

been more substantial. Many things point to this,—its fine public buildings, its well-graded streets, its permanent sidewalks, its up-to-date business places, and its educational facilities and places of worship, while the progressive character of the city's administration and of the citizens is further attested by the fact that the city owns and operates at Bonington Falls on the Kootenay river a hydro-electro power plant, capable of developing 5,000 horse power, which supplies light and power to consumers at remarkably low rates and that a tramway system is being put in shape for operation, the money therefor being provided by the citizens.

Among the public buildings might be mentioned the Court House, built of Kootenay marble; the post-office, partly built of the same material; and the handsome new Y.M.C.A., which has just been opened for the benefit of the young men of the city. This building was erected within the past year at a cost of \$30,000, this amount being provided for the purpose entirely by the people of Nelson.

Among the churches might be mentioned, without any slight toward the others, the handsome new edifice in which this Conference is meeting. This, like the court house, is built entirely of Kootenay marble, and all the lumber and other materials used in its construction is likewise from the surrounding districts. This church was erected at a cost of \$30,000, the greater portion of which was subscribed directly by the members of the congregation, and was opened for service in March of last year. In passing, it may not be out of place to mention the fact that the history of Methodism in Nelson is practically that of the city. Twenty years ago the city had its beginning. In April 1891 the first service was held in Nelson by a Methodist minister, Rev. James Turner, who travelled down from Revelstoke in a skiff to preach the gospel in a part which was then regarded as an outpost of civilization. For a year and a half services were held in a room over a store on Baker Street. At the end of that time a larger place of worship was secured. In 1894 Rev. G. H. Morden was appointed to the pastorate of the Nelson Methodist Church, and a year later the first Methodist Church building was erected. That building was added to from time to time until 1908, when it was torn down to make way for the present building.

Of the city of Nelson and its people little need be said.