

## THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN B. C.

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The returns of the census taken last year show that the Church of England has increased in strength in every Province in the Dominion. In British Columbia she has increased 15,000; Presbyterians, 11,000; Methodists, 11,000; and the Roman Catholics, 10,000. The increase of the Church of England in British Columbia is 31 per cent., which is the largest increase of any one denomination of any Province. The District of Victoria shows: Baptists, 640; Roman Catholics, 2063; Church of England, 6160; Methodists, 2116; Presbyterians, 3228; all others, 4231.

We thus occupy the proud position of *first*; proud, because in no other Province have we yet attained to this place. How is this to be explained? Partly by immigration of church people from the old land, but it must be accounted for in a much greater degree by the distinctive and uncompromising church teaching which distinguishes the Diocese of British Columbia and New Westminster, amongst their fellow Dioceses of Canada. The old fallacy of "we're all making for the same goal," is not the burden of the teaching of the clergy here; on the contrary, while the spirit of perfect charity to all men is strictly maintained, our people are taught in no uncertain language, that there is but one *direct* road to heaven, viz., through the fold of the Catholic Church. There *may be* bye-ways and allies through which the goal may be reached, such are represented by our brethren of the denominations, (the true Catholic Church is not a denomination). Such circuitous routes appear to be preferred by the majority of the people of Canada, if we are to judge from the census returns. Yet the truth irrefutably remains that they do so in ignorance. In British Columbia Catholics are taught the faith that they profess in so clear a manner, that if they are enticed into these bye-ways and allies they know where they are going to. And the result of this policy is, that the census returns show an increase of our numbers to the extent of 31 per cent., or greater than that of any denomination in any other Province. This is the victory of true churchmanship; the reward of *stability of principle*; the outcome of a steadfast faith and belief in the glorious mission of the old Church, and the inevitable absorption of the ill-shaped and misguided bodies still out of the fold. It is the prize of non-compromise in things religious. "That which is old is true, that which is new is false," has been the verdict of the largest section of British Columbians, and their decision proves their high intelligence.—W. H. P. A.