

years, thoroughly intersect it. Then, too, the conviction is forced home upon us that, in moving out, there is very little use of planting an isolated mission station so far away from the rest of our work, that it is practically left to fight the battle alone. We must mark out for ourselves a territory, and occupy it with a connected line of stations, reaching out from our present field as a base, and each within hailing distance of the other. Just look how this will work on the field we propose: Nagano is as near Kofu as Tokyo is, and will have a railway communication down to it first, so that Nagano will clasp hands with Kofu. Then, too, the man stationed at Nagano can leave there at three o'clock in the afternoon and land in Toyama next morning, or in Kanazawa the next evening, or in Fukui on the evening of the second day. Again, the man stationed at Toyama can leave there in the morning and be in Kanazawa before dark, or in Fukui the next evening; or, he can leave Toyama in the morning and be in Nagano by night. You will see from this how thoroughly articulated the whole system is, and how thoroughly workable. This is the actual state of the case; but by turning to the map I now send you, and glancing at the railways which will eventually run through this territory, you will at once be convinced that there is not a more desirable field in all Japan.

It will, no doubt, appear to many to be too large, and the request which we also make for such a large reinforcement, altogether beyond the possible. Yes, the field is large, and the reinforcement asked for represents a very largely increased expenditure; but there are times when the very circumstances of the case demand such a strong, decided move as the present, and the Mission Council has only one mind in the conviction that if ever there was such a time it is now. Let me now enumerate some of the reasons which are so patent to us here:

First.—The *Missionary* atmosphere in Japan is now electrified as never before. Forces are largely augmenting on all hands, old lines of demarcation are fading out, and every strong mission is moving out into new territory. Things are on the move, and the mission that misses its opportunity now will, in all probability, not be able to lay out any satisfactory field, or to take a first place, in point of influence, anywhere, in the future.

Second.—The *political* atmosphere is also electrified as never before. The people are now learning self-government, and *liberty of conscience*, the great highway of truth, has been opened up. Treaty revision has well nigh passed the crisis, and is assured within the next year. Buddhism is waking up for its death struggle, and men are now thinking on the subject of religion as never before. *Now* is the time to lay out and occupy a field which will give us work for the next fifty years. If we do this, we will obtain the first place when the country is thrown open, and our men will have the language, ready to go from town to town and from village to village preaching the Gospel.

Third.—The *commercial* atmosphere is electrified. The great railways, and the Japan Mail Steamship Company, are binding the remote provinces of twenty-five years ago into a single unit, and inside of five years there will be no such thing as long distances on

this little island. The old highways are being rendered obsolete and local, and consequently the commercial atoms are now rearranging themselves and forming new combinations. New towns are springing up, and new centres of trade are being created. The old is very interesting in its plaintive beauty; but the new era has dawned, and while the railway is helping to ring in the new forms of commercial, and the new foreignizing spirit the new social life, we must not be less active in going forth with the old Gospel bell, ringing in "the Christ that is to be."

Fourth (and last).—Our duty to Methodism demands it. We have the smallest field of any of the three strongest Methodist bodies, and this new field lies right along our boundary, and, if not occupied by us, will probably be lost to Methodism, and prove a great gap in the future Methodism of Japan. Our Church has no other foreign mission, and therefore, with her ever increasing strength and rapidly accumulating resources, can she not make this, her one foreign mission, as strong as any other operating in Japan? Let her do this by grasping the work which now lies before her, and then move on to China.

This letter, I can assure you, Doctor, is the offspring of a strong conviction, which is shared by every Canadian Methodist in Japan. I pray, therefore, that it may be within the power of the Board to take hold of this matter and furnish us the "sinews."

Dr. Cochran has returned, and has read all I have written. He is fully in accord with it, and will write you also.

THE HOME WORK.

Shediac (N. B. Conference).—This mission presents a healthy appearance, and warrants future assistance in respect to ministerial labor and financial support. The children in our Sunday-schools are instructed in our catechism, and have taken the temperance pledge, as recommended in the Discipline. These are important matters in connection with juvenile tuition, as being conducive to the advancement of Christian knowledge, and the development of moral principle. Recent ill-health in the case of the missionary has necessitated a "supply," through whom the work is well attended to.

JOSEPH PASCOE.

Deloraine District (Manitoba Conference).—Of the District, as a whole, the Chairman, Rev. T. Ferrier, writes:—

"We have tried to inspire the Quarterly Boards of Deloraine, Napinka and Alameda, to take the stand of independent circuits next year for men requiring similar salaries as those stationed on them this year. Of Deloraine and Napinka we have no doubt; Alameda may not. Elmore should, in the near future, but it may not be wise to press the matter this year. From present appearances, it will be some time before Carlyle will be able to keep a married man. All being well, we purpose visiting the ground next May, meeting the officials, etc.

"The crops are very poor, on the whole, this year, hence the people are somewhat discouraged. Many are 'bringing the tithe into the storehouse,' and 'proving God herewith.' The result is temporal and spiritual prosperity."