

His quarters are not always the most comfortable. Around the ranche there are only men, so there are no superfluities. A box often does duty for a chair, a trunk may serve for two. His dishes are not numerous, his saucer almost invariably doing duty for a dessert-plate. His bed is very primitive, a few boards nailed up in a corner berth fashion, upon which is placed a straw mattress, and the grey blankets that he rolls round him at night. Every one smokes, and cigarettes are the greatest favorites. Some spend \$30 or \$40 a month in this article alone, an expensive luxury, but the average cowboy rarely thinks of saving money. Many of them are now taking up small ranges of their own, and this is having the effect of making them more careful and thoughtful for the immediate future. For anything beyond that it is difficult to rouse an interest. The one who speaks of spiritual matters to them will be listened to respectfully, but with a manner that says all too plainly that such matters are at present of little interest. It is often most painful to the missionary who cannot help being drawn towards such men to find that to any sort of religious life they are as a rule practically dead. This may be an outcome of their life which often demands that they work on, irrespective of the Sabbath day. Too often, the first day of the week is fixed upon as the day to commence any new enterprise or start upon any long journey. As the influences of the gospel are brought to bear on this Western life it will undoubtedly be felt among these men also. If such men could but be won for Christ what a power they would be to promote His cause :

Fort Macleod, N.W.T.

R. C. TIBB.

THE INTERPRETATION OF MARK IV., 26-29.

THE Evangelists record three parables in which our Lord uses the operations of agriculture to illustrate the truths of His kingdom. In Matthew we find the parables of the sower and the tares, in Luke, that of the sower, and in Mark that of the sower, and that which is contained in the above-named section. They were all spoken, as it appears, at the same time, and by the sea-side. The order in which they were spoken is difficult to determine, indeed, cannot be settled. The meaning of that one which is common to