

## Western Canadian Church Notes

### Baptist

[By Rev. G. R. Welch]

#### *Evangelism and Finances.*

Some folks think these are poor running mates. Said folks' conception of religion is so ultramundane, so detached from things earthly, that it reminds one of a disembodied spirit. These good people usually bring no joy to the finance committee's heart nor overwork their pocket-books in favor of the Lord's treasury. God still feeds His prophets by the ravens but the latter, these days, take the form of the duplex-envelope. The saner and more Scriptural view is that the spiritual and the temporal are Divinely joined together in holy matrimony and whom God hath joined together no man should put asunder. The Bible puts them in relation of cause and effect: "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse . . . . and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of Heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it"; "Honour the Lord with thy substance and with the first fruits of all thine increase, so shall thy barns be filled with plenty," etc. These typical passages give the drift of Bible instruction on the important bearing of our money contributions upon the outpouring of the Divine blessing. First the sowing, then the reaping is the Divine order. These remarks are intended not as a homily on the stewardship of money but by way of gently breaking the news that the activities of the Baptist Churches of B. C. during the last month have been along one or other, or both, of these lines. Some churches have laid the emphasis upon evangelism which is bringing an aftermath of blessing in the way of increased liberality on the part of the church membership. Others have reversed the order and emphasized the consecration of wealth as an indispensable factor of worship resulting not only in relieving the church of financial anxiety but in a deepening of the spiritual life and of the spirit of evangelism. Typical instances are two Vancouver churches, the First Baptist and the Central Baptist.

"The every member canvass" system of facing the current and missionary financial obligations of the churches has been in operation for some years in the Eastern provinces of Canada and in the United States. Also it is not altogether new on the Pacific coast. But if more generally operated by the congregations of all denominations the writer of these notes is convinced it would result most beneficially to the financial interests and general efficiency of the churches. But to get the best results close adherence to the regular plan, which has been carefully worked out and tested by long experience, is necessary. At the First Baptist Church seventy men on Sunday afternoon, April 16th,