

The minister had little time to pursue his studies. That was a drawback and a regret. Whether in city or country his hands were full. In each case there were problems and calls and needs which devoured his days and often nights. The country parson tilled the little plot beside the house. It was an absolute necessity. He entered into the sympathies of his people and read books on farming so that he might help them. Sometimes he addressed meetings of the Farmers' Institute. One minister with dynamite blasted out the larger stumps of the glebe so energetically that the neighbors in fear requested him to desist, and for consolation went to the back part of the lot and split the big logs with giant powder. And then he had to entertain. His own people dropped in occasionally. They wanted advice about the future of their boy, on the sale of a piece of land or a flock of sheep; could he write a deed for them or a will? He was all things to all men. New-comers came seeking all manner of information about a mine, a ranch or timber limit. Visitors to the district did not forget to look in on the minister. Agents never neglected him, and to all he was kind and bid them welcome. He did his best for them, remembering "I was a stranger and ye took me in." This knowledge of the flock helped him in shaping his message for those who gathered at the loved church on Sabbath to worship God.

While each Presbytery has shared in the general prosperity, the greatest increase has come to Westminster Presbytery. In '91 there were four churches in Vancouver, two of them small and struggling; now there are twelve, and within an easy distance there are as many more. The difficulty at present is to keep pace in church building with the rapidly increasing population. Three of the veterans remain, Messrs. McLeod and Dunn—both retired—and Dr. MacLarn, who will soon be welcomed again to the scenes of his earlier ministry. Victoria has maintained a steady, dignified growth, and Westminster also; and many other places in the Kamloops and Kootenay districts—but time would fail me. A great opportunity and a great responsibility are now laid at the church door. Shall we rise to the occasion? Thousands of people arrive monthly. Railway lines are opening up vast territories. New districts are being settled up. How is the church to put a missionary in each field; Westminster Hall is the answer—at least partially. We will get young men from both the New and Old World, but