

**1931** From bound volume, "**The Acts and Proceedings of the Fifty-Seventh General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.**" Held in Toronto, Ontario, June 3-11, 1931.

Notes below are from Appendices:

**"The General Board of Missions, Home and Foreign Mission Report,"**

**Section "Non Anglo-Saxon Work,"** Sub-section headed "Chinese Work in Canada" [report submitted by David A. Smith]

Photo-copied pp. 20-21

Iole Appugliese, daughter of one of our Elders. There is a great desire to help among our people, and if we can overcome the difficulty of lack of buildings, we will count ourselves happy.

As to buildings there is now the prospect of securing one for our Rossland Mission, and if this is done quickly, part of the activities which are now curtailed could be resumed. After this the Amherst congregation will have to be provided with permanent accommodation, and we hope that in due time God will provide.

As you know we lost two buildings, a bigger one pertaining our Amherst congregation, and a smaller one concerning Rossland congregation.

Just these days it is before our Presbytery's Committee, and should come up at the next Tuesday meeting of Presbytery, an option from the owners of the Rossland Synagogue, a small building suitable for our Rossland Italian congregation. It is not what is really needed, but fairly good, which can be made quite convenient if necessary improvements are proceeded with. It is 50 by 50, with an unfinished basement, and an upper accommodation, and the price is only \$6,000.00; \$3,000.00 cash, and \$3,000.00 mortgage at 6 per cent. I think there is money enough in the fund to pay the cash, and provide for part of the improvements. What about the rest of improvements and furnishing? In yours of February 4th you hinted that your Board would be willing to help. I am writing Rev. Dr. Reid about.

Respectfully submitted,

R. DE PIERRO.

## CHINