

a problem not more difficult than the problem of the present day.

Let me rather address myself to certain conditions peculiar to British Columbia, which, in my judgment, make this Laymen's Movement peculiarly adapted to its needs. In a single sentence let us approach the opportunity of this hour. Let me ask the question in all seriousness: "To what extent are the men before me able to bring to a happy solution the problem of the religious life of British Columbia?"

There lies from Prince Rupert to Edmonton the all but untouched northern half of this great country. The connecting links of the second great transcontinental railway are being rapidly coupled up. Spur lines will go off from this main line into the Cassiar country—almost a province by itself, and the Peace river country equal to another province—down through the valleys and up through the passes, ramifying themselves and opening up country rich in minerals and agricultural lands and capable of supporting an enormous population. Already two well defined centres are more than marks upon the map. Hazelton is a town. Fort George lies almost at the strategic centre of British Columbia. Those will become in the future to British Columbia what Saskatoon or Winnipeg will become to the prairie. The great Peace River country must have western and southern outlets for its products. The Yellow Head and Pine River Passes present low grades and easy access through the mountains. Already through these there are charters for seven railways which are pushing their way to Fort George. From Prince Rupert to Hazelton is 200 miles. From Hazelton to Fort George is 320 miles. From Fort George to Tete Juane Cache is 200 miles. From Tete Juane Cache to Edmonton is 200 miles. Between each of these centres at the present moment the Christian church should equip, man and maintain not less than a sufficient number of mission churches to take care of the incoming population. It is not more than may be expected that the church should within the next five years plant an average of one church for every ten miles of the distance.

Or think for a moment of our coast work that has much romance and heroism connected with it, that has as much interest and pathos, and more future hopefulness than the far-famed work of Dr. Grenfell in the Labrador. Think of the five thousand