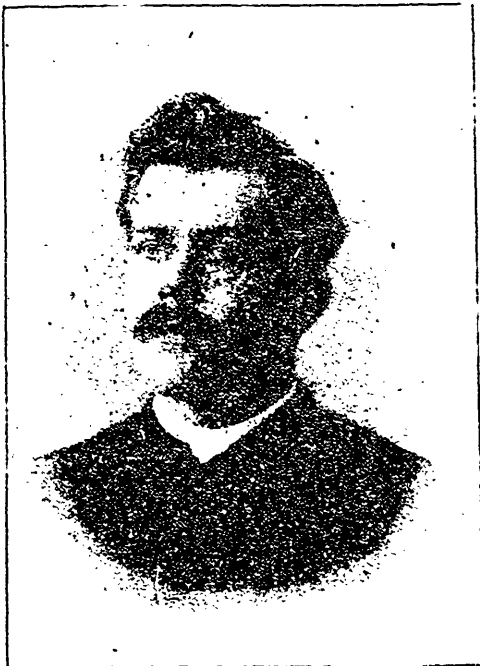


Services have been conducted regularly during the year by the catechists and missionaries in twenty-eight different places every Sabbath day. Hospitals are all accessible to our agents and are frequently visited, and the Gospel is preached from door to door on the estates. The seed has been sown in many hearts. We look to God for the increase.

There has also been a number of changes in the list of our schools, and a considerable extension in school work. Caratal was closed from the first of the year on account of the small attendance and the poor prospects of any appreciable increase in the population in the near future.

A few of the more advanced children are attending one of our other schools.



Rev. S. A. Fraser.

It was mutually agreed that Canaan and Bien Venue Government schools should revert to us as they had not been making satisfactory progress under the Creole teachers employed by the Government. We took charge of them the first of June with the result that the attendance in one has been doubled and in the other greatly increased. Indian teachers as a rule are required for the successful management of our country Indian Schools. Government aid has been granted to Rusilac School for six months from the 1st January, 1897.

Early in the year a heathen man living in the jungle came entreating us to open a school in that locality and offered a build-

ing for school purposes. We visited the place to see what the prospects were for the opening of a school, and from one little hill we were able to count over sixty families where a few years ago there was not a house.

These people when the term of their indenture expired on the estates moved into the jungle, purchased a small piece of land on which they raise in some cases sufficient rice and vegetables to support themselves. Many of them will doubtless in a short time become independent. It is important that we follow these people with the Gospel as many of them were under religious instruction while on the estates. A school was opened. The attendance has not been large chiefly because the people have no roads, and the heavy rains in the wet season made their little paths in many places impassable.

The action of this heathen land shows that a change is taking place in the minds of the people regarding the education of their children.

I reported a small school last year in Tabaquite but early this year we suspended school work and approached the Government by a petition for a Government school. Our prayer was not entertained so we resumed work again in August on a larger scale, and have now just completed a new school house sufficiently large for the school and teacher's residence.

We have now in this prosperous cocoa district, which is being tapped by a new branch of railway, a flourishing school with eighty children on the roll and an average attendance of fifty-nine. Application has been made to have it placed on the list of Government Assisted Schools.

Our schools have generally done very satisfactory work, a number of them attaining a high mark of efficiency.

The old difficulty of getting the children into the schools still exists to a considerable extent. We hope the Government will have wisdom given them to pass a compulsory education Ordinance and thus save us expense and worry, and help to give to the people, who are too ignorant to know its value, the blessings of education.

Our twelve Night Schools have also done good work. About sixty people have passed the examination in Hindi. The demand for Christian literature is increasing from year to year. Rev. Lal Biharri sold about 5,000 books and tracts during this year amounting in value to \$120.00.

In addition to the new building at Tabaquite, we have erected a large schoolhouse at Harmony Hall, which gives us a teacher's residence and ample accommodation for 95 children. A building has also been erected on the outskirts of San Fernando for Sabbath School and Night School purposes. Our young people in San Fernando voluntarily came forward and gave a table, benches, etc., and carry on the Sabbath School themselves.

Our Catechist's house at Canaan has been