

## METHODIST RECORDER.

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## EDITORIAL.

### THE CENTURY FUND.

Almost every Church is in line now with the Methodist in the purpose to raise a Thanksgiving Fund to welcome the dawn of the new century. Even the Temperance Societies are making a similar effort.

Rev. Dr. Wardner, the Secretary for the Century Fund of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, is an enthusiast in the matter and pledged himself to contribute \$5,000 towards the fund if the Church would take hold of the million dollar effort.

In his address to the Assembly he said: "We need to do this thing; we can do it, and we ought to do it in the right spirit." "Here is recognition of our Church privileges, thankfulness for past privileges, thankfulness for past mercies and faith in the future."

We hope for similar enthusiasm among our own people. A large number of our Churches on the coast are overburdened with debt. If we cannot do anything else let us make a grand effort to reduce these oppressing Church debts and give what else we can to the work outside.

### THE METROPOLITAN CHURCH.

The Metropolitan Church is the mother church, not only of Victoria but of British Columbia Methodism.

The work of organizing the Methodist Church in British Columbia commenced February 12th, 1859, when the first band of missionaries sent out from Ontario landed at Victoria.

Rev. E. Evans, D. D., was the first pastor and the superintendent of the work on the coast. Revs. A. Browning, E. White and E. Robson were his loyal assistants.

The first services were held in the old court house, and shortly after building operations commenced on a lot, the gift of Mr. Dallas, at the corner of Pandora and Broad street. As the city grew, so did the cause of Methodism, and the magnificent edifice, shown in our cut, was built on the corner of Pandora avenue and Quadra street, and opened May 5th, 1891. Among the pastors of the Church have been some of our most devoted and eloquent preachers. Rev. Dr. Evans was followed by Revs. A. Browning, Wm. Pollard, A. E. Russ, J. Smith, Coverdale Watson, W. Percival, J. E. Starr, C. Watson (for a second term), S. Cleaver (for four years), and the present pastor, Rev. J. C. Speer, who is ministering the third year to this large important charge.

## THE FINANCIAL DISTRICT MEETINGS.

Arrangements are once more being made for the Financial District meetings, and the usual routine of appropriation, and recommendation will follow. In addition to the programme of missionary and educational meetings, a further provision will doubtless be made for the Century Fund, the appeal on behalf of which is looked for in October. In the midst of financial affairs it is wise that attention should be drawn to the spiritual needs of the church. The suggestion has been made that District Sunday School Conventions should be held at the time of the District meeting, in order to arouse increasing interest in the work on behalf of the children and youth. The wide extent of our Districts has hitherto made this impossible, but some of the brethren are arranging for conventions for the deepening of the spiritual life of the people. A four days convention follows the Victoria District meeting to be held at Duncan, and Bros. Osborne and Nelson, the resident pastors, with the brethren on the District, are praying for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

### CONNEXIONAL FUNDS.

There seems to be a growing indifference to the claims of our lesser Connexional Funds. While the Missionary and Educational usually receive consideration, it seems to be the opinion that a dollar more or less will suffice for the General Conference, Contingent, Union Church Relief and other funds.

Attention should be drawn to the provisions of the Discipline, that all the loose offerings on the Sabbath upon which the appeal is made on behalf of any Connexional Fund, shall be given to that fund. The facts are that even with the wisest and most careful disbursement the General Conference Fund is heavily in debt. The salary of the General Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Carman, is paid from this fund, and it undoubtedly deserves the heartiest support of our people. As for the Contingent Fund, the expenses of the Local Annual Conference are met by it, and any surplus is devoted to the interests of our very much underpaid Home Missionaries. The other funds we purpose drawing attention to as time passes. Above all we should remember that we are a Connexion, and Methodism owes her success largely to this fact. As Churches and individuals we should rejoice in the benefits of our Connexionalism, and strive loyally to support every interest of the Church.

### JOHN BURNS AND THE SABBATH

Side by side with Rt. Rev. Mandell Creighton, Bishop of London, and Rev. Hugh Price Hughes, in the late battle against the Sunday newspaper in England, stood Mr. John Burns, the great labor advocate, who, in an address to the Home Secretary, gave expression to the following suggestive utterance: "The Sabbath is the workingman's treasure." This leader of men has a just appreciation of the heritage of the people, the weekly day of rest. Would that the workingman appreciated the fact that every attempt to secularize the Sabbath by the introduction of the Sunday paper, Sunday trains, Sunday excursions, and the like, was the direct effort of avarice and greed. Under the popular sophistry that these conduce to the well-being and comfort of the people, counsel-

enceless, grasping capital is slowly but steadily and surely robbing the masses of their inheritance.

Already thousands of street car and railway employees and thousands of newspaper men are laboring seven days in the week, to give pleasure and so-called recreation to those who are selfish enough, or thoughtless enough to take it at the expense of their fellows.

Setting aside the sacred significance of the day, let the workingman not lose sight of a fact, so abundantly illustrated by the toiling masses already in the fetters, that the secularization of the Sabbath means the loss of even the one day in seven, which has been man's particular treasure.

## THE METHODIST PEOPLE VS. METHODIST BUSINESS MEN.

"Especially unto them who are of the household of faith," said the Apostle in his admonition to the Church at Galatia. That while we are under obligation in following the golden precept to 'do good unto all men,' we should have special consideration for those of like faith, is perfectly consistent with our relationship to one another. We are afraid that Methodists sometimes forget this; our duty to the "household of faith" is lost sight of in personal, and therefore sometimes selfish interests. There are no more loyal people in the world to their Church than are Methodists, and yet perhaps none who are more disloyal to each other.

In the interests of Methodism and the cause of religion and moral reform, the "Recorder" was started; and in addressing our business men, a most hearty response was given to the appeal for support by means of advertisements.

But in many many cases we have heard it said, "Our Methodist trade amounts to nothing;" "Our Methodist people are disloyal to their business men;" "Our people will come to us for subscriptions to aid church enterprise and pass us by with their trade."

If this be true it is manifestly unfair to those who are associated with us in Church work, and forced to help bear the burden of responsibility.

Our interests are in common, our cares and anxieties, our responsibilities are mutual; we should endeavor to help each other as far as we possibly can.

Everything else being equal the Methodist consumer should patronize a Methodist dealer.

We have a wide range to choose from if you give a little attention to our advertising columns, and your help and assistance on these lines will react in a much more healthy condition of Church finances.

It can hardly be expected that Methodist business men can aid Methodist enterprises when the money of the Methodist people is poured into the tills of Roman Catholics and others who have no sympathy whatsoever with us or our work.

## WRITING TO THE PRESS ON CHURCH MATTERS.

The "Evangelical Churchman" gives utterance to the following wise words on the above topic, which are equally applicable to our church:

"The clergy are very remiss in this matter themselves. From a mistaken idea that they cannot say a word about what is going on in their parishes without self-praise, they refrain from saying anything, and the great Church world