had, with commendable foresight and insight, sought the amalgamation of the programmes without coming under any financial responsibility to the Theological Conference.

Considering that the same method of preliminary publicity was followed as in the previous year, the attendance was somewhat disappointing, the registration being as five to eight compared with the number registered at Victoria in 1913. No doubt the special attractions from a holiday and scenic point of view of the British Columbia Capital City had something to do with that; but probably other circumstances affected the attendance.

Unhappily there were unavoidable disappointments and delays—through serious illness, etc., affecting those involved—in connection with the publication of the detailed programme, and some who had thought of attending may have received these programmes too late to be influenced thereby. On the other hand the preliminary announcement—indicating the scope and giving the date of the conference—had been mailed some weeks before to the ministers of all the churches represented in the lists of the preceding year; yet the secretary for this year had to report that of many hundreds to whom these preliminary announcements were sent, only a very few replied and registered before the conference.

If the ministry of the churches wish to do their part in putting this international and interdenominational conference on a healthful, permanent basis, they will see to it that they register in good time in succeeding years. The weighty assistance of the laity is practically assured for the next two years, as Vancouver and Seattle respectively