

Columbian Methodist Recorder.

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Salutatory.

In presenting this, the first number of The Columbian Methodist Record, we do so in response to a feeling which has long prevailed, that something of this character would be beneficial to the interests of our beloved Methodism on this Western slope.

The cosmopolitan character of our population, the rapid changes which are taking place in the development of a new country, the peculiarly diverse and growing needs of our various fields, and the special interests of our connexional institutions, coupled with the isolated position of our Conference, must impress anyone who has been any time amongst us.

These conditions are aggravated by the fact that our fields are in most cases large and widely separated, and with the exception of Conference and District meetings there is little or no interchange of thought.

A small paper we feel would present the claims of our local interests and institutions and be the avenue of inter-communication between the fields.

With this in view we arranged for the publication of this trial number, and we trust it will be received in the spirit with which it is sent forth.

The question of its permanency will come up for future consideration at the oncoming Conference, at which time the promoters of the paper will present their perfected plans.

Attention is drawn to the notice of Columbian Methodist College, whose condition and circumstances are much more encouraging and satisfactory than for some time past. The college would be greatly aided by such a local connexional paper as is proposed.

OUR TITLE PAGE.

It is eminently fitting, in view of the 40th anniversary services lately held, that the photograph of our beloved brother Robson, one of the pioneer band of Methodist missionaries to this Province, and the first President of our B.C. Conference, should adorn the title page of this, our first issue. That God has blest his labors amongst us, is readily recognized, as we review the work accomplished.

In response to a request made some few years ago we understand it is the intention of Bro. Robson to place in permanent form the story of his eventful life, coupled with the history of Methodism in British Columbia.

THE RITUALISTIC STRUGGLE.

The conflict between the Romanizing and Evangelical Parties in the Church of England is of interest to the whole Christian Church. Many seem to be fearful of the ultimate results, and dread a possible return to the dominion and power of the Pope. We are persuaded on the other hand that the Evangelical party is far more numerous and influential than even they themselves suppose. We cannot but feel that the traditional love of freedom which is the boast of our race and which has so markedly affected the many religious struggles of the past, will still assert itself against the influence of the acknowledged friends of Rome.

THE DECISIVE NO.

The refusal of the Government to enact a Prohibition law is based on the fact that but 23 per cent. of the electorate voted in favor of Prohibition. As to the smallness of the vote, it will certainly compare favourably with the hottest political contests that have been waged. On the other hand, we think it but fair that attention should be drawn to the other fact that considerably less than 23 per cent. voted against Prohibition. That the friends of liquor polled as large a vote as was possible for them to do is admitted by even themselves. As for the 35 per cent. who manifested their indifference by not voting at all, a large number of the names on the roll are those of absentees, removed or dead, and as for the balance, the Prohibitionists have as much right to expect that a fair percentage of them would prove friendly to the enforcement of such a law as otherwise.

The Temperance people should show themselves very much alive at this critical time, and strive by united protest and petition to impress the individual members of Parliament of our determination to stand for our rights, and press the battle to a successful issue.

Why should not the Methodist Church throw the strength of its perfect connexional organization into the conflict. Let us have a Conference Temperance Committee that does something more than draw up elegantly worded resolutions. Let that Temperance Committee, be a standing committee; and let it be in touch with every church and circuit and mission, with every Sunday School and League and Society, and by "pressing the button," so to speak, secure unity of effort and prompt and energetic action. Are we to lose by our indifference the little we have gained?

METHODISM'S FIRST AND GREATEST NEED.

Under the above title Rev. Dr. Buckley writes in a recent issue of The Christian Advocate. The conditions presented are applicable to our Canadian Church and hence we repeat them here.

"It is not money nor influence, but spiritual life we need. That only will bring all good things in its train. This need is apparent from many considerations, some of which are:

"So many churches depend upon spasmodic revivals, and then are unable to assimilate the fruits because of the unthawed state of the membership; so many members never take any part in evangelistic work, and never attend any of the means of grace, except at rare intervals; so many faithfully attend the lodge that never attend the prayer meeting that the tabulated statistics of the Church are often no more reliable than would be those of an army of the inmates of the hospitals, those who have been taken prisoners by the enemy, and the deserters were given as a part of the fighting force.

"The chief difficulty with the laity, as well as the ministry, is a lax view of the law of God, and an exaggerated view of the provisions of salvation. Men seem really to believe that connection with the Church and a general consent to the fact that Christ died to save, and that He is an Almighty Saviour, are sufficient for salvation. Whereas the whole Scriptures teach the contrary. A mere religious profession is an abomination in the sight of God, and trust in Christ without an earnest and constant attempt to keep His commandments, insures one the reward of the foolish virgins, and of the man who built his ecclesiastical house upon the sand and not upon the rock.

"If spiritual life be sought it will be attained, and then conscience and gratitude will open the the purses of the church. Gifts will be a means of grace. Should we have a joint revival of spirituality and liberality, Methodism will enter upon the next century with impulses equal in intensity to those with which it began the one which we are soon to leave; and with immeasurable material resources will go forth with quicker step to bless the world."

Our friends will bear in mind that the publication of this paper is only made possible by the advertisements. Don't forget our Methodist advertisers.