

are not at present great owing to the lack of population. The brethren who are thoroughly alive to the interests of the Order went carefully over the situation with me and suggested some fifteen places where courts might be established. A competent Organizer will find a year's work in the Pacific Province, and I will be surprised if the Executive with characteristic enterprise do not fully possess the land.

Sunday morning I occupied the pulpit of the First Presbyterian Church, of which Dr. Campbell is the faithful and popular Pastor. In the audience were a considerable number of Foresters. At the close of the service I met several "Macs" from Glengarry, that fruitful mother of sons of brain and brawn, whose enterprise is contributing to the development of the provinces and states of the west. The Chinaman and the Jap are very much in evidence in Victoria. The Asiatic and the European are not going to blend. The British Columbian is quite willing that the Chinese and he should "dwell together on the earth," but he is anxious to draw the line at British Columbia, and I sympathize with my western brother. The Sunday car, restaurant, fruit-store, cigar shop, and "heathen Chinese," with his bundle of "washee" give a Toronto man an uncomfortable feeling on the first day of the week. The calm and repose that we enjoy on Sunday in Ontario was wanting in Victoria, and it seems to me to the moral and physical disadvantage of the fair city of the coast. Sunday evening I preached to a fair-sized congregation in St. Andrew's Church. Under the pastorate of Mr. Clay, this beautiful and commodious church is rapidly filling up. As a follower of John Knox, the strength of Presbyterianism in the west was gratifying to my denominational preference.

The next stage of the journey was commenced in the night-time. The *Rilhet* is the Monday boat between Victoria and New Westminster. She is not of the same class as the *Manitoba* or the *Empresses*, but she brought us there all the same. In the grey dawn of the morning we found ourselves sailing up the delta of the mighty Fraser. The fishermen were out literally in thousands, drawing in their nets. The catch was poor, in many cases *nil*, and as one watched yard after yard of empty net drawn in, he realized how much discouragement there has ever been in the confession "We have toiled all night and caught nothing." The catch since has been very abundant, and fishermen, cannerymen, and Columbians generally, are rejoicing together and "nights of anxiety have been followed by morns of song." The sea and rivers is one of the assured sources of wealth of the Pacific provinces. From NEW WESTMINSTER, where we have a good Court, to VANCOUVER is a journey of eight miles by electric train. Midway is Collingwood—magnificent as yet in promise only. A stay of a day and a night does not warrant a very positive opinion, as it did not afford ample opportunities for judging, but I agree with the opinion of Vancouverites that they have a "coming" city, indeed it is already there, to stay and prosper. The development

of the fisheries, mines, and trans-Pacific trade are sure to build up the city. We have three strong courts in Vancouver. The fraternal spirit is strong in the place. They told me in Vancouver what I have been told in every city, town, and village since I left home. "This is the greatest place for societies in the West." Societies certainly have kept pace with the development of the West.

In Vancouver I met Bro. Tryon, whose interest in Forestry is abiding, from him I learned that the three courts "of the coming city of the West are prospering, and that the I. O. F. leads all kindred organizations. The visit of the S. S., a few years ago, gave an impulse to the work, the good effects of which are still felt.

On the afternoon of July 28th I took the C. P. R. for the East, the first objective point being Banff, in Alberta. The fact that I was facing homeward I felt to be more exhilarating than the air of the coast. Experience of other places rather deepened my attachment to my own. From the moment one leaves Vancouver he is surrounded by the unparalleled scenery of the Pacific Province I fancy the average traveller has to correct his ideas concerning the physical features of this great and wonderful province of snow-crowned mountain ranges, mighty rivers, extensive table lands, and valleys of great fertility. From your car-window, before you leave Vancouver, you can see the snow-capped hills. In the valleys you can see nearly all the fruits, in great abundance, of the Niagara Peninsula. For miles up the salmon is followed by the fisherman. The mountain slopes are clothed with great pines. The height and girth of them may be somewhat magnified in the guide books, but they are lordly trees nevertheless. A regrettable fact is that fires every summer prevail in some of the great pineries—and one of the chief sources of wealth to the province is being impaired, and to a considerable extent destroyed. The same thing prevails in Washington. The authorities do not seem to be fully alive to the great waste of the natural patrimony of the people. Surely the most stringent precautions should be taken to prevent forest fires.

For a considerable distance eastward the railway follows the bank of the Fraser. The liability of the river to overflow at certain seasons is a standing menace to the road. Two years ago traffic was interrupted for some days, as you doubtless remember, and as the brethren at many places in the west regret, as on account of it they missed the pleasure of a visit from you to which they had been long looking forward. I felt free to assure them that you shared their regret, and that the visit would yet be paid. At Mission City there is a young and active court. The term city, in the west, does not always imply a population of thousands. Mission as yet does not count many hundreds. While waiting here on my journey west for the train for Seattle, I heard a good story. The draw bridge on the Fraser River was pointed out, and the information gravely given that one season the salmon came up