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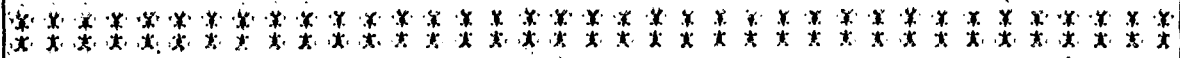
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Columbian Methodist Recorder

VOL. I.

APRIL, 1899.

No. 1.



Rev. Ebenezer Robson.

EBENEZER ROBSON was born near Perth, Ontario, Jan 17th, 1835, of devout Pre-byterian parentage. He was brought to Christ when but 15 years of age and joined the Methodist Church in Sarnia, where his parents then resided. He was educated at Victoria College, Cobourg, Ont., and received on probation for the ministry. His early evangelistic efforts were rewarded by a blessed ingathering of precious souls at the Great St. James' Street church, Montreal, where he served a term as Junior pastor. In October, 1858, he joined the heroic band of missionaries to this Western Province, teaching Victoria, February 10th, 1859.

His first charge here was the Fraser River Gold Fields, where he was found in labors abundant, preaching to miners and Indians alike as opportunity presented. Since then he has filled pastorates at Nanaimo, New Westminster, Chilliwack, Victoria, Vancouver, Ladner, Port Simpson and Vernon, his present charge. He has been honored by his brethren electing him twice in succession to the Presidency of the Conference, and on different occasions as delegate to the General Conference. Through the years his energy and devotion have known no bounds, and few men, if any, have left a deeper impress for good on the life of our beloved Province.



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CONFERENCE NOTICES.

DISTRICT MEETINGS.

VICTORIA.—District meeting will
be held in the Centennial Methodist
Church, Victoria, Tuesday, May 2nd,
at 2 p.m. General session Wednesday,
May 3rd at 10 a.m.

J. C. SPEER, Chairman.

J. P. HICKS, Fin.-Sec.

VANCOUVER.—District meeting
meets in the Mount Pleasant Church,
Vancouver, Wednesday, May 3rd. The
Ministerial session at 1.30 p.m. and the
General session at 4 p.m. of the same
day.

A. E. GREEN, Chairman.

A. N. MILLER, Fin.-Sec.

WESTMINSTER.—District meeting
will be held (D.V.) Tuesday, May 2nd,
in the College, New Westminster. Min-
isterial session at 9 a.m., General ses-
sion at 2 p.m.

J. F. BETTS, Chairman.

J. H. WHITE, Fin.-Sec.

KAMLOOPS.—District meeting
will meet in the Kamloops Church on
Wednesday, May 3rd at 9 a.m. On
Wednesday and Thursday evenings
evangelistic services will be held by
members of the District meeting.

C. LADNER, Chairman.

S. J. THOMPSON, Fin.-Sec.

KOOTENAY.—District meeting
will be held (D.V.) in the Methodist
Church, Rossland, on the 26th and 27th
of April. Rev. A. M. Sanford, B.A.,
will preach the annual sermon to the
members of the District meeting on
Wednesday evening.

JAMES A WOOD, Chairman.

JNO. ROBSON, B.A., Fin.-Sec.

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VICTORIA, B.C.

Columbian Methodist Recorder.

Published in the Interests of the W.C. Methodist Conference.

Vol. 1.

VICTORIA, B.C. APRIL, 1899.

No. 1.

Rev. W. H. Barraclough, B.A.,
Managing Editor, pro tem.

Salutatory.

In presenting this, the first number of The Columbian Methodist Record, we do so in response to a feeling which has long prevailed, that something of this character would be beneficial to the interests of our beloved Methodism on this Western slope.

The cosmopolitan character of our population, the rapid changes which are taking place in the development of a new country, the peculiarly diverse and growing needs of our various fields, and the special interests of our connexional institutions, coupled with the isolated position of our Conference, must impress anyone who has been any time amongst us.

These conditions are aggravated by the fact that our fields are in most cases large and widely separated, and with the exception of Conference and District meetings there is little or no interchange of thought.

A small paper we feel would present the claims of our local interests and institutions and be the avenue of inter-communication between the fields.

With this in view we arranged for the publication of this trial number, and we trust it will be received in the spirit with which it is sent forth.

The question of its permanency will come up for future consideration at the oncoming Conference, at which time the promoters of the paper will present their perfected plans.

Attention is drawn to the notice of Columbian Methodist College, whose condition and circumstances are much more encouraging and satisfactory than for some time past. The college would be greatly aided by such a local connexional paper as is proposed.

OUR TITLE PAGE.

It is eminently fitting, in view of the 40th anniversary services lately held, that the photograph of our beloved brother Robson, one of the pioneer band of Methodist missionaries to this Province, and the first President of our B.C. Conference, should adorn the title page of this, our first issue. That God has blest his labors amongst us, is readily recognized, as we review the work accomplished.

In response to a request made some few years ago we understand it is the intention of Bro. Robson to place in permanent form the story of his eventful life, coupled with the history of Methodism in British Columbia.

THE RITUALISTIC STRUGGLE.

The conflict between the Romanizing and Evangelical Parties in the Church of England is of interest to the whole Christian Church. Many seem to be fearful of the ultimate results, and dread a possible return to the dominion and power of the Pope. We are persuaded on the other hand that the Evangelical party is far more numerous and influential than even they themselves suppose. We cannot but feel that the traditional love of freedom which is the boast of our race and which has so markedly affected the many religious struggles of the past, will still assert itself against the influence of the acknowledged friends of Rome.

THE DECISIVE NO.

The refusal of the Government to enact a Prohibition law is based on the fact that but 23 per cent. of the electorate voted in favor of Prohibition. As to the smallness of the vote, it will certainly compare favourably with the hottest political contests that have been waged. On the other hand, we think it but fair that attention should be drawn to the other fact that considerably less than 23 per cent. voted against Prohibition. That the friends of liquor polled as large a vote as was possible for them to do is admitted by even themselves. As for the 35 per cent. who manifested their indifference by not voting at all, a large number of the names on the roll are those of absentees, removed or dead, and as for the balance, the Prohibitionists have as much right to expect that a fair percentage of them would prove friendly to the enforcement of such a law as otherwise.

The Temperance people should show themselves very much alive at this critical time, and strive by united protest and petition to impress the individual members of Parliament of our determination to stand for our rights, and press the battle to a successful issue.

Why should not the Methodist Church throw the strength of its perfect connexional organization into the conflict. Let us have a Conference Temperance Committee that does something more than draw up elegantly worded resolutions. Let that Temperance Committee, be a standing committee; and let it be in touch with every church and circuit and mission, with every Sunday School and League and Society, and by "pressing the button," so to speak, secure unity of effort and prompt and energetic action. Are we to lose by our indifference the little we have gained?

METHODISM'S FIRST AND GREATEST NEED.

Under the above title Rev. Dr. Buckley writes in a recent issue of The Christian Advocate. The conditions presented are applicable to our Canadian Church and hence we repeat them here.

"It is not money nor influence, but spiritual life we need. That only will bring all good things in its train. This need is apparent from many considerations, some of which are:

"So many churches depend upon spasmodic revivals, and then are unable to assimilate the fruits because of the unthawed state of the membership; so many members never take any part in evangelistic work, and never attend any of the means of grace, except at rare intervals; so many faithfully attend the lodge that never attend the prayer meeting that the tabulated statistics of the Church are often no more reliable than would be those of an army of the inmates of the hospitals, those who have been taken prisoners by the enemy, and the deserters were given as a part of the fighting force.

"The chief difficulty with the laity, as well as the ministry, is a lax view of the law of God, and an exaggerated view of the provisions of salvation. Men seem really to believe that connection with the Church and a general consent to the fact that Christ died to save, and that He is an Almighty Saviour, are sufficient for salvation. Whereas the whole Scriptures teach the contrary. A mere religious profession is an abomination in the sight of God, and trust in Christ without an earnest and constant attempt to keep His commandments, insures one the reward of the foolish virgins, and of the man who built his ecclesiastical house upon the sand and not upon the rock.

