

In one town, for instance, where a missionary of our Church is carrying on his work, with heroic endeavor and with partial success, there are reported a theatre cumique (a base play-house), 20 to 25 saloons, 22 houses of ill-fame, besides gambling dens and every low place of resort—this in a town with a population of about 1,000. Another missionary reports the Sabbath given up to horse-racing and to traffic in liquor. In another camp \$1,000 were taken over the bar of a single saloon in one week. What this means only the initiated can realize.

Public opinion has nothing to say against the desecration of the Sabbath either by work or by sports; supports gambling as a legitimate amusement, and winks at the enormous evil of prostitution. The sins of Sabbath-breaking, gambling, drunkenness and prostitution are everywhere prevalent throughout British Columbia, and constitute a most serious menace, not only to the spirituality but even to the morality and decency of the people, and consequently to the permanence of the institutions of civilization.

At the same time, it is fair to say, and it is cheering to note that in every mining camp there are to be found those who, in spite of their depressing surroundings, are maintaining, with heroic faith and courage, their Christian principles and Christian life. In every mining town there is a nucleus to be found ready to gather about and to uphold and strengthen the hands of any man who has the courage to represent among them the principles of our holy religion."—From Mr. C. W. Gordon's Report.

"The response to Missionary work in western communities, and especially in British Columbia fields, has been in many cases marvellous. It is grateful to think of the work being done by our missionaries in their various spheres of labor. One missionary reports that he has been able to put down Sabbath horse-racing. Another was instrumental in breaking up a gambling organization in a little town in southern Manitoba, and to effectually stop gambling operations in the town. At another point a saloon-keeper was prevented from obtaining a liquor license at a village on the Canadian Pacific Railway, where over 200 car-loads of wheat were shipped. The advantage to the young farmer lads, in removing this temptation, can be easily understood."

All praise and encouragement be given to these noble, self-denying missionaries who toil in such fields as these. They are worthy of the Church's generous support. What ever we may think, the Good Master is not ignoring them.

"I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is; and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith \* \* \* where Satan dwelleth," etc.—*Epistle to the Church in Pergamos.*

### WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

1. Fellow-communicants and hearers of the Word, in every congregation and mission station throughout the Church, resolve to do something—much or little—this year in response to this cry for help, the half of which has not been told. Let every hearer aim at 50 cents a year at least as a minimum. A cent a week! A self-imposed tax of a cent a week for Christ and for country and for the souls of our fellow men! But do not stop at 50 cents. Some give nothing. Many must give far more. Let dollars by tens and hundreds flow into the Home Mission Treasury, and help in winning our land for Christ.

2. Brethren in the ministry, let your people know what's wanted. We must give them the opportunity and with it the necessary information before we shoulder all the responsibility on them. Let us make sure that the blood of souls left to perish for lack of Bread does not cry out against the neglect or unfaithfulness of the pulpit in this matter.

3. Sabbath School teachers, you can do much to instruct the youth under your care regarding this work, and influence them to give to its support. We humbly submit that \$3,330 for this great Home work is a very unworthy fraction of all the Sabbath school contributions made from Metis to New Westminster. Just think of it.

4. Young People's Societies of every name and nature, what endeavour are you making to save your country and build up the Church that under God has made you what you are and given you all you have? Can you not do better? Ought you not in this claimant need to do better than \$2,366? Cannot you for the most part consecrate a penny a week for missions,—at least a cent a week for Home Missions? Try it. Move, organize, and you can do it.

5. Conveners of Presbyterial Home Mission Committees. We commend to your consideration the following recommendations of the H. M. Committee of the Synod of British Columbia:—

"1. That each Presbytery be instructed to arrange, at as early a date as possible, for a conference with representatives of the Young People's Societies within its bounds, and to urge very strongly that each Society pledge itself to contribute annually a definite sum towards the Home Mission fund.

"2. That wherever practicable, ministers of congregations in which no Young People's Societies have yet been formed be instructed to organize Young People's Home Missionary Societies."

You can do much to move your respective Presbyteries to action similar to the above, and also to see that the claims of the Home Mission Fund are duly brought before the several congregations within the bounds.