

## Along the Line.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA.

THE following letter from the Rev. C. Bryant was received in April last, but was crowded out by other material. Still, it is not out of date, as it deals with development of our work in the Pacific Province, and affords some idea of the prospects, especially in the valley of the Fraser:—

"Originally, Maple Ridge, which lies about 11 or 12 miles above New Westminster, on the north bank of the Fraser, was the only settlement on that side of the river between New Westminster and Yale, the head of steam navigation. Yale at that time was included as one of the appointments, and was dropped in consequence of the general exodus of the population upon the completion of the railroad. Other intervening appointments have sprung up, the chief one being known as Mission City, which now, as an important railroad junction, not only eclipses the head of the mission but is known as the only point on the north side of the river above New Westminster aspiring to the status of a city. A church, to cost \$1,500, is now being built there, mainly by the voluntary help, in day-labour, of our people, several of whom happened to be mechanics, under the leadership of Bro. Tupper, a son of a former minister well known in Ontario. At present, I preach there twice one Sabbath and once on the alternate Sabbath. I also give fortnightly services to Maple Ridge, Wharlock, 8 miles distant, and Dewdney, which is 5 miles above Mission City, or about 23 miles from Maple Ridge. This occasions me, aside from railway travelling, a great deal of walking, and it is not possible to use a horse or buggy, as the appointments are not connected by roads. *Maple Ridge* will, I assume, be still the head of the mission, as we have the parsonage there, a good, substantial, brick-veneered house, which I have managed to clear of a \$250 debt, and have effected improvements worth, including painting of church, \$250 more. Our cause here is feeble, considering the years of toil bestowed by our church at this point; but the Episcopal and Presbyterian Churches have come in and built. The latter have become the strongest congregation by the immigration of Presbyterian settlers. Still there is hope for us. A large tract of from 30,000 to 40,000 acres of meadow land at the mouth of Pitt river, a tributary of the Fraser, only a few miles above New Westminster, and within a distance of two miles from Maple Ridge parsonage, is now in course of reclamation by a syndicate who are dyking it to prevent the annual summer freshets from overflowing it as heretofore, and if they succeed, as is generally expected by intelligent engineers, it will transform what has so far been a comparative marsh into the most eligibly situated and most extensive agricultural settlement in the lower Fraser region. If that land comes into the market in the course of the next two or three years, as is generally expected, it will doubtless provide more than one additional appointment, and probably call for the division of this circuit, in which case the parsonage will be more central for the missionary.

*Wharlock* is a scattered settlement within the bounds of the Maple Ridge municipality. We have but few members as yet, and preach in the School House. *Mission City* is the place where we have a better prospect of an established and prosperous cause than in any other new settlement that I know of in any of our missions. Beyond the Mission, as I have said is *Dewdney*, where we use the School House, but where the people hope to build us a church in the

course of another year, and where we have a few members; and about 4 miles further up river, opposite Sumas, is another desirable place to occupy, *Nicomén Island*. It was visited in the early part of this conference year from the Chilliwack circuit, until the health of Bro. Michener failed, and so it has had no religious services of any kind, that I know of, since Christmas last. I understand there are some Methodists there and at all events it ought to be visited. The same may be said of *Agassiz*, opposite Cheam. Bro. Rayson, our Cheam missionary, cannot attend to his work efficiently on the Cheam side of the river and at the same time visit Agassiz, where we have several members. Near Agassiz, too, is the summer resort and watering-place known as the *Hot Springs*, where it is thought we might have services in the tourist season, as there are many visitors from all parts.

I omitted to say in connection with Mission City that the people have themselves commenced a Sunday 10 a.m. service two miles distant in the woods, and already a log church in that neighborhood is projected, the settlers generally being poor. But souls are being saved already in that cottage service. That and other points I am unable to attend to, as preaching appointments. Since I began this page I have received a letter from a good Presbyterian friend, principal owner of the City Planing Mills, New Westminster, John Hendry, Esq., (and who was a member of my congregation at Nanaimo years ago) conveying to me the welcome intelligence of the donation of *all the shingles*—18,000—needed for our Mission City church! This is by way of parenthesis, but it means a \$45 lift to our new church, at least.

I am afraid you will not wade through this lengthy epistle with much pleasure, and perhaps I ought to have boiled it down somewhat, but I do hope that we shall be able to get a man for Mission City, as being, in my opinion, a very desirable opening, and as this is a very opportune occasion to develop our work in that place and the surrounding country. We have already the gift of two eligible lots for a parsonage at Mission City, and if we had not one here, I would have removed thither and so made it the head of the mission a year ago. Our financial resources are not what we could desire, as our people are mostly struggling for a living on bush farms, but doubtless they will improve if we increase our staff.

### THE INDIAN WORK.

Letter from REV. O. GERMAN.

HOLLBROKE, Alberta, July 21, 1892.

I HAVE begun work on my new field of labor, and am hoping for a successful year. Both the white people and the Indians are very kind, and appear willing to do all they can to assist the missionary in his work. I am not yet well acquainted with the Indians, but am glad to learn that a majority of those who are not Roman Catholics are members of the Methodist Church. The attendance on the services is good, the interest marked, and the responses very hearty.

This year the two missions of Battle River and Bear's Hill have been united, one missionary only being employed instead of two as formerly. Of course it will not be possible to visit the outlying White settlements as regularly as was done when the two men were here. We hold (on the mission) two Cree services and one English service on each Sabbath. The government employees and their families, together with a few families who live in the vicinity of the reservation, constitute the English congregation.

The Battle River day-school is showing good results. Miss Whitelaw is an efficient teacher, and is well liked by