"If spiritual life be sought it will be attained, and then conscience and gratitude will open the the purses of the church. Gifts will be a means of grace. Should we have a joint revival of spirituality and liberality, Methodism will enter upon the next century with impulses equal in intensity to those with which it began the one which we are soon to leave; and with immeasurable material resources will go forth with quicker step to bless the world."

Our friends will bear in mind that the publication of this paper is only made possible by the advertisements. Don't forget our Methodist advertisers.

"Caught on the Fly."

It is not a ball game we were playing that led to the selection of the title which, for want of something better, stands at the head of this little sketch, but what we caught as we were flying many miles by land and sea. I knew little of the sea, for the good ship Kingston slid through the yielding and peaceful waters of the "Sound" as it is on well-oiled keel. I cannot too highly commend the order of the Kingston, and the breakfast was enough to tempt an epicure.

At Tacoma we had a "kick" about ticket arrangements, but the trouble was of a most unavoidable character and the kindness of the "agent" at that point "covered a multitude of sins." It was most refreshing to be told that preachers were of the greatest value to the transportation companies. I take this opportunity of returning the compliment by bearing witness to the universal courtesy received from the agents and servants of the companies over whose lines I have travelled.

When we left Victoria the weather had turned warm and the flowers were in bloom, but at Tacoma we encountered ice and slush. For this, of course, I don't blame the good people of the latter city. I don't think people—unless they are very good—can hinder a little touch of frost, while other folks further north may be enjoying balmy spring time.

Portland seems to be a smart up-to-date Coast City. The last adjective is for accuracy, as a Coast City is not supposed to come strictly, and at all time, within the scope of the Ten Commandments. In Portland, for the first time, I found the works of Col. R. Ingersol on sale in what was supposed to be a respectable book store. I also saw, among the latest publications, a work intended to prove to women that the cause of most of their troubles was the Bible and the clergy. In heroic words the author called upon woman-kind to get free from such a condition. Marriage, with the author, was a sort of incubus. The book was well bound, and we suppose the author parts his hair in the middle. As we turned from the Pacific Ocean the night had come down, and out we glided towards the mountains which challenged the advancing train, but, like sin at the death of Christ, theirs was an empty boast; they had been long since conquered by the master hand and brain of the engineer.

How sweet to be able to sleep on the train as she glides away as smoothly as a lady's mare or gallops like a cavalry charger, or swing like a camel in the desert. On, on, through light and darkness—through storm and calm—through snow and billows of blossom—to sleep with no fear, while "Dangers stand thick thro' all the ground to push us to the tomb."

Is there any greater illustration of the supremacy of faith over fear? Yonder the black, begrimed "driver" stands with his eye upon the bright light which falls far ahead and rolls the darkness from the way, while the stoker, like some uncanny mortal bent upon some awful mission, feeds the roaring monster, whose throat sends forth flames and billows of smoke. But all the while a hundred men and women

sleep in the coaches in perfect peace. Oh, could we all but trust Christ as we trust the "driver," who, in this case becomes the "Captain of our Salvation."

"The morning light is breaking," and we have reached the other side of the mountain. We consult the time and find we are late by an hour. "Stuck in the snow!" Oh, flowers of Victoria, how we adore thee.

THE ANGEL OF THE MOUNTAINS.

Breakfast with Grandma Monroe, who is the Angel of the Blue Mountains and keeps the best eating-house from the Pacific to the Atlantic. Yes, you get, in quality and quantity, more for your money's worth than anywhere else. Grandma, as everybody calls her who travels on the Oregon Short Line, is a lovely old woman with fluffy hair, as white as the snow of her native mountains, and eyes as bright as the stars which shine among the far-away peaks, and cheeks still pink with the health and happiness she has ever enjoyed. The home of this delightful old lady is a structure of logs of Douglas fir peeled and fitted with the exactness of an artist. Colored servants are ready as waiters, and the tables groan with the latest delicacies of the season.

Now, "All aboard!" and in a few moments we have dropped down from the bosom to the lap of these ranges of the Blue Mountains of Oregon. Soon we have left the snow behind and the valley through which we pass is smooth and highly cultivated, affording relief to the eye of the traveller, after the desolation through which we have just passed.

"Have something to drink?" This was the polite and well-intentioned offer of a gentleman who took me for a drummer. But on a refusal in our blandest manner, he swallowed "another" from a quart bottle of "Ould Rye." Again the request came and again the refusal, but this time the bottle was left corked. In conversation with the above gentleman the following facts came to the surface: When he found out to whom he was offering his drink he apologized in excellent language, saying he "considered it a disgrace for a minister of the gospel to drink. He, too, had the honour of being a Methodist. He was not a drunkard, but through over-brain work had been advised to 'take a little,' and now for a week he had been on a 'big drunk,' and was trying to reach his home to sober up and have a rest." The conversation led to the sad fact that he had a wife and family of little children who, though kept in luxury in a country town, were nevertheless in sorrow and sometimes in terror at the conduct of the husband and father. But good news was in store for them, as he left me with the most positive promise that he would never "touch another drop of intoxicating drink." I have strong hope that he will keep his promise to God and the stranger preacher, whom he met on the train, by the fact that the bottle disappeared and was not seen again.

A SUNSET.

The sunset over the Blue Mountains is one of the sights of the road. The scenery of these Oregon regions cannot be compared with that which is to be found anywhere in British Colum-

bia, but as we were rushing into the arms of darkness the sunset over the distant peaks was a picture of quiet beauty not to be forgotten. The unpronounced light of the afternoon gathered into a most emphatic scene; the clouds of white became transparent and drifted along the peaks like flocks of snowy sheep wandering among upland pastures. The whiteness soon changed to a delicate pink with streaks of curdling amber shadings. Then farther away there appeared dark rifts which seemed like canyons leading away to far-off lands. But the "after glow" fell as an enchantment, for the clouds and mountains (snow-tipped) blended into one grand pageant of flaming banners, which appeared like the dazzling splendour of some Oriental monarch returning with victory and spoil. But a shriek of the whistle, a lurch of the train, spoiled the vision as we swung around a curve and plunged down into the depths of the valley and into the darkness, and scenes of the day became the dreams of the night.

J. C. SPEER.
Montgomery, Alabama, March, 1899.

MY PRAYER AND MY CONFESSION.

(By Rev. J. Calvert.)

Prayer—

Lead me, blessed Jesus,
Through this dark veil of tears,
Vanquish my enemies,
Annihilate my fears;
Fill me with Thy wisdom,
That I may ever be
Wise unto salvation,
Wise to follow Thee;
Ready e'er to follow
O'er mountain, moor and sea,
Bearing Paul-like witness
In sincerity.

Confession—

Sometimes my heart is wayward
And selfish, and inclined
To murmur and be fretful,
And tarry far behind,
'Tis then, O! Blessed Jesus,
Thy face I need to see,
That Peter-like and contrite
I may weep my way to Thee.

Trail, B.C.

WESLEYAN NAVAL MISSION.

Mr. Editor,—Personally I am much pleased with the idea of a Methodist newspaper for B.C., and can see no good reason why it should not succeed. There ought to be constituency enough and Methodism enough in this progressive Province to give it sufficient circulation and support. No one will want to give up the Guardian, our strong connexional organ, but Toronto is a long distance, and we need something more available for the discussion of local questions, and I trust the B.C. Methodist Recorder will prove to be "just the thing."

As far as my work is concerned, such a paper would be of material assistance to me, and I should be pleased to send items of news pretty regularly.

The principal topic of conversation amongst us for the past few days has been the departure for "dear old England" of the flagship of the station, I.M.S. Imperieuse. I wonder how my brethren in the ministry would feel if during the next week, say one-quarter to one-third of their congregation

should be suddenly removed, taking with them a good percentage of membership certificates and officials, not to speak of financial support? That is just what happened us, when on April 1st the flagship steamed out of the harbour, carrying with her some of the bravest and kindest men I ever met. A few of them hope to return, but the many we shall never meet again, and they will not be replaced by others until the new flagship arrives some months hence.

