

Canadian Missionary Link

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Jubilee Year in Canada—Some Impressions

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It is always an inspiration and a stimulant for a Canadian missionary to return home after spending a term of years in India—an inspiration because it is good to meet with one's own kind, and to feel again all the uplifting influences of the Canadian home, and to realize afresh the unbounded enthusiasm of our people for their mission in India; and a stimulant because such an experience inevitably cheers and encourages one for greater service in the coming years.

At the same time an absence from Canada of six or seven years means that the missionary on his return is quick to notice conditions and features of our work in the homeland which, spreading and growing gradually, have escaped the notice of those to whom they are a commonplace of everyday life. For this reason it may be not without interest to some if I should, Mr. Editor, set down briefly some of these features that have struck me forcibly as we have travelled from St. John to Toronto, from Toronto to Halifax, and from Halifax to Vancouver and Victoria.

And first of all, I must express the gratitude of the Jubilee party, and of all our people, Indians and missionaries alike, in the Telugu country, for the generous response in interest, sympathy and enthusiasm, which the members of our churches, from coast to coast, have made to the appeal of the work abroad. The tremendous power of the meetings in Massey Hall, Toronto, and the patient and far-seeing preparations that made the meetings, the singing and the pageant there such an overwhelming success, were the type of what we met in Montreal, in the Eastern Townships, in the Maritime Provinces, at the head of the Great Lakes, and through-

out the West. Our weaknesses and mistakes have all been overlooked for the sake of the work, and the story—truly a fascinating one—of the coming of the Kingdom in India, has been listened to with the most sympathetic interest. The welcome that our Indian guests have everywhere received will strengthen still further the hold which the Telugu Mission has on the hearts of our people, and make very real to the Baptists of the Telugu country of India the sense of brotherhood with their fellow-Baptists of Canada.

I have been impressed also with the great value of our educational institutions to the denomination. Our schools act as the storehouses and fortresses of our denominational life and message: here our contribution to the thought and life of the time is clarified and systematized, our distinctive message treasured and from here is spread abroad. What McMaster has had to do with the vigorous, enthusiastic self-consciousness of Baptists of Ontario and Quebec would be hard to over-estimate. As we approached Wolfville we felt, moving amongst Maritime Baptists as we were, as though we were approaching the goal of a pilgrimage—a countryside and a hill that is holy ground for many a son and daughter of Acadia. And when we saw the place, with its splendid equipment and assured future, we ceased to wonder why the sentiment for affiliation with a State University is dead among Maritime Baptists, if it ever existed. And happy we were to see how Brandon is winning its way all over the West. May the loyalty and vision of its founders and present leaders be crowned with ever-increasing success. One might almost say, paraphrasing the well-known