

1944 From bound volume, "The Acts and Proceedings of the Seventieth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada." Held in Toronto, Ont., June 7-15, 1944

"The General Board of Missions, Home and Foreign"

Section "Home Mission Reports"; Sub-section "Work Among Non-English-Speaking Groups, Chinese Work in Canada."

Photo-copied p. 15-17. Report submitted by David A Smith. [Section about Mrs. Adams' retirement and higher status of Chinese in Canada]

givings of last year, while 32 raised or went over their Budget allocation. Add to this also the contributions of the Foundation Fund, and the excellent response to the Orphaned Missions, as well as the India and China relief, and it shows a very marked increase. Moreover, many congregations, for the first time, at the request of the General Assembly, are now contributing to the Pension Fund. All told it shows that a real missionary spirit still indwells the Church.

Let us mention here one or two matters that are of special interest:—

Nanaimo paid off \$2,000 Church debt; Vernon paid \$1,000 off its last year loan; while Salmon Arm paid back \$200 of \$400 loaned.

Church and Manse repairs were made at Kimberley, Nelson, Richmond, and New Denver; four Churches, too, were painted, Nelson, Mt. Lehman, Armstrong, and Bradner; while the Church at White Rock has just been bought. All this shows increased interest.

Two Young Women's Guilds were organized at Trail and Penticton. Such groups, made up mostly of young married women, are surely a step in the right direction.

A word should be said here about the Managing Board at Trail, the members of which Board, not only, by turns, tended the Church furnace and did all the janitor work, but also, last summer, made excursions into the woods, and together, cut the full complement of winter fuel.

Again, in the Slocan Valley, there are some 10,000 Japanese evacuees. Our Missionary in that area, who has a special interest in the evangelization of the Japanese, has, in addition to the regular Mission Field work, visited and encouraged the Japanese to attend Sunday School, and Church, at New Denver and Slocan City, and has conducted mixed Y.P.S., and Prayer groups and classes. This side of our work is being specially encouraged by our congregations there. During my own visit to the Japanese Hospital in the locality, I met a young Presbyterian Japanese preacher, a patient, who knew well our missionaries and work among the Koreans in Japan. This young man, detained in Canada by the outbreak of the Pacific war, preaches to the Japanese patients at the Hospital every Sunday night.

We have now three Deaconesses in the Synod; Miss Isabel Scott in Victoria, Miss Chrissie Diffin in Westminster, and Miss Ruth Heighton in Kamloops Presbyteries. All are rendering fine service. These three Presbyteries are asking that their services be continued. Much needed visiting, and other Deaconess work, is being done. Miss Heighton is now working at Penticton; Miss Diffin at North Vancouver. Half of Miss Scott's time is given to, and paid for, by St. Andrew's Church, Victoria.

Good work continues to be done at the Esquimalt Services' Home, Victoria, under Miss Ruby Blyth. This work, which is carried on under Presbytery, is primarily a War Service. It especially cares for young lads in the Naval Services who find, as they say, "a home away from home", and where they can rest, read, or write, or spend a day or two leave. The Church pays the salary of Miss Blyth. 6,000 beds were made during the year, and 3,922 Sunday morning breakfasts served. This is the only meal served. The Home also works with the wives and children of naval ratings. There are week-day groups held, and a Sunday School contact is also kept, as far as can be, with these lads as they move to sea, as well as with many of their parents and families, who are so grateful for the care given and the kindness extended.

A word should be given here regarding the opening of the Community House and Nursery School in the needy west end of Vancouver. This work is under Miss Evangeline Vincent, and the cost and upkeep of it is being met by the W.M.S. (W.D.). A house has now been secured on Burnaby Street. A survey recently made in this section of the city showed some 2,400 children living there with only 600 going to any Sunday School. The Children's Aid Society claims a greater intake here than in any other part of the city. This section also provides the Family Welfare with its greatest percentage of work. In the school district alone which the House is to serve, there are 900 children of whom only 106 attend any Sunday School.

These then are some items of interest that help show the progress of our work in the Synod. The Province of British Columbia facing, as it does, the vast Orient with

its possible after-war trade particularly with Russia and China, demands the Church's serious consideration. The great road to Alaska, with the possible opening of that vast northland, as well as the decision of the British Columbia Legislature to complete the highway between Prince George, and Dawson Creek, thus making the Pacific Coast a terminal from Alaska, demands too the close attention of the Church to what has been called "this vast Empire of Promise".

Let me finish with this quotation, entitled a "Vision of Canada". It applies to all our work both as a Church and State in Canada, and not the least to the Province of British Columbia:—

"One of the sad characteristics of Canada as a Nation has been the tendency to deprecate ourselves, to belittle our achievement, and to hesitate before the uncertainty of to-morrow. We need a new and more confident vision for Canada. We need men who will believe what their eyes and their hearts tell them is true—that nowhere else in the World is there the assured promise that faces Canada to-day."

