

being nevertheless full of promise, soon grew so as to attract the missionary authorities in Eastern Canada, and in February, 1850, the Rev. Arthur Brown was stationed at Nanaimo, much to the satisfaction of the modest young teacher. Browning formed a Methodist class at once, and of this class Brother Bryant was the first member. Previous to this time strong pressure was brought to bear to induce the young man to leave the church of his mother, but his choice was made and there he took his stand for life.

For thirteen and a half years Mr. Bryant taught the Nanaimo public school, and only left it when the Lord made it plain to him, and many others, that there was a more important work before him. It must not be forgotten that for a number of years Mr. Bryant kept the post office at Nanaimo, for which he has yet to receive the first cent of remuneration.

In March, 1864, Mr. Bryant was married to Miss Murdow, then a member of the First Presbyterian church in Victoria, and although of a different church, time has shown that God was in the marriage, for, all though a long and laborious life of missionary effort, with not a few trials which cannot be read fully in cold type, she has shown herself to all with whom she came in contact, to be the true missionary. Many times, and at many places, Mrs. Bryant had to do work which now is done by large committees and by the modern facilities of which the early pioneer knew nothing. But she toiled on and that without murmuring, and Heaven alone will be a full reward for her life of sacrifice.

The Rev. C. Bryant was received as a probationer for the Methodist ministry in the year 1870, at the District Meeting held that year in New Westminster, of which meeting the Rev. E. White was chairman. Perhaps few have entered the Ministry with a better experience, than Bro. Bryant, for had he not filled every place possible to a layman, from the member on trial to the local preacher preparing for the ministry? If experience was worth anything he had it, and his wise administration of the affairs of the church in all the offices held by him in after days proved how well he had learned the lessons of earlier life.

It was in the month of July of 1870, that the young preacher left his comfortable home at Nanaimo and, with his wife and children, launched out upon the life of the Methodist itinerant missionary,—a life by the way, of which we have found no counterpart in the heavens above nor in the earth beneath.

New Westminster, the place where he had preached his trial sermon at six in the morning but a few weeks before, was the station to which he was sent—but it must be remembered that the mission of the above name stretched all the way to where Moodyville sits white as a sea mew by the blue waters of the Burrard Inlet. Through the tall trees breathing out their song of praise to the God who had reared their lofty heads, he tramped or rode, following the path of the pioneer. There were times when he was in "perils in the deep" both of mud and water, but these things did not frighten him from the work to which he

had been called both by his God and his church.

Brother Bryant did not confine his ministrations to the white settlers, but was at times found preaching the Gospel to the Indians, who were ever to be found in that region of country, and many of these dusky people of the forest found salvation through the "tall man of the black coat."

The second appointment to which he was sent was Nanaimo, back to the place whence he had come, and that under the inspiration of the visit of the immortal Dr. Pauson who, together with the Rev. Dr. Hugh Johnston, had paid a visit to the coast and electrified the people with the eloquence which had given him an international reputation.

From Nanaimo the preachers went as far as Salt Spring Island, and in the primitive modes of travel of those days the task was arduous and frequently accompanied with great dangers. But, nothing daunted the early Methodist missionary, and Bryant was true to the best type.

From Nanaimo Brother Bryant was sent to the Chilliwack valley, where he repeated the unfaltering efforts of the years past in the other places and where he saw scores of people converted to God, and while there he was a conspicuous figure in the annual camp meetings, for which the Chilliwack people have become so famous. In 1875 he was returned to Nanaimo, this time as the superintendent of the work, but, as there was no conference in British Columbia at the time, there was no officer who could perform the ceremony of ordination, a difficulty which was gotten over the fol-

lowing year by a visit to California, where he was duly ordained by the office of the late Bishop Harris (being one of the few men in the Methodist ministry on whose heads have rested the hands of a real bishop). Returning to his home in Nanaimo he resumed his work prepared to perform all the functions of a fully ordained minister.

The years flew past, while our brother was ever "in labors more abundant," but the fearful strain was telling upon the rugged young man of the years gone by, still he toiled on, and with success on every field to which he was appointed. From Nanaimo he went to Chilliwack for a term, and from there, when the term was up, he was elected to the chair of the Kamloops district. But it was found that a rest was necessary in order to recuperate the system which had stood the strain so long and so well, and for one year Brother Bryant was off the field. This year was spent in visiting the home land, where he had a royal reception not only among his friends, but at the Wesleyan Conference, which that year met in the city of Manchester. Returning to the work the following year he was appointed to the Bella Bella Indian mission, where he had the joy of seeing the work of God advanced as he had never seen it in his past ministry. But at the end of the first year he was compelled to leave on account of the failing health of Mrs. Bryant. In the years 1889 to 1893 he was stationed at Maple Ridge, and labored with zeal and success as ever in the past. It was in the year 1890 that the B. C. Conference meeting in the city of Vancouver did itself the honor of electing the veteran



REV. HARLIN RHODES  
OF THE M. E. CHURCH WHO PREACHED THE FIRST SERMON IN B. C.  
(See Rev. Robson's Article.)