

tells us.—"Young men spend their Sabbaths in fishing, shooting, horse-racing and gambling.

Last summer I entered a little village in British Columbia on a Sabbath evening, and found the town in a state of turmoil. The day had been devoted to horse-racing, a tribe of Indians had encamped there, gambling and immoral actions had been indulged in. It was an awful picture! These things make us fear for the future of our new country.

But while we have many causes for anxiety and sadness, we have also many reasons for gratitude. The people in many cases respond most readily to earnest work, and often where opposition has been encountered at first, there we have afterwards found the most vigorous support in our work. In one village, for instance, the people opposed the entrance of our missionary, but after persistent and faithful toil for three years, a church was built costing \$3,000, the people paid \$300 per year for the missionary's salary, and the whole tone of the community was entirely changed.

In another—a mining town—our missionary found difficulty in entering, but in three years the mission became self-sustaining, a manse was built, and the congregation contributed \$250 to support a missionary in a neighbouring district.

But while we have attained success in many of the new settlements, there remains still a great amount of work to be done. In many places the right to remain a Christian community is maintained only by the hardest fighting. In one village, with a population of 750, we have a church, there is no other, but there are fifteen saloons open night and day for seven days in the week, besides gambling dens and other low houses in full blast Sunday and Saturday. Not one-third of the people can be induced to attend church. Another village, whose inhabitants number 225, has no church. Attempts had been made to establish services, but were abandoned. The manager of a real estate company in this place was asked for a site for a church, to which request he replied: "We cannot serve God and mammon. We are here to serve mammon, and have no use for a church." We hope to effect an entrance there this spring, however. Another town with a population of 1,100, has three churches, but there are never more than 125 in church at once, while 18 or 20 saloons and other vile places are liberally patronised, and the whole moral character of the town is lamentably low.

It is not to be supposed, however, that there is only one class of settlers in this country. Even in some of the newest places we have Christian families, some of whom are Presbyterians of the very highest class, living most devoted lives, while you will always find a number of earnest, Christian young men, who, with the courage of their convictions, are doing splendid service in the cause of Christ.

But there is a very large element made up in a great measure of miners from the western States of the Union, just near us, whose influence in almost every case is against Christianity. This is almost entirely owing to the neglect of their new settlements by the Christian Church of the United States. A few years of neglect of a new settlement is enough to stamp it with such unchristian features as cannot be eradicated by years of persistent work.

The future of western Canada in things material is assured, the vast resources, agricultural and mineral, as well as in forest and fisheries, making it certain that a large population will be found west of Lake Superior within a very few years, but as to the character of this population we are not certain. The influences which had such a disastrous effect morally and spiritually in the Western States, are at work in our country, and we have no hope of counteracting these influences but by the Gospel. If we put our hearts into this work, if we are supported earnestly and heartily by the Churches in the East and in the Old Land, we may look confidently for success. We hope to be able to plant on the prairies and through the mountains of British Columbia, a nation, honest, industrious, and God-fearing, for Canada, for the Empire, and for the glory of God.

We believe that the work is greater than the Canadian Church alone can bear, and we earnestly look for, and gratefully welcome, the co-operation of the Churches at home. Already we can see good results from this co-operation during the past two years. It is almost certain that but for the timely aid given by the Presbyterians of Scotland, Ireland, and England, we should have been forced not only to refuse to extend our operations, but even to retire from some of our outposts.

There are indications that the tide of immigration, which, for a variety of reasons, has for a time receded, is about to again set strongly in the direction of western Canada. The mistakes of the early settlers, arising from ignorance of the country and of the methods of farming suited to the climate, will prove of great educational value to the incoming settlers, and we confidently expect a period of prosperity for all those who live by the soil in the Canadian North-West. In British Columbia too the extension of transportation facilities, and the influx of capital will materially assist in the development of the vast natural resources of that province.

The Church must therefore be prepared for these developments—must be ready to meet the new settlers with her ministrations. The young man from Scotland, from England, from Ireland, as well as from the Eastern Provinces of Canada, must be welcomed as he steps off his incoming train with the grip of a Christian missionary, who will be his counsellor and friend. This is our ambition—may God help us to attain it.