Of course I was one of the last visitors to leave the ship on the morning of her departure. My Wesleyan "lads" surrounded me like bees, and it was in that last handshake I began to fully realize how deep was the attachment to them; and a few minutes later as from the Dockyard we watched the ship around the Point, the "lads" gave evidence of their feelings also, for when all formal cheering was ended, about 50 or 60 throats, gathered together about midships, gave spontaneous utterance to "three cheers for Mr. Hicks." It was not for my sake merely, of course, or I should not mention it here, but to me, as representing the Wesleyan work they were leaving, and which had become dear to them. I do not think it unmanly to weep, but no man cares for anyone to see his tears, and at that moment I hoped that none of the many by-standers would look up at my face.

This, Mr. Editor, is one of the most trying aspects of our work—these constant removals and changes. This is more trying than an "itinerant ministry," for it is an itinerant congregation in more respects than one. We may have seventy-five to one hundred men to preach to this Sunday and perhaps less than twenty next Sunday. And those we preach to to-day may be removed from us to-morrow for three or six months. We win a few for Christ, however, and of these we may write a few lines from time to time. What we sorely need—what now we are not without hope of getting—is a building of our own, which may be made a Home for the lads; then we shall expect glorious triumphs and trophies of grace. In the meantime we ask the earnest prayers of our readers for continued encouragement in this work.

J. P. HICKS,
Wesleyan Chaplain, Esquimalt.

Temperance and Sociology.

"Some day Love shall claim his own,
 Some day Right ascend the throne,
 Some day hidden Truth be known,
 Some day—some sweet day."

It is admitted, now, that the Prohibitionists did not ask for a Plebiscite.

The Plebiscite is assuming very much the appearance of the Royal Commission, which politicians of all stripes consider to have been a farce.

The temperance agitations in the past have been characterized by a certain impetuosity, and the momentary ebullition of enthusiasm which subsided so soon as the agitation ceased. So often has this been repeated, that the politicians place no faith in our pledges and protestations.

On the other hand we have had cause to lose faith in the politicians. To all appearance we have nothing to expect from either party, for, with some notable exceptions, the men who represent us in parliament have proved themselves, by both precept and example, to be friends of the Liquor traffic.

* * *

But it is no time for useless complainings. We have not been accustomed to sit in sackcloth and ashes, and we will not do so now. Strong in the conviction of the righteousness of our cause we will press forward until the victory is assured.

* * *

What should we do? If we take the advice of our enemies, we will use the forces of education and moral suasion more persistently. Educate, persuade, rejoicing in the fact that the effect of the traffic but strengthens our cause.

"Agitate! agitate! Keep the ball a-rolling." The cause which is kept early and late, always and everywhere, before the people, is bound in time to arouse the indifferent and claim the attention of even the most politic politician.

* * *

Perhaps we have been disposed to underestimate the influence of our various temperance organizations. The I. O. G. T., the Royal Templars, the Sons, to say nothing of the W.C.T.U., have done, and are doing, grand work in keeping alive temperance sentiment, and arousing an interest on behalf of the suffering victims of this awful traffic. They have, besides, served as a basis for more general organization, when occasion required. Let us unite our efforts with theirs, our interests are in common.

* * *

ITEMS.

"The saloon is the product of Satanic thought, expressed in human action at the ballot box.

"It can only live by the destruction of human beings.

"It will go by Christian thought expressed at the ballot box.

"When, will depend upon the individual answers to the following questions:

"1. Do I want a saloon to destroy me, or any of mine?"

"2. Do I want it to destroy any one else?"

"Will I consent by silence, thought, word or ballot to the continuance of the saloon?"

"4. If I consent by silence, thought, word or ballot to the continuance of the saloon, what assurance have I, that I, or some of mine will not be among its victims?"

* * *

The liquor interests in Canada have about \$15,600,000 invested in the business manufacturing liquor. The average annual output of whiskey is about 1,500,000 gallons; of beer and ale, 47,150,000 gallons. A little over 500,000 gallons of wines are imported each year. The average annual consumption of all liquors in the Dominion, exclusive of native wines, is nearly 22,000,000 gallons, this in a country of less than 5,000,000 inhabitants. About \$1,500,000 is collected in revenue each year by the provincial and municipal governments.

THE NEW COMMANDMENT.

(Charlotte P. Stetson.)

Do you think that the love which has died for world

Has not lived for the world also?

Filling man with the love

Of a boundless desire

To love all with a love that shall grow,

It was not for nothing that the White

Christ was born

Two thousand years ago.

The love that fed poverty, making it thrive,

Is Iarning a lovelier way—

We have seen that the poor

Need be with us no more,

And that sin may be driven away;

The love that has carried the martyrs

to death

Is entering life to-day.

The Spirit of Christ is awake and alive,
 In the work of the world it is shown,

Crying aloud, crying clear,

That the Kingdom is here,

And that all men are heirs to the throne—

There was never a time since the making of man

When love was so near its own.

* * *

NOTES.

"The more people can be settled on the land the more prosperous will the country become."—Workman.

"One of the primal questions of economics is this: What is man's relationship to the world? The only correct answer we can give to this is that God made the world as a heritage for every one born in it."—Workman.

"The Church stands for good citizenship, and more than any other organized body establishes right relations between man and God, and man and man. But the most eminent Christians of to-day assert most vehemently that the Church has put theology so far in advance, that sociology has been to an alarming extent overlooked and neglected."—Citizen and Country.

* * *

APATHY OF THE CHURCH.

Bishop Potter, of New York, says: "The growth of wealth and of luxury, wicked, wasteful and wanton, as before God I declare that luxury to be, has been matched step by step by a deepening and deadening poverty which has left many whole neighborhoods of people without hope and without aspiration. At such a time for the Church of God to sit still and be content with theories of its duty outlawed by time and long ago demonstrated to be grotesquely inadequate to the demands of a living situation is to deserve the scorn of men and the curse of God."

(We wish that the words of Bishop Potter always had the clear, right ring of the above. His pronouncement on the saloon question has caused grief to all true-hearted Christian Reformers, and has strengthened the claims of the Rum-sellers.—Ed.)

There are in the world about 42,988 breweries, which send out every year the enormous amount of 4,659,670 gallons of beer. This would make 147,407.166 barrels, or 1,474,931 car-loads, which would be equal to a continuous train-load 10,000 miles long.

Religious and Literary.

(Rev. W. J. Sipprell, B.A., B.D.)

STAR-GLINTS.

Woo and win Life's responsibilities.

Grasp the handle of your own being.

Life's chief destructions are in the city of man's soul.

The mission of Jesus Christ is to carry each soul up from littleness to full-orbed greatness.

He who stands forth clothed with real might of goodness can neither be ble in life, nor forgotten in death.

Our happiness and success being at that point where we accept in sincerity the birth-gift and career God hath chosen.

The hermit and the cloistered saint end their career with innocence, but Christ struggling unto blood against sin, ends His career with character.

Life's crowning victory is not seen in winning a brilliant battle, in suffering a crushing wrong, but in loving great principles midst small duties, in nourishing sublime hopes amid vulgar cares and in illustrating eternal principles in trifles.

The heart like the body needs nourishment, and finds it in the highest deeds and best qualities of those who have gone before. The best gift to any people is not vineyards nor overflowing granaries, nor throned harbours, nor rich fields, but a good man and great, whose example and influence repeat greatness in all the people.

Every reform was first an idea in the mind of one man, and when it shall have become a thought in the mind of every man it will revolutionize the age. Let us not be pulseless men, content to creep or lie in society's ambulance wagon, but let us covet wings to bear us upward toward the God whose image it is ours to reflect in a world of shadowed lives and aims unrealized.

The flock passing through the forest leaves some white threads behind. The bird lines its nest with down from its own bosom, and the pure heart going forward leaves behind some treasure that perfumes its path. While we should live in action and seek to realize in life all eternal principles that come to our thought we must not forget that the hearts of men are weary as well as weak and need sympathy and sweetness amid life's heavy atmospheres as much as they need strengthening grace.

Back to Christ and the Gospels is fast becoming the watchword of the age. Back to Him who is no empty abstraction, but bone of our bone, marred by no weakness, scarred by no sin, tossing back Life's temptations as some rock-ribbed shore tosses back the sea billows in harmless spray strong for the day of battle, patient for every trying care, gentle, so that His white hand felt the fall of the rose leaf, and

yet He could infect His childhood to the needs of the little child. Death could not hold Him, for He flung its bands aside and clove a pathway through the grave and made death's night to shine like day.

SIN AND ITS ANTIDOTE.

Sin is the most concrete personal fact in human life, which we, by nature, know. It is no abstraction, nor resultant of theorizing, but a fact too well known to men. It is a constant struggle between man's animal nature and the higher spiritual forces of his being.

It intercepts between the soul and its God. In its presence the light dies off the landscape of life, and peace and joy depart. Its antidote is not in philosophic thought, but in the force that comes from contact with a living personality. Sin is death. Truth is life. Death and sin are destructive. Truth and Life are constructive, and in the deepest philosophy of which man has knowledge. One has said, "I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly." To realize this in life's experience is to conquer in and triumph.

While man needs an antidote to sin he needs more. He needs the uplifting power of a new ideal. To know a freedom from sin's thralldom alone is to live in inertia. There must needs be the vitalizing power of a new affection, born of new hopes and lofty aims. Such attractive power is found in Jesus Christ the world Life-Giver. God in Christ is the pledge of the soul's victory over the body, for men weighted down by weight of sin and woe the words, "Ye may, ye must be born again," are sweeter than angel songs falling down from the hill of Paradise. From such a point of vantage we hear His call "Follow Me," and in obedience thereto the soul enlarges to take in the new life as seen in a new person and the ascent begins from narrowness and littleness to breadth and greatness, until at last the ever trustful soul becomes filled with all the fullness of God.

GREATNESS OF THOUGHT AND GREATNESS OF HEART

"All ye who possess the power of thought prize it well! Remember that its flight is infinite; it winds over so many mountain tops and so runs from poetry to eloquence; it so flies from star to star, it so dreams, so loves, so aspires, so hangs both over mystery and fact that we may well call it the effort of man to explore the home, the infinite palace of his Heavenly Father." "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom for the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver and the gain thereof than fine gold." While we thank God for greatness of thought we thank Him more for men with greatness of heart. For men whose sympathies help to remove the chill from human life and make men to feel the brotherhood of man. That divinest sentiment of the human heart, that reflection in the human of the Fatherhood of God. Where God would order a great upward movement for society He drops a great idea into the mind of some leader. We can not forecast the

future, for we cannot tell what great idea God will drop into the soul of some man ordained to be its voice and prophet. Man is the child of genius, because he is the child of God. "made in His image," said One, and we learn that our human mechanism is patterned after the Divine. Not in physical outline, but in those lineaments of the soul where hope and love, and moral greatness are ever born.

THE VIRTUE OF SELF-DENIAL.

Self-denial is not essentially a Christian grace, but it is a strong tenet of Christian doctrine, and a strong element of Christian life and experience. While a work of Grace within is a great essential, there is often a forgotten fact that self-denial is necessary, touching things without. The rise of the bodily forces will at once destroy the harmony of our being, hence we need to "smite our body down," and maintain a holy jealousy for the spiritual interests of our life. The body contains no inherent evil, but if our sensuous capacities so develop that they demand the attention while the higher spiritual instincts lie dormant we defeat the purposes of God. While the ascetic who deals with extreme severity with the bodily desires may be an extremist, we must not forget that the esthetic and poetic and philosophic tendencies may lead to an extreme where man can see naught but nature and her moods, or mind and its intangible forces. These may lead, say some, to God, and to such we assent, but to one it will be to a God of Nature, hardly removed from the most materialistic Pantheism, while the other will leave our God a cold and bloodless abstraction, arrived at by some syllogistic process. God is in Nature, but God is not Nature. God is revealed in Mind, but God is not Mind. God is Life, and beyond what we know as nature, and beyond what we can conceive a man. He sits a Living Personality, the throned Monarch of a Universe. Art is noble, but the highest art is that which seeks to realize in life the ideals of God. We are to live to fulfil the plan of God in our life, and if our sensuous tendencies impede our onward progress in this great march of fulfilment, we are to smite them down with the strong hand of spiritual resolution.

DESULTORY SERVICE.

Desultoriness is the curse of modern church life. A stable and punctual Christian is a rare man. Too many church members do their duty by fits and starts. Their enthusiasm is spasmodic. Their devotion is intermittent. Their church attendance is desultory. Their service is ragged. They cannot be depended upon. They say they will do a thing, and they do not do it. They attend public worship one Sunday, and miss two. They are visible at prayer meeting one Wednesday evening, and then remain invisible for a month. They read the Bible one morning, and skip it for a week. They take a Sunday school class, and run away from it whenever it suits their convenience. It is this desultoriness which is accountable for many of the things which all the friends of the church lament.—Charles E. Jefferson, D.D.

Epworth League and Sunday School Notes.

THE NINTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

of all Methodist Leagues and Sunday Schools in British Columbia will be held at New Westminster, beginning Thursday evening, the 18th day of May, 1899, and closing the following Sunday.

J. F. MALKIN, Pres., Vancouver.
C. S. KEITH, Sec., N. Westminister

The object of the Convention, as stated by the circular announcement, is "to enable our workers to interchange ideas and modes of work."

The attendance is not confined to delegates, but all active workers are invited to be present and join in the discussion and share in the benefit of the Conference. It is to be hoped that every organization will see to it that their allotted number of delegates are elected, and that all who are interested in the work and can avail themselves of the meetings will attend and make this Ninth Convention the best that has yet been held.

We would remind the friends of the condition of the association's finances through the Westminster fire, and urge that the suggested offering be forwarded, as early and as heartily as possible.

Arrangements are being made for the usual reduced fares by both boat and train.

THE WORK OF THE LEAGUE.

An organization can claim the sympathy and patronage of the public, only when it is fulfilling its mission or answering the purpose for which it professedly exists. The Epworth League was organized to link together the Sunday School and the Church, not to supplant either. Its aim is to save the boys and girls of the Sunday School for the Church and for Christ.—Ex.

A TIMELY MESSAGE.

In view of the tendency, so marked in many of our churches, to drift towards the world, and the evident desire some of our leaders to lower the standards, we read with something of satisfaction the clear-toned message of Rev. Dr. F. E. Clark, President of the United Societies of Christian Endeavor to the members of that organization. We trust its repetition in these pages will prove of benefit to our young people.

"The last dozen years have been years of peculiar temptation to young people. The standards of many churches in regard to worldly amusements have been lowered. Many practices which a dozen years ago would have been utterly condemned, are today admitted in some Christian circles. The strain put upon many young Christians by this conformity to the world all around them has been almost unbearable, and some, alas, have yielded to it. Look this matter of worldliness squarely in the face. Decide what you ought to do as a young Christian. Do not be laughed or brow-beaten out of your convictions. Lift up your banner and stand to your colors."

THE NEW LEAGUE PAPER.

Have you seen the Epworth Era, the new organ of the Canadian Epworth League?

A bright attractive monthly of some 36 pages, crammed full of information for all League workers. Every Leaguer should have it, and it will be read with interest by all Christian workers.

Subscription price 50c per annum. Address Rev. A. C. Crews, Wesley Buildings, Toronto, Ont.

The International Convention of Epworth Leaguers is to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana in July next. Will we send a delegate from here?

Our Sunday Schools.

A very successful Home Department has been organized in connection with the Metropolitan Church with Mrs. Siddall as the energetic conductor.

The annual Easter Re-union of the Methodist Sunday Schools of Victoria was held in the Metropolitan Church on Sunday afternoon, April 2nd. Mr. Noah Shakespeare presided. The music was conducted by Mr. Parfitt and the united orchestras of the various schools.

Our Women's Missionary.

B. C. Conference Branch.

The eighth annual meeting will be held in Homer Street Church, Vancouver, beginning Tuesday afternoon, May 9th, and closing on the following Thursday.

These meetings have always resulted in an increased interest in the cause of missions, and it is desirable that as many of our ladies as possible should attend. Provision will be made as usual for bonafide delegates.

ALICE A. BETTS, President.

M. A. CUNNINGHAM, Sec. of Programme Committee.

Legends and Traditions.

One of our Missionaries, Mrs. E. Nicholas, furnishes the following concerning the Bella Coola Indians:

Standing in the centre of the village is a rude image of a man upon a slab of rock, surmounted by an eagle, their tribal crest. We asked them what it meant, and they told us the old story of the flood, varied somewhat, it is true, but strikingly like the Bible narration.

Ages ago the people were all wicked and were at constant war with one another. The Great Spirit (De-man-te-klook Die-shtal-dum-to) was grieved with them and determined to destroy them. There remained but one good man, Smow-De-yed-Da-Miltie, to whom the Great Spirit confided his purpose, which was to send a great water to cover all the earth and drown the wicked. Smow-De-yed-Da-Miltie was instructed to save himself and family in a huge canoe, which, after floating around a long time lighted on a mountain right beside Bella Coola, and from him their tribe descended.

The image was that of their Noah and the slab of stone from this very mountain was raised to keep their children and their children's children in remembrance of the deliverance granted to their forefather.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA CONFERENCE.

PROGRAMME.

The thirteenth annual Conference will convene in Wallace Street Church, Nanaimo, on Thursday, May 11th, at 9.30 a.m.

Preparatory Meetings.

The Stationing Committee will meet on Tuesday, May 9th, at 9.30 a.m.

The Ministerial Session will open on Wednesday, May 10th, at 9.30 a.m.

Devotional and Anniversary Meetings.

Devotional meeting on Wednesday and each succeeding day of the Conference from 8.30 to 9.30 a.m., under the direction of Rev. Charles Ladner.

Wednesday, 8 p.m.—Temperance meeting. Addresses by Rev. S. J. Thompson, a lay delegate, and Rev. W. H. Pierce.

Thursday, 9.30 to 10.30 a.m.—Conference Prayer Meeting, to be followed by organization of Conference and election of officers.

Thursday, 8 p.m.—Missionary Meeting. Addresses by Rev. R. W. Powell, a lay delegate, and Rev. A. Sutherland, D.D., General Secretary of Missions.

Friday, 8 p.m.—Reception Service. Addresses by Revs. J. H. White and R. Whittington, M.A., B.Sc.

Saturday, 3 p.m.—Meeting of Theological Union. Lecture by Rev. J. C. Speer on "Christian Science and Kindred Questions."

Monday, 8 p.m.—Educational meeting. Addresses by Rev. J. P. Hicks, a lay delegate, and Rev. J. W. Sipprell, B.A., B.D., Principal of C. M. College.

Tuesday, 8 p.m.—Sabbath School and Epworth League meetings. Addresses by Revs. A. Stoney, T. Neville and Jas. Calvert.

Sabbath Services.

Wallace Street Church, 9.30 a.m.—Conference Love Feast, to be led by Rev. Ebenezer Robson. 11 a.m.—Official sermon by the retiring President. 2.30 p.m.—Sabbath School: Addresses by Rev. J. W. Winslow and W. D. Misener. 7 p.m.—Rev. Dr. Sutherland, General Secretary of Missions, to be followed by the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, under the direction of the President of Conference.

Haliburton Street Church, 11 a.m.—Addresses by Revs. John Robson, B.A., and A. K. Sharpe. 7 p.m.—Rev. S. S. Osterhout, Japanese Mission; Rev. Goro Kaburagi, B.Sc., Chinese Mission; Rev. Chan Sing Kai, Indian Mission; Revs. T. Crosby, C. M. Tate, and W. H. Pierce.

J. F. BETTS, Pres. of Conference,
J. P. BOWELL, Sec.

What Our Friends Say.

"I am in full sympathy with the proposition to publish a paper such as you propose, in the interests of our work in the Province of British Columbia, and shall do what I can to assist in making it a success. I have for several years felt the need of such a medium of inter-communication in our work, and it seems to me the time is fully ripe for launching the enterprise."

J. F. BETTS, President of Conference.

"I wish the paper great success and I hope you will have subscribers for the full edition."

J. C. SPEER, Victoria.

"Such a paper is very much needed, and none are more likely to make it a success than the Methodists."

E. ROBSON, Vernon.

"I think the idea is a good one, and I have no doubt Kootenay District will do all in its power to make it a success."

JAMES A. WOOD, Chairman of Kootenay District, Kaslo.

"I should think a good paper could be maintained in this Province, looking primarily to religious topics....I wish you every success in the enterprise."

JOHN ROBSON, Nelson.

"Your idea re a monthly journal is a good one. I wish it success, and will subscribe for it."

C. LADNER, Chairman of Kamloops District.

Personals.

Rev. E. E. Scott, of St. Paul's, Toronto, has been invited to succeed Dr. Eby, and has accepted.

Rev. G. Kaburagi, who has been seriously ill and was some weeks in the hospital, is now progressing favorably.

Revs. T. W. Hall, of Nanaimo; C. H. M. Sutherland, of Wellington, and Wm. Hicks, of Cumberland, have so far secured the affections of their various charges, as to receive unanimous invitations back for a fourth year.

Mrs. (Rev.) W. L. Hall, of Enderby, delivered a lecture at Armstrong on the 10th ultimo, her subject being "Odd People." It was greatly enjoyed by those who attended.—Ex.

Rev. W. J. Sipprell, B.A., B.D., lectured a short time ago in Chilliwack on "The Worth of a Man." The Progress remarks that "it was highly appreciated."

Rev. J. C. Speer, of the Metropolitan, Victoria, is away for a much-needed rest, on a visit to his brother in Alabama. We are pleased to be able to present a racy report of the first part of his trip in this number of the Recorder.

Rev. Dr. C. S. Eby expects to relinquish his charge at Vancouver about the first of May and take a month's vacation before going East. The Dr. is much beloved by his people, and has exerted a wide influence for good, both in the city and Province during his stay amongst us. We wish him God speed.

Rev. J. W. Winslow was called to his old home (in Dunnville, Ontario,) last month to bid farewell to his beloved mother. We extend our sympathy to our brother in his bereavement.

On the 2d of April the Rev. R. Whittington, M.A., of Princess Street, read a paper before the Ministerial Association on "Love and Duty; it was of a very high order and greatly appreciated by all the brethren.

Capt. John Shwalas, our beloved and faithful native assistant on the Indian Tribes' Mission, Chilliwack, has been sick the greater part of the winter. We hope soon to hear of his recovery. He has been a valued helper ever since the organization of the Mission.

Rev. Thomas Crosby arrived home by steamer Kingston on April 5th. He has been busily occupied all fall and winter under the direction of the Missionary Society, preaching and speaking, with great success, in the Maritime Provinces, Quebec and Ontario, on behalf of Missions.

The COQUALEETZA INSTITUTE, under the able management of Rev. Jos. Hall is in a most flourishing condition, and is a credit to Methodism. With over 100 pupils in attendance order and discipline are preserved, trades are taught to all by competent instructors, a good English education is given and men and women are sent out into life with conceptions of life and aspirations for higher things that many in our other colleges might do well to aspire to. We trust all will be done to sustain this most important and desired work.

SPENCER'S.

A Few Items of Information...

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Twenty-two thousand, seven hundred and seventy (22,770) square feet of selling space, 26 different departments, among which are Silks, Dress Goods, Linens, Cottons, Ladies and Children's Muslin Underwear, Baby Linen, Shirt Waists and Blouses, Trimmed Hats and Bonnets, Jackets and Costumes, Boots and Shoes, Carpets, Curtains, Boys' Clothing, Men's Outfitting, Hosiery, Wool and Merino Underwear, Gloves, Laces, Ribbons and small wares, all of which can easily and profitably be ordered by mail.

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Church News.

Victoria District.

METROPOLITAN, VICTORIA.—
Rev. J. C. Speer, Pastor.

Another year of successful labor in this, the Mother Church of all B.C. Methodism, is drawing to a close.

Difficulties there have been, but these have been overcome by the united efforts of a zealous Pastor and a loyal people.

The Epworth League, under the direction of Mr. E. Whittington, and the Sunday School under the superintendency of Mr. Weeks are both in a most prosperous condition.

The celebration of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of Methodism in this city and the Province, which was held in February last, was richly enjoyed by all who participated in it. The pioneers, revered and beloved, seemed to renew their youth, whilst revelling in the memories of the past.

The four days' convention for the deepening of Spiritual Life, which marked the last of that month was a season of great refreshing and the general tone of the life of our people in all the churches has been raised. The Pastor's arduous toil has told upon him, and, by the arrangement of the Board, he is now away for a much-needed rest.

Prescriptions and Family Recipes a specialty at F. W. Fawcett & Co., 49 Government street.

CENTENNIAL, VICTORIA.—
Rev. W. H. Barraclough, B.A., Pastor.

The work on this charge has moved on quietly and yet with a fair amount of success. The congregations and finances are slightly on the increase. The faithfulness of the local preachers, in the various mission enterprises of the church is to be commended. No pastor ever had a more faithful band of supporters.

Some souls have been saved, and in Sunday School, Ladies' Aid and indeed all the organizations of the church we can see progress.

A fine line of hair, nail, tooth and cloth brushes at F. W. Fawcett & Co., 49 Government street.

VICTORIA WEST.—Rev. J. D. P. Knox, Pastor.

Most faithful and energetic are the workers associated with this church. The year has been a most successful one. The debt on the church has been materially reduced, with the likelihood of its being wiped out in another year.

The finances are all in a flourishing condition.

The anniversary services were held on Sunday, April 9th, and following Monday evening. Rev. C. H. M. Sutherland, of Wellington, preached both morning and evening to large congregations. His sermons were greatly appreciated.

Remember our motto: Quality first and always, F. W. Fawcett & Co., 49 Government street.

VICTORIA—James Bay.—Rev. G. F. Swinnerton, B.A., Pastor.

The Illustrated Sunday evening sermons of the Pastor have been very successful, the congregations filling the church. The stereopticon views of the Life of Christ were very fine and created very much interest.

One of the most energetic Leagues in the city meets in this church from week to week. A night-school under the League's auspices, has been started, with every promise of success.

By the vote of the congregation a request will be presented to Conference to make this charge independent of the Metropolitan.

Every attention will be given to your orders, no matter how small, at the new drug store, F. W. Fawcett & Co., 49 Government street.

NANAIMO—Wallace Street.—Rev. T. W. Hall, Pastor.

As the Conference year draws to a close we are thankful to report progress on our different lines of works. Floating debts, together with a heavy mortgage, have depressed the spirits, and discouraged the souls of the Quarterly and Trust Boards, but by special effort which culminated last November at the time of our anniversary, we raised over \$1,200, thus wiping off a number of old scores, and leaving us practically free to battle with the mortgage which is still heavy, being \$8,000.

With commendable zeal the Ladies' Aid are undertaking renovating the inside of the church, and having it ready for Conference, which meets here May 10th. We hope also to have the outside repainted by that time. In the midst of all the anxiety incident to

struggle against church debt we are pleased to note that the spiritual interests of the church have not been neglected. Faithful prayer on the part of many has been going up to God daily for the salvation of the unsaved.

Prayer has been answered, and God's presence has been with us to save and sanctify. Our Sunday School and Epworth League are doing good work. Prayer meetings are good, and public services are very much enjoyed.

D. J. SHANAHAN is now established in Nanaimo, and is prepared to do first-class tailoring at most reasonable rates.

NANAIMO, HALIBURTON ST.—Rev. G. H. Osborne, Pastor, writes:

We have here a property worth \$3,000; a membership of sixty-five, with a Sunday School of 200 scholars; a morning congregation of about seventy-five and evening between 200 and 250. We have cleared off all debt, and are now raising money to decorate the church, and to purchase a library for the Sunday School. During the winter we have had special services, at which many of our members received a great blessing, and souls were won for Jesus. We have a warm-hearted, earnest people, who abound in the work of the Lord.

WELLINGTON.—Rev. C. H. M. Sutherland, Pastor.

The church has lost some valuable members by removals, but the Missionary and other contribution are well in advance.

A Missionary Prayer Meeting is held once a month, with good results.

COWICHAN AND SALT SPRING ISLAND.—Rev. A. Stoney and D. Scott, Pastors.

The work in this field is somewhat toilsome, but the brethren have had cause to rejoice in God's blessing upon their work.

New pews have been placed in the Mill Bay Church, and a new shed has been raised at Duncan's.

Our brethren travel over the field by different conveyances—horse and buggy, bicycle and boat, and many are the adventures that could be related. A short time ago Bro. Stoney marvelously escaped while his horse and buggy were overturned. The friends kindly contributed to a new outfit and our brother goes on his way rejoicing.

Rev. Chan Sing Kai is away on a visit to his parents in China. His work is being supplied by Rev. Mr. Hall (Chinese).

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SIDNEY.—Rev. J. W. Winslow, Pastor.

Not forgetting the kindnesses of our people on the last Mission (Cowichan and Salt Spring Island), we have found the people of Saanich not behind in thoughtful kindnesses to us, and have been pleased to see a good deal of united energy manifested in raising money for various funds. Nearly a dozen special entertainments have been held on the Mission, reducing Sidney Church debt \$100, paying parsonage rent, superannuation fund and a respectable amount to the College.

The spiritual interests have been somewhat advanced, we are glad to say, also, having had brief special services at each appointment, with assistance from some of the brethren.

Vancouver District.

VANCOUVER CITY.—Homer St., Rev. C. E. Eby, D.D., Pastor.

Homer Street has large congregations and is the centre for aggressive work. Dr. C. S. Eby who has so faithfully preached here for three years will leave about the first of May for Toronto, followed by the good wishes and prayers of many faithful souls.

The Homer street congregation responded heartily to the appeal on behalf of St. James Church, Montreal, contributing \$250.

Look out for the musical concert to be given shortly by the choir of the Homer Street Church, under the able leadership of Dr. Richardson.

Princess Street, Rev. R. Whittington, M.A., Pastor.

Originally, the Homer St. and Princess Street congregations worshipped together in the old Water Street Church. In 1888, however, a division of the Water Street property was made, and the East End part of the church began their separate existence. The services were held in the police court-room of the old City Hall. Rev. E. Robson was at that time pastor of both congregations and after the division was assisted in his duties by Mr. Hicks, a local preacher.

Matters continued in this state until the following year, 1889, when Conference appointed the Rev. J. H. Betts to Princess street. The Water street part of the property was sold for about \$2,000, the present site on Princess street was secured and building operations began. I should say that at this time the Princess Street Circuit included Mount Pleasant. Under the sedulous care of Bro. Betts the Circuit made rapid progress and in about two years the Mount Pleasant part of the Circuit felt strong enough to become an independent Circuit. It accordingly began its separate existence under the pastorate of Rev. Joseph Hall in 1891. During Bro. Betts' term of four years at Princess Street the parsonage, one of the best in the Province, was also built.

Rev. W. W. Baer succeeded Bro. Betts in 1893. During his incumbency Princess Street suffered in common with other churches from the hard times.

In 1897 Rev. R. Whittington suc-

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ceeded Bro. Baer. Returning prosperity, deepening spiritual life and church expansion are the characteristic features of Princess Street Methodist Church at present.

The Sunday School is too large for its present accommodation, and the congregation, together with the official boards, have unanimously voted for a scheme of Church and Sunday School room, very handsome, thoroughly modern and up-to-date in every respect. Preliminary to this the present debt is being raised.

Princess Street Methodism has its future in its own hands, and if thoroughly loyal to its high calling, can become a tower of strength for the work of the Lord in this rising city.

MOUNT PLEASANT.—Rev. A. E. Green, Pastor.

The anniversary services on Easter Sunday in connection with the Mount Pleasant Church were very successful. The Rev. J. H. White, of Chilliwack, preached twice and addressed the Sabbath School in the afternoon.

The Church is in a healthy state; the members are seeking to win souls by cottage meetings and mission work. Many were greatly refreshed at the special services conducted by the Pastor and some souls were saved.

On the evening of Good Friday the choir of the Mount Pleasant Church, assisted by many musical friends, gave an excellent rendering of the famous oratorio, "The Prodigal Son," in the City Hall.

The Japanese work, especially in Vancouver City has made much progress during the year. In February six were baptized on profession of faith in Christ.

The Missionary meeting in connection with the Chinese Mission was held the other Sabbath evening—the native Christians subscribing seventy-six dollars for Missions.

The Sunday Schools and Lownorth Leagues of all the Churches are doing earnest and successful work.

RICHMOND.—Rev. A. N. Miller, Pastor.

Our anniversary services in the fall were very successful. Rev. W. J. Sipprell, B.A., B.D., preached for us two excellent sermons. The people were asked to contribute \$200 towards the debt on the church and they responded by giving \$220 on Sabbath, besides about \$50 at the anniversary tea.

Our Missionary services were held by a former Pastor, Rev. A. E. Green. Our people are more liberal supporters of the Missionary cause than the average congregation of equal means. When all is in, we expect the amount will more than equal the Missionary grant for this year.

We have also an Auxiliary of the W.M.S., which is doing good work. It held an "At Home" in the Parsonage on the evening of the March 31st, which was very successful.

Our Sabbath congregations are increasing, and we believe the interest is evidence of the Master's presence and power. Some have started anew in the Master's service and others we trust have been strengthened.

AGASSIZ has suffered much during the winter from sickness and death, but still a few members have been received and the prospects are bright. Bro. W. G. Mahon, of C. M. College, has supplied since August last.

HOWE SOUND.—A Sunday School has been established here and services have been conducted several times each month by Bro. W. G. Mahon. The people are deeply interested and desire to assist in the work.

MAPLE RIDGE.—Rev. A. K. Sharpe, Pastor.

Diligent and faithful work has been done on this old field during the year. Special meetings were held at Maple Ridge appointment during February, but the weather being unfavorable, the attendance was consequently small and the desired results did not accompany the effort.

A special meeting of the Quarterly Board is called for April 6th, when the Chairman of the District, Rev. A. E. Green will consult with the brethren in regard to this field and the possibility of doing something to strengthen the work of God and Methodism in this part of His vineyard.

Westminster District.

NEW WESTMINSTER, CENTRAL.—Rev. J. F. Betts, Pastor.

The most prominent feature of our work in New Westminster Central Methodist Church at present is work. The calamity which befell us in September last is one which is not very easily thrown off. The difficult problem we have to solve is how to make adequate provision for our work with inadequate means, and the the same time do unto all men as we would that they should do unto us. We appeal to our friends to cut the Gordian knot by coming to our aid with sufficient funds to enable us to get our church and school-room built. This will leave us to build our parsonage, provide organs, furnishing, etc., for all three buildings, which will sufficiently tax our resources. Our congregations are keeping up well and our contributions to connexional funds will still demonstrate the generosity of our people. We hope to be able to begin work upon our church by the first of May, perhaps a little earlier.

Our city is rising from its ashes, and will soon look substantial and business-like again, but it will be a long while before our energetic citizens will be entirely free from the evil effects of the great conflagration of September 10th last.

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WESTMINSTER, WEST END.—Rev. J. P. Howell, Pastor.

The work here has prospered during the year, the congregations both at West End and Sapperton having largely increased. The Sunday Schools are in a flourishing condition, with an average attendance of fifty-five at Sapperton and over 100 at West End.

Though not losing their church, many of the members and adherents lost heavily in the "great fire." But all have loyally stood by the work and the estimated finances are practically met.

CHILLIWACK.—Rev. J. H. White, Pastor.

Just an item or two for The Recorder from Chilliwack, old and reliable; the only self-sustaining country circuit in B.C. Methodism. The past three years have been quiet and uneventful, but two things stand out in the mind of the writer, at least, as being worthy of note. The first is the long but successful battle that as been fought against the granting of a liquor license in this community. In this struggle with evil, Methodists have taken an active part. The second is the uniting of Sardis and Camp-Ground appointments, and the building, free of debt, of the beautiful Carmen Church. No people ever worked more harmoniously or gave more generously, and the result would gladden any pastor's heart. During the present term our trio of "Grand Old Men" has been disbanded to be united again beyond the vale of mortality. A little over a year ago Father Vedder fell asleep in his chair after his afternoon devotions and his spirit passed to glory "without a lin-

gering groan." Only a few weeks ago Father Munro passed away after weary months of pain, his dying face touched with the light of heaven. Both had rounded out ninety years of pilgrimage.

"Oh may we triumph so,
When all our warfare's past."
Father Gillanders remains, feeble in body but strong in spirit. May his pathway brighten to the perfect day. The most encouraging feature of our work at the writing is the extraordinary success of our Sunday Schools.

Chilliwack, under Supt. G. Marshall, and Carman, under Supt. S. Knight, are both enjoying a season of unusual prosperity. Our people are hopeful and are hopefully forward and upward.

CHEAM.—Rev. C. W. Nelson, Pastor.

The work here is in a much more prosperous condition owing to the faithful and fearless work done by the Pastor. The Missionary offerings will double those of last year. At the last meeting of the Quarterly Official Board an unanimous invitation was extended to Bro Nelson to return a second year.

CHILLIWACK, Indian Tribes.—Rev. C. M. Tate, Pastor, writes:

We have had quite a revival—in a way—this winter. Nothing great in the way of conversions, but the people have rallied, and we have had large congregations. The class meetings are well attended, which is a good sign.

The missionary contributions will reach nearly the \$200 figure and we expect to be able to raise \$150 for circuit purposes. We have put a new platform in front of the Skowkale Church.

Kamloops District.

KAMLOOPS—Rev. C. Ladner, Pastor.

On the Kamloops Circuit, the head of the Church continues to favor the efforts made for the promotion of the Kingdom of Our Lord. The services have been well attended, and during our special services, the Holy Spirit was graciously present, leading the membership of the Church to seek for the baptism with the Holy Ghost, and in the convicting and converting of some precious souls.

We have lost ten of our members and adherents by removal to other parts of the Province, some of whom were earnest workers in the church.

In the financial department of the work, our few people here have done what they could. The exterior of both church and parsonage received two good coats of paint. Debt reduced, with an earnest effort to remove the whole by the 30th of December next. And our missionary money is considerably in advance of last year. The reports from the district as a whole are encouraging. There has been an advance all along the line in contributions to the Missionary Fund; two parsonages built; debts on several churches reduced, and conversions on several fields, especially at Revelstoke and Salmon Arm.

To God alone be all the praise.

VERNON.—Rev. E. Robson, Pastor.

As the days lengthen and grow warm, we begin to think of Conference, etc.

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Vernon. The general health of our people has been good. The religious services have been fairly well attended, including three weeks of special work, in which we were greatly aided by Rev. R. Boyle (Presbyterian), of Kelowna, and Mrs. (Rev.) W. L. Hall, of End-erby.

The Epworth League has had a course of monthly lectures throughout the winter, given by the Pastor and others; collections in aid of Columbian College.

Our church has been beautifully lighted by acetylene gas this winter.

A special song service was held Easter evening. Our missionary offerings will run 15 per cent. ahead of last year.

REVELSTOKE—Rev. S. J. Thompson, Pastor.

Revelstoke Methodism began under the ministry of that noble brother James Turner, about eleven years ago. The field then included all the places on the C.P.R. between Salmon Arm and Donald. Bro. Turner's name and influence abides in many hearts and lonely homes all over this territory. For the past two or three years Revelstoke has been a separate field, and with its population of about 1,500 people (some, say 2,000,) has plenty of material to work on. The property is a valuable one, a fairly good church, a roomy, comfortable parsonage, and a good garden (when it is worked). During the year some good work has been done. The Epworth League is an important factor under Mr. A. Sullivan, president, and H. L. Lovering, 1st vice-president. The Sunday School is under the energetic superintendency of Mr. C. F. Lindmark, and has now about 70 to 80 in attendance. A good series of meetings, lasting 10 weeks, have just been closed, "and the Lord added to the church daily such as were being saved." Such an outpouring it has not been our privilege to witness for years. May God grant it to us all.

GOLDEN.—Rev. G. A. Cropp, Pastor.

The work here has suffered some by the removal of Donald, but the change has made it possible for the missionary to visit a number of the lumber camps in the vicinity. The membership for the year has been substantially increased and the missionary, Bro. G. A. Cropp, has thus had cause to praise God.

FAIRVIEW.—Rev. W. E. Moody, Pastor, writes:

Owing to a diminishing population,

due to the recent dull times in this mining centre, our work on the Fairview Mission has suffered considerable. Nevertheless, we are not left without manifest tokens of the Master's presence.

Several of late have been enquiring their way to Zion and the missionary's heart has been cheered by direct answers to prayer, both for the physical healing and the spiritual uplifting of God's children.

In spite of many things which would tend to discourage, we are full of hope for the future. The faithful sowing of the seed will yet be followed by a rich harvest.

Kootenay District.

ROSSLAND.—Rev. Geo. H. Morden, Pastor.

On Sunday, May 5th, 1895, Rev. J. A. Wood, then chairman of the Kamloops District, held two Methodist services in Rossland. These were the first religious services held in the camp. The following week Conference constituted Rossland a mission.

Rev. D. D. Birks took charge of the work temporarily, arriving Monday, 8th of July. Meetings were at first held in unfinished buildings, in the Allan, Windsor, Butte hotels and Rossland Club building. Efforts to secure an advantageous location on the original townsite having failed, the rights of a squatter were bought. A piece of ground near "Sour Dough Alley." Here a building, 22x58 feet was erected and opened on Sunday, August 25th.

Changes in the pastorate now follow-

ed rapidly. D. D. Birks accepted the principalship of the public schools, and was followed by Rev. J. U. Robbins, who was succeeded by Rev. Thos. Gee, who was shortly superceded by Rev. A. J. Gabel.

Conference of 1896 constituted South Kootenay a separate district, Rev. Chas. Ladner being sent to Rossland as chairman. A small house was purchased and enlarged as a parsonage.

In February, 1897, the present lots, (a portion of which was covered by the original site) were secured. The building was swung around to face Washington street, an addition of the same proportion as the original was added, and the reading room constructed. At the same time the old parsonage was sold and the present parsonage was built. After a faithful and successful pastorate of two years, Rev. Ladner was succeeded by the present pastor, Rev. Geo. H. Morden.

The reaction following the boom greatly affected the congregation and the membership, but of late a steady growth has been experienced, by means of which both are rapidly recovering. Financial problems have been somewhat difficult of solution, but conditions are much improved, and a little additional effort will place the cause upon a thoroughly sound and satisfactory financial basis. All departments of the work are well abreast, and are manned by willing and efficient workers, whose ranks are being continually augmented by welcome additions. Methodism has a large constituency in Rossland, and with proper management and enterprise, a large, strong and useful cause will be established.—Rossland Miner.

NELSON.—Rev. John Robson, B.A., Pastor.

This field became self-sustaining last Conference, and is striving now to get on a good financial footing. As in all growing cities, the cost of development so as to accommodate the increasing demands, has taxed the resources of the congregation to the full during the year. The sickness of the pastor for some months, was a great drawback, but now that health has returned, we look for progress.

The trustees have purchased an additional lot adjoining the church property, and erected a pretty and comfortable parsonage; while the Ladies' Aid have undertaken the renovation of the church interior at a cost of \$500. The present chairs will be discarded and pews introduced, which will increase the seating capacity to 275 instead of

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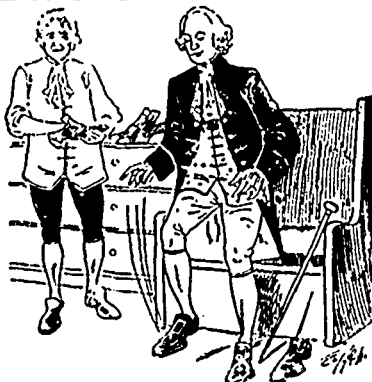
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200 as at present. Almost every Sunday evening the church is full now, so we wish to accommodate more.

The Epworth League is doing good work in every line, average attendance 35, and a reading circle of eighteen members. Everyone is interested in the work of the Master.

KASLO.—Rev. James A. Wood, Pastor, writes:

Owing to the low price of silver, etc., Kaslo is passing through a time of depression, which makes any kind of work, but especially church work, very trying. But we put our shoulders to the wheel, sought to exercise greater faith and worked all the harder. Faith in God and hard work will tell sooner or later.

As soon as we arrived here we found it was necessary to improve, and enlarge the parsonage, which was done, at a cost of \$600, and now we have a very comfortable and convenient home. We had to borrow money for furnishing, but by the energetic efforts of our Ladies' Aid the last dollar of that will be paid off before Conference.

The contributions for connexional funds will be greatly in advance of last year. Our class meeting and prayer meetings are doing well and the spiritual life of the church is being deepened. Our Sunday school, under the able leadership of Bro. W. J. Green is larger and better than at any time since it was organized.

TRAIL.—Rev. J. Calvert, Pastor.

The Trustees have paid the interest and part of the principal, borrowed on first mortgage, from Church and Parsonage Aid Fund.

The debt on church property here is small, and well within the ability of the

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congregation to handle, as per conditions of loan.

Though fully 40 per cent. of the population of Trail have moved away, the congregation is quite up to the average in numbers.

Last Sunday, March 26th, forty-five were present in Sunday School and 500 verses were memorized and repeated.

YMIR.—Rev. James Hicks, Pastor, writes:

We are now in our quiet time: just before the disappearance of snow and the arrival of spring.

Sunday services are encouraging on the whole, though the size of our congregation is variable.

Several of our people left town during the year and very few members now remain. Nevertheless, at a congregational meeting held last night to lay plans for next year, a spirit of faith prevailed. The Ladies' Aid is now our "stronghold" financially. Several socials have been held by them with good results. A birthday party on the 8th ultimo netted about \$30. We pray for soul-converting power.

City Mission services have been conducted all fall and winter under the auspices of the Centennial Local Preachers' meeting. The work has many encouraging features, and the workers are praying for a larger development of the work.

We regret that distance has prevented our receiving reports from many of our Indian, etc., mission fields, and that lack of space forbids our making reference to distant parts of the work.

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I was a sufferer from Indigestion for several years and nothing gave me any relief. A friend recommended me to try Radam's Microbe Killer, which I did, getting immediate relief. I find also that its curative powers for burns, scalds, cuts, etc., are truly wonderful, in fact I consider no home complete without a bottle of Microbe Killer.—A. ALLNUT.

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