

Our City Missions and Some of Their Problems

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TOPIC FOR WEEK OF DEC. 8.

THE people and environment are two factors in the problem of the city which confront every worker for its betterment. Both people and environment must be changed. To aid in this great task is the work of our City Missions.

One-half of the city does not know how the other half lives. The uptown residential districts, with their beautiful homes, well-kept lawns and healthy surroundings, are far removed in many ways from the downtown sections with factories, business centres, crowded tenements, grassless back yards, and, in many cases, surroundings which demand the constant vigilance of the health department to ensure safe sanitary conditions.

With the growth of the city many districts, which were once residential, have become a strange mingling of houses, factories and warehouses, so that many families have moved away from the noise, smoke and rush of the growing

the lives of little children and busy, over-worked mothers. They are winning men and women to Christ, and through Him are adjusting to Christian citizenship lives which once were not only useless but harmful in their influence.

THE DOWNTOWN CHURCH.

Canada's cities are growing, and with this growth has come the "downtown" church and the withdrawal of family support. This has compelled many such churches to become "socialized" or "institutional." These churches really are Missions in the best sense, and are doing some work similar to that done in the organized City Mission.

TORONTO CITY AND THE FRED VICTOR MISSION.

This was the first organized City Mission of our Church. Its work is distinct from that which any church is doing, not because of great zeal, but because of greater facilities to do the work of reaching the people. The headquarters and chief institutions of the Mission are the Fred Victor Mission, Toronto.

In addition, there are two Italian Missions, one at 56 Elm Street, and the other at 266 Claremont St.

The Victor Home for young women and the Victor Inn for men, with its Employment Bureau and Industrial Institute for men, are both doing good work.

The Gospel Wagon, from which we conduct open-air services through the summer months, takes the Gospel to the people who cannot be induced to attend even a mission service.

One important and effective branch of work in connection with this Mission is the Travellers' Aid Department. In co-operation with the W. C. T. U., all incoming trains are met and help given to those who need it. Outgoing trains are also attended, and many a girl and woman has reason to thank the kindly deaconess who has helped her as she came to or left the city.

The buildings and centres do not in any degree represent the work alone. Men, women, girls, boys and babies are all helped in many ways and through many agencies.

ALL PEOPLES' MISSION, WINNIPEG.

The "Gateway of the West" is perhaps our most cosmopolitan city. Here thousands of the strangers within our gates or new Canadians gather as they do

nowhere else in Canada, creating foreign settlements and bringing the customs, religions and ideals of the old life to the new land. The Mission, which began in a very small way, has grown into a well-organized, aggressive force in helping the strangers to become desirable citizens of our great Dominion.

The work done is similar to that done in the Toronto City Mission.

To the Superintendent of this Mission, Rev. James S. Woodworth, is indebted for the splendid book, "Strangers Within Our Gates," which deals with the Immigration question in all its phases, and "My Neighbor," which is a study of city conditions and a plea for social service.

From Halifax to Vancouver we are being aroused to the need of City Mission work. Sydney, C.B., and its coal-mining districts are facing conditions which demand as well-equipped Missions as All Peoples', Winnipeg, or the Fred Victor Mission, Toronto. In Sydney we have the Italian Mission. In its outlying districts our ministers are really missionaries in the truest sense of the word.

In Montreal, Canada's greatest city, the foreign element has taken possession of whole sections of the city. Among these foreigners we have an All Peoples' Mission, which, under the superintendency of Mr. Laidman, is laying the foundation for a wider field of service than is now possible with the present equipment.

In the smaller cities, through the deaconesses and local church members, work similar to that done in the Missions of the larger cities is carried on.

To-day in Canada there is scarcely a town but has its share of "new Canadians," who have a special claim upon the young people of the churches. There are also many older Canadians who need help, not always money, but friendship.

This Christmas tide, with all its joys and messages of goodwill, is an opportunity for all to discover, each for himself, the "more blessedness" of giving. Someone has said that "Service is the mother tongue of love." If we are to win, we must serve and remember that "Christ came not to be ministered unto, but to minister." We must give ourselves with our giving. The problem of the City Mission will be solved when, as children of the Highest, we become in reality brothers of the lowest.

The Human Yardstick

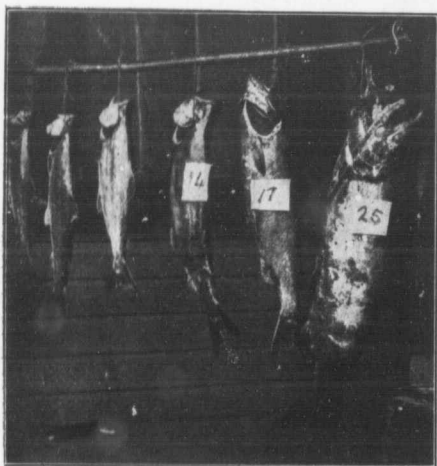
"Golly, but I's tired!" exclaimed a tall and thin negro, meeting a short and stout friend in Washington street.

"What you been doin' to get tired?" demanded the other.

"Well," explained the thin one, drawing a deep breath, "I's been a-measurin' Brother Smith's dey are measurin' de house for some new carpets. Dey haven't got no yardstick, and I's just exactly six feet tall. So to oblige Brother Smith, I's been a-layin' down and a-gettin' up all over deir house."—*Youth's Companion.*

Teacher to a scholar: "Johnny, what is a cone?" Johnny: "A cone is a solid, surrounded by six equal squares." Teacher: "Right! Willie, what is a cone?" Willie: "A cone? Why—a cone is—er—a funnel stuffed with ice cream!"—*Home and Country.*

Woe Albert, two and a half years old, is very fond of green corn, but is not permitted to eat it very often. One day he watched grandma eating it. Presently he said coquettishly, pointing to the cob, "Can't I have the bone, gamma?"—*Youth's Companion.*



1. ONE HOUR'S CATCH WITH HOOK AND LINE IN THE FRASER RIVER, B.C.

business centres to new homes in districts which are strictly residential.

Somewhere in the downtown sections thousands in our larger cities must find homes. Young people in boarding-houses and families in a few rooms—sometimes in only one room, and sometimes not even that—are living. The young people from the country and smaller towns, and newcomers from other lands, usually find their first home in the city in the downtown district. Thousands are lonely, friendless and shut off from the home and social life to which they have been accustomed. Here also is the slum, with problems all its own, but the solving of which should be everyone's business until the slum goes forever.

Our City Missions are carrying out the social teachings of Jesus applied to present conditions. Through service, sacrifice and love they are lifting toward higher standards of life thousands who do not need charity, but who do need help. They are seeking to save that which was lost. They are bringing happiness into