

METHODIST RECORDER.

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REV. J. P. HICKS.

We take the opportunity which is afforded by his absence of giving to our readers the photograph and a sketch of the life of our esteemed brother, Rev. J. P. Hicks, the editor of the "Recorder."

Born in Cornwall, England, in the year 1861, of good old Wesleyan parents, his early days were spent in an environment calculated to develop that earnest zeal and enthusiasm in the cause of the Master, of which he has given such marked evidence through the years past.

He was converted to God when but 16 years of age, and, almost immediately, was placed on the plan of the North Hill Circuit, Cornwall, as a local preacher.

Leaving that neighborhood, he went to Plymouth, where he pursued his studies, privately, and connecting himself with the King Street Circuit, he labored diligently, and finally became a candidate for the Wesleyan ministry.

The ranks of the ministry being very full, and being impatient of delay in a matter which was of deep moment to him, the answer of the Divine Call, he accepted the invitation to take work in British Columbia.

Coming to this Province in September, 1889, whence some of his family had before preceded him, he was appointed assistant on the Chilliwack Circuit, where he spent two very pleasant years.

Three years following were spent at Enderby, two years at New Westminster, West End, and three years at Victoria West Church, when his interest in the "lads" on the ships bore fruit in a pressing request, by the Wesleyans in H. M. navy at Esquimalt to conference, that he should be appointed their chaplain.

Permission was so given, and during the past year our brother labored faithfully in that department of the work. His genial, kind-heartedness, and true friendliness, have claimed for him the hearty affection of his people. While his powers as speaker his tact in dealing with men, and his good business ability will stand him in good stead in the organization and planting of the work. We wish for him ever increasing success.

Coqualeetza Institute,

The picture on another page presents an excellent view of an Institution of which Methodism may well be proud, the Coqualeetza Institute for Indian boys and girls at Chilliwack, B. C.

The school work among the Indians at Chilliwack commenced in a small way in the home of the missionary, Rev. C.

M. Tate, in the year 1889, and, in due process of time, suitable buildings were built by the Woman's Missionary Society on a lot secured at the rear of the Mission House. Miss Elderkin, a consecrated worker, was the first matron. The work grew and other helpers were added. But in 1892, by the accident of a falling lamp, the Home (as it was called), was burned to the ground.

The energy and enthusiasm of Bro. Tate and his devoted wife and helpers could brook no failure; and immediately efforts were put forth which led to arrangements being made with the general board and the W. M. S. to jointly build a building more suitable for the work.

The present building is built of brick, and is divided into two parts, the right wing for boys and the left for girls, with dining room, kitchen, schoolrooms, etc., in the centre.

The Institute has attached to it some 95 acres of land and everything is being done to train the children in such pursuits as will be of advantage to them in after life. Miss Clarke followed Miss Elderkin as matron, and when the school became the more pretentious Institute, Rev. Ebenezer Robson was appointed the first principal. He was succeeded in 1896 by Rev. Joseph Hall, the present presiding officer.

The school has on its roll, in attendance over 100 pupils, while many have been sent out with clearer ideas of moral and spiritual questions, and better fitted in every way to fight the battles of life than their parents were. The workers deserve the support of our sympathy and prayers.

What will You do for the Century Fund?

The time has nearly arrived when the appeal on behalf of the Twentieth Century Fund should be made. We had looked for some report from the Conference Committee ere this, but nothing was forthcoming at the district meetings. We are glad that, notwithstanding, action has been taken by most of the districts, and active operations have commenced in some quarters.

It should be the aim of every Methodist to have some part or investment in this thank offering. One million Methodists in Canada at a dollar apiece, means one million dollars, but there are a large number of our people whose givings would mock the idea of thanksgiving if they did not give a great deal more than one dollar, while, on the other hand, there are children and aged ones, and the very poor, who might find it very difficult to give that much.

But see to it that you have some share in it, if only two bits.

Now for organization and enthusiasm and consecration and success. We wish all our readers could read Dr. Ross' catechism on the subject in the last Guardian; it answers all questions most satisfactorily.

If you haven't the Guardian write to Rev. Wm. Briggs, Toronto, for a copy of the date of August 23rd.

Our Western Sabbath.

From all quarters there comes continual protest against the wholesale desecration of the Sabbath, which is so marked here in the West.

Bro. Crosby's letter from Steveston will only be a surprise to those who are unacquainted with the conditions that prevail in that fishing centre.

That some forms of work may come under the law of necessity may be true, but that a great deal of work is carried on, and that by members of the Christian church, which is inexcusable and indefensible is also true.

Our friends in Vancouver have made a strong fight and have succeeded, but unless the Christian people of our land clear their skirts of the responsibility which rests upon them, we cannot long expect to continue victorious.

Convenience, comfort, financial loss should be no excuse to the man who is really seeking to please God and do the Master's will.

The carelessness and indifference of the present age will reap a harvest of unbelief and sin in the next generation.

Those who are anxious for the better observance of the Lord's Day will be interested in the following from the Kaslo Kootenaiian of the 27th ult:

"The Sandon band excursion on Sunday was not an entire success, but was a most enjoyable affair. The band boys felt their position keenly, not so much their financial loss as the depreciation of their efforts. The clergymen of Sandon pronounced against the excursion being held on Sunday, and while the boys did not blame them as they believed the pastors felt it their duty, yet many of the citizens had encouraged the band with promises to go, but when the train pulled out only some 20 persons and the band were on the train."

If the clergy and Christian people were a unit in this matter, as in the case referred to, a different state of things would exist on the coast than does at the present time.

History of B.C. Methodism.

Some few years ago the conference urged the Rev. E. Robson, than whom there is no one better fitted, to prepare a history of Methodism in this province. At the time the question of expense was the barrier, and the suggestion was made that perhaps the conference would take five hundred copies, and thus secure the publisher.

Nothing more was done about it until the pioneer celebration services were held in all the coast cities, in February last. Once more Bro. Robson was urged to issue his book, and since that time, we understand, he has busied himself with the matter. Our brother naturally hesitates to venture on the publication of the same without knowing the mind of the Methodist people.

Without any suggestion on the part of Bro. Robson, we have decided to give the friends of this scheme an opportunity of expressing themselves, and on the 3rd cover page of this paper a coupon will be found which we hope and trust our people will sign and forward immediately in order that the book may be got out before Christmas.

Insatiable Greed.

As the sea is never filled with water, though all the streams of the world run into it, so the greediness of a usurer is never satisfied, though he gain never so unreasonably. The sea is profitable, the usurer is hurtful and dangerous. By the sea we may pass and come safely to heaven, but no man passeth by the usurer without loss and shipwreck.—Bishop Jewel.

Mention the Methodist Recorder to your friends.