

field, Departure Bay, and French Creek. At Wellington, with the assistance of Rev. C. E. Sharp, I propose (D.V.) at Quinquagesima to conduct a ten days' mission. The preparation has been most careful, and we hope and pray for lasting results.

In Victoria, slowly but surely, the work of the Church is progressing. At Easter, and again at Christmas, in every parish there was an increase in the number of the communicants. At the cathedral, where Bishop Hills was rector during the whole of his episcopate, the parishioners have erected as a memorial a reredos, pulpit, chancel screen, and choir stalls in oak, from designs by Canon Beanlands, which have decidedly added to the dignity of the present wooden building; and will one day, as we hope, be transferred to a new cathedral. No further steps have been taken to collect funds for this object, and the scheme of a diocesan memorial to the late Bishop, has not produced so far any large result. We had hoped to collect £1,000 to complete the Clergy Endowment Fund, and to be able to claim a grant of £250 generously offered by the S.P.C.K., but in the present financial condition of the island, the project is by no means satisfactory.

Archdeacon Scriven, who resigned the charge of St. James, Victoria, in 1895, has during the past year devoted his time to itinerating work, and has been of great use to outlying settlements; and he also has taken charge of two parishes during the temporary absence of their incumbents, so that he has spent very little time in Victoria.

Canon Paddon has carried on the work at the hospital and gaol with distinct blessing, and once a month he has visited Mayne Island, where during the past year the Holy Communion was administered for the first time, although there have been settlers there for many years. I hoped to have announced to you that a church had been built. Mrs. Starky, who collected £100 as a nucleus for a steam launch, consented to the sum being allotted for a church instead, and another £100 has been collected by the settlers. A beautiful site has also been promised, but there have been difficulties in obtaining the title of the land, and it is now hoped that building operations may be commenced early in the spring. This church will be a centre for several small neighboring islands.

With the approval of the St. Andrew's Waterside Mission, a scheme has been set on foot by Rev. W. G. H. Ellison, for regular visitation of all the sailing vessels which anchor in the Royal Roads, by means of a small steam launch; and bags containing good literature are provided for the use of the sailors on their voyage. Mr. Ellison also visits the sealing vessels, during the time that they are being fitted out.

Any special donations for this work will be thankfully received.

Owing to the development of the lumber trade, a large mill at Chemainus, which had been closed for three years, has been reopened, and Rev. E. G. Miller has regularly held services in the church close to the mill.

I am also thankful to say that St. Mark's Church, in one of the outlying suburbs of Victoria, has been reopened during the past year, and arrangements have been made by which fortnightly services are held.

Owing to the comparatively small size of the diocese, and the facilities of travelling, I am able to frequently visit and keep in touch with all the parishes. We have nothing heroic to record—no stories of terrible hardship and suffering—but the difficulty of the position of several of the clergy is very great. The settlers in many cases have to work so hard for their living, that a spirit of irreligion is too often prevalent amongst them, and it will easily be understood that to minister week by week, and Sunday after Sunday, to a very small congregation, demands from the clergy a high standard of spirituality, lest they be tempted to degenerate into apathy and formalism. During the past year the diocese has been divided into two rural deaneries, and already the more frequent gatherings of the clergy, and spiritual intercourse amongst themselves has had a decidedly good effect.

No active steps have been taken, beyond consultation, with regard to the question of religious education in our public elementary schools. The "Manitoba" settlement for the schools in the north-west has not been cordially accepted by the Roman Catholics, and it remains to be seen how it will be carried out. If some such scheme were adopted in British Columbia, we should be profoundly thankful. As it is, alas! all religious instruction is forbidden, including even the reading of the Bible, and so it will remain until we can secure the co-operation of other Christian bodies. God in His mercy hasten the day!

Our missionary work amongst the Indians is confined to the northern part of the island, where we have the field to ourselves. In other parts the Roman Catholics have had flourishing missions, and, even if we could have done so, it would be a serious question whether any interference on our part, would not do more harm than good.

At Alert Bay, where there is a saw-mill, we have a Mission House, Industrial School for Boys, and a Home for Girls. The Rev. A. J. Hall has around him an excellent body of lay-workers, men and women, and a good-sized steamer, the *Evangeline*, by means of which he carries on work among several of the neighboring tribes. How I wish that some people