

appointments, often preaching thirteen Sundays to the quarter. The question, common. Yes beyond expression. The sphere is one gigantic branch of intelligently bright Christian life, consecrated to the service of the Christ. Into this field each year are pouring the most healthy and enacious minds of all its splendid institutions, and especially from that of the Sabbath-school.

It practically has become the training academy where all these bright lives, so full of promise to the Church, find rich stimulus for such service. Further, its utility is inexplicably beyond measure, so far as it relates to the cultivation and perfect development of the capacities of each devotee. Ask the Methodists of England the reason of its guarded and intense interest lavished upon the head of this department. No! the answer is too decisive and distinct, as seen in its common united consent, gleaned from the untiring and liberal provision made in its interest. Surely there must be a sequel to the ponderous influence crowding more and more closely around the life of this common lay instrumentality. From its garnered receptacle are called, almost without exception, all the brightest office bearers from the ministry in charge to the lowest office recognized, also in it is found much which aims to check the leakage which other churches suffer. Among the youthful aspiring mind, when it has been unable to become exclusively satisfied in reaching what has been realized as the high water level of religious work in such churches, and last, but not least, the powerful unanimity of appreciation on the part of the audiences which is everywhere shown, and which receive its ministrations. No wonder at all is it for one to be seized with a chill of surprise at the uncommon and isolated instance of such a representative service as are to be met with in the domain of B. C. Methodism. I am not exactly prepared to say that B. C. Methodism can utilize, at present at least, an increased lay service, nor that it may not be able to render some plausible reasons why the service is so uncommon. But I am of the strong opinion that one great need is a Godly consecrated lay service.

Of course I know that lay service is in a nominal sense recognized by B. C. Methodist, but because that we are Methodist, but aims, what discriminate practice we get. What inference is deduced from the fact of this noble question as we find it associated with England's Methodism. I take it to mean that a practical recognition by the Church that the layman is eligible to the call of God to preach the Gospel, and as asserted its right accordingly with reference to the true missions. I would like very much to hear some one in our domain of Methodism take this very important hint up, as I feel fully persuaded that the utility of the matter, as it concerns us all, is worthy of a word in view of its present obscurity.

Yours truly,

A humble servant of
THE CHRIST S. OF SHENTON.

Circumstances are beyond the control of man, but his conduct is in his own power.—Benjamin Disraeli.

Probably he who never made a mistake never made anything.—Samuel Smiles.

The Churches.

COWICHAN.

Rev. Howard, Pastor.

We have to thank God for the great blessings which are attending our work on this circuit—everything is in a bright and prosperous state.

During our revival services the Lord graciously blessed us by the pouring out of His spirit upon the people—souls were saved, believers were quickened, enthusiasm was kindled, and love was inspired. A glorious work was started, the fruits of which have already begun to appear.

At Duncan great improvements have been made in our church; it has been enlarged and beautified inside; a high tower has been built on to the front, and a large bell placed in it, a fine fence is being put around, and when it is all painted we shall have as beautiful a little church as there is in the district. But, better still, the interest of the people is growing, and our congregations are accordingly becoming larger. Our cottage prayer meetings are seasons of refreshing, and whereas in former times we could only muster three or four, we now have a goodly number.

At Mill Bay our people have not been idle, the Sunday school is of a bright order, and the young people manifest a lively interest. One of our young men has lately started on the Christian road, and we believe he is determined to lay aside every weight, and run with patience. A large driving shed has been erected by the willing hands of our members and friends, and we are anticipating further improvements. Our prayer meetings are always well attended, many of the people walking two and three, some of them even four, miles over muddy roads, and through the bush—think of it oh ye dwellers in towns and cities.

At our February quarterly meeting the superintendent was authorized to open up another appointment, and also to organize a Sunday-school; our finances are well up and connexional collections ahead of last year. We thank God and take courage.

A unanimous invitation was extended to Rev. Howard Osborne to remain for a second year.

Our contribution to the 20th Century Fund already amounts to \$661, and we are still at work.

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SAANICH MISSION.

Rev. J. W. Winslow, Pastor.

The people of our South Saanich appointment held a very successful concert and social in the Temperance Hall a short time since, with a view to raising money for the purpose of erecting a kitchen at the back of the church. The able assistance of the Rev. Mr. Barraclough, Mr. J. G. Brown and others from Victoria was very much appreciated.

We have recently been privileged with a very appreciable visit over this field by Principal Sipprell, of C. M. College, who preached most acceptably to our several congregations on the 28th ult., and also delivered his excellent and interesting lecture, "The Worth of a Man," to a delighted congregation at North Saanich on the following evening.

Great Western Life Assurance Company.

From the Report of the Co's Business for 1899.

PREMIUM INCOME.....	\$ 299,887
INTEREST.....	32,254
TOTAL ASSETS.....	723,189
SURPLUS TO POLICY HOLDERS.....	181,005
INSURANCE IN FORCE.....	10,263,250

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GENERAL AGENT.