

thing to find the place empty. Some who were working near-by would even come in for a few minutes during the noon hour. There were no rules hung up for their guidance, but they were nearly always very careful not to disturb others. Possibly the fact that it was a church they were in kept them quieter, or possibly they stood in awe of the "preacher," at all events they kept excellent order. It was easy to see that they enjoyed having a warm, quiet place to sit and read, especially the men from the distant camps and creeks, some of whom had not seen any papers for weeks or months. For instance, a man came in one day who had just walked from near Dawson, about 350 miles, a 12 days' trip. He was in the Reading Room almost constantly for five days, and then one morning he resumed his march towards Skagway, where he would catch a steamer for Vancouver. He said that he had enough to think of for a few days anyway.

Games were provided too, chess, checkers, crokinole, etc., but they were not much used, as most seemed to prefer to read. In one corner there was a table with writing materials and paper and envelopes provided. Over the table was a card reading: "How long since you wrote home? Write to-day." And many a man took the hint, no doubt giving joy to friends afar off. Mails come in fairly regularly, depending of course on the steamers from the south, and the sort of weather they encountered. The papers were given away, when read, if any wanted them, and the magazines when read were placed in a box by the door, and all could help themselves. Often these were carried off to the distant camps, where they were just as good reading

as if they were not two or three months old.

Then too there was an excellent Lending Library, free to all. It was not so very large, as libraries go, but on account of the excellent selection of books it was really of more value than many libraries ten times as large.

They were not merely the old standard works which everybody should read, but a very large number of those books which most people wait a year or two for, until they are issued in cheaper form. And there were few or none of those books one sees so often in Public Libraries, the kind that are neither good nor harm to anybody, because nobody ever reads them. And that Library was well used too; the books were carried far and wide. They were not supposed to be out beyond a reasonable time, but were out at times for two or three months, passed about from hand to hand in a camp, till there was some chance to send them in to be exchanged. One or two were returned from Carcross, one from Dawson, one from Atlin, two or three from the Alsek, in fact they were carried all over the Yukon.

Such was the reading and Recreation Room. But it was a church on Sundays. On Saturday night, after the last man had departed, all the tables and chairs were removed, as well as the partition across the end, the seats were put in, Bible and Hymn books were put in the places of the magazines, and in that church there were enough Bibles and enough Hymn-books to supply all the people the place would hold. Here too we might notice that there were copies of the Bible in several foreign languages, for any who might need them. So it was a church on Sunday, and very enjoy-