This is one writer's Vision of Canada. Another, greater than he, said long ago, that "where there is no Vision the people perish, but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID A. SMITH.

Work Among Non-English-Speaking Groups

CHINESE WORK IN CANADA

"During this time of continued war and destruction, we Chinese Christians must not grow weary, but be even more enthusiastic and ready to lead others to Christ, for real Peace can only come when we know and follow Him." Such was the exhortation and prayer recently of a Canadian Chinese Christian. These are words worthy of serious thought by Christian people everywhere to-day.

In reviewing the Chinese work of the past year, we see again despite the pressure and difficulties of these warring times, many evidences of progress for which we thank God, take heart, and go forward.

1. Let us first say a word about the present Chinese population of Canada, regarding which there has been some speculation. The last census (1941) shows a Chinese population of approximately 38,000. This is a decrease of about 8,000 from the 1931 census. While recognizing this decrease, there are certain factors regarding it, in considering our work, that must be taken into account. This decrease has not affected the population in our large cities. It has tended to increase because of the war. Many of the interior towns of British Columbia show a falling off of population. Greater Vancouver, however, still has about 10,000. Again, it is mostly the older men, who came to Canada in the early days, who are dying. On the other hand, it is significant that in every Province but one (P.E.I.) there has been an increase in the female population. . . . native born Chinese. This, naturally, has resulted in more Chinese marriages, and so more home life, and consequently a steadily increasing birth rate. Moreover, there are, because of war conditions, over 800 Chinese in China who may legally return to Canada when transportation offers. It is also worthy of notice that the U.S.A. Chinese Exclusion Act has just been repealed. Canada may follow this lead. It is being seriously considered. This would allow, as in the U.S.A. a certain quota to enter the country.

2. Several changes took place during the year in the working staff of the Mission. Rev. K. H. Yeung's appointment to Toronto has now been made permanent. He served 23 years in Vancouver. In September we were fortunate in securing the services of Rev. Y. N. Kwan to take his place. For the last seven years he was in charge of the Chinese Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles. During the vacancy in Vancouver Mr. F. Y. Louie, our Chinese teacher there, took charge of the preaching service. Owing

to the resignation of Miss Pansy Yeung, in Toronto, (now doing post-graduate studies) Miss Ruth Ma, daughter of Rev. Ma-Wou, our late Toronto minister, has been appointed a half-time worker among the women and children. During the year, also, Mrs. W. F. Adams, who has been in charge of Anglo-Chinese women's work in Toronto, resigned. She proved herself a faithful and devoted helper to the many white women married to Chinese.

Altogether we have 16 workers in the field, nine of whom are Chinese. We would here pay tribute to the many faithful voluntary workers across the country, without whose self-sacrificing and loyal interest we could not so successfully meet the needs of our widespread work. With the passing of Rev. A. B. Winchester, D.D., Pastor Emeritus of Knox Church, Toronto, we have lost a life-long friend of the Chinese in Canada. Dr. Winchester was for ten years in charge of Chinese work at the Pacific Coast. His continued and gracious interest in our work did much to further it.

3. There are a number of interesting items connected with our work which we feel should be mentioned.

(a) This year the Victoria Chinese Congregation will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Rev. M. F. Leung's ordination. My own first official act, after appointment as Superintendent, was to address Mr. Leung on behalf of the Presbytery of Victoria. Mr. Leung has been in charge of our Victoria Mission Church for 33 years. He has seen many changes in the work. It is a good record.

(b) In August the Vancouver Chinese Congregation was honoured by a visit from our late Mission Board Convener, Dr. A. M. Hill, and Mrs. Hill. The members fittingly entertained them at a fine Chinese banquet. In so doing, the Chinese were not only anxious to honour their guests, but to show their gratitude to the Mission Board and the Church for what has been done for all the Chinese in Canada.

(c) The Ottawa Chinese Mission has just celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the first Chinese S.S. class there. In 1921 the present interdenominational Mission was formed. Since then services and classes have been held, and fine work done. We have a part in this work. Mrs. G. P. Louie, our Montreal Chinese woman worker, visits once a month the women and children there. We have in Ottawa, because of war work, and the number of young Chinese men and women now engaged in Civil Service, one of the finest Christian young people's groups in the country. These young people have come from all parts of Canada, and are the product of our Canadian-wide Mission work.

(d) One of the most outstanding and beneficial changes affecting especially the young Chinese men and women in Canada, has come about because of the war. Prior to the outbreak of war it was never easy for Canadian-born Chinese to enter into the business and work life of Canada. Now, however, we find them in all departments of our National enterprise, including the three armed Services—several having obtained Commissions. We find Chinese in shipyards, factories, offices, and in every branch of the Civil Service. They are now even teaching in Universities and Public Schools. This is a most welcome change of attitude, and helps Christian church contacts tremendously, to say nothing of helping to solve the question of these young people and full Canadian citizenship, which, in some quarters, is giving concern. As the Hon. Li-Chao, Chinese Consul-General in Vancouver recently stated, "It is the hope of our people to attain equality. I see no reason why Canadian-born Chinese should not have their rights as citizens. As citizens they contribute their part. At the same time with obligations go rights." It may be because of the recent raising of our Canadian Minister to China to the rank of Ambassador, and because of the honoured visit to our nation's Capital last year of Madame Chiang Kai-Shek, that a new and happier alignment, other than merely military, may result. Out of this we hope will come great things for Christ and His Church.

4. Coming more particularly to the intimate concerns of our mission-church centres, there are several indications of progress in our work.

(a) The Chinese Christians in Montreal have now been organized into a congregation of our Church. A Communion Roll of 31 names has been formed, and the con-

gregation is soon to proceed to the election of Chinese elders. An Assessor Session has been appointed by Presbytery. All departments of the work are being gradually organized, there being now two Y.P.S. groups, a W.M.S. and Guild, while a new Bible Class and a Cradle Roll have just been instituted.

(b) The work among the children still holds a premier place in all centres because so many of the children attending kindergartens, Chinese schools and Sunday School classes, come from non-Christian homes. These children give us entrance. This makes our home visitation very important, for we not only keep in touch with the children, but also win the confidence of the parents for Christ and the Church. Visitation of the homes naturally leads us into many by-paths of Christian service, such as Public Health, Social Service, home Bible-teaching in both English and Chinese, and a multitude of advice-givings. Everything is done to bring the Message of Jesus Christ to them, and so lay the foundations of Christian living.

There were no fewer than 65 children enrolled in the Vancouver Kindergarten last year. This best illustrates the great difference in population from other Chinese centres. In our four Sunday Schools there were 280 scholars, with 80 on the Cradle Rolls. There were 131 in the kindergartens; 120 children attended the Vacation Bible Schools. In addition, Toronto had a Summer Camp at Grimsby Beach with 27 mothers and children present.

In the various Missions there were 10 adults and 6 children baptized. In addition to the 4 Chinese ministers, we have 11 elders and 25 to 30 Sunday School Chinese teachers. All the superintendents are now Chinese. This is quite a change from not so many years ago, and indicative of the new Church spirit.

(c) A word should be inserted here about the splendid way the Chinese have again contributed, not only toward the running expenses of the local work, but also to the Budget of the Church. All Missions contributed to the Church and W.M.S. Budgets. Montreal gave to the Budget \$62.00 and to the W.M.S. \$24.00; Toronto, to the Budget \$77.00 and to the W.M.S. \$67.00; Vancouver, to the Budget \$208.00, and to the W.M.S. \$80.00, while Victoria gave to the Budget \$284.00 and to the W.M.S. \$71.00. This is a total of \$873.00. If we add to this what (we know) was given to the Foundation Fund, \$204.00, the total becomes \$1,077.00 for the year. The Vancouver Y.P.S. contributed \$25.00 to the Foundation Fund, while the parents of the Vancouver Kindergarten children donated \$100.00 to the Church. When we still further add to this total, particularly in Victoria and Vancouver, the current upkeep and repair costs contributed, we have reason, surely, to be glad for this growing interest and acceptance of responsibility. In this connection it is of special note that the Victoria congregation is this year, for the first time, assuming responsibility for \$200.00 of the minister's stipend.

(d) In addition to the regular church work, much interest, as always, has been shown in Red Cross and China Relief. The Chinese ladies of Montreal raised \$700.00 for medical supplies and relief in China, while the Toronto ladies raised \$720.00. Other Chinese centres have sent their gifts in varying amounts. The Victoria congregation sent also \$14.00 to the London bombed areas. We would acknowledge here, too, the gift of \$500.00 given by the W.M.S. (W.D.) for relief work in China. This gift is assuredly appreciated by the Chinese.

5. In summing up our Chinese work in Canada we are reminded that it has a two-fold missionary effect. Not only do we want to stabilize and build up our Mission Churches here in Canada, but also to produce rich possibilities for the building up of the Christian Church in China. The homes and families of so many of our Chinese men are there. Those we win, therefore, for Christ in Canada can do great things for Him, whether they return to China or stay here. We know how much the Church in China has already been built up by their gifts and prayers. Again, many have returned and may yet return to China as doctors, teachers, leaders in government, and ministers, and so carry the Gospel to their homeland. That is part of our great hope and aim.

One foggy morning in Vancouver recently, the teacher was leading several kindergarten children along the sidewalk, and finding it hard to see, said, "Isn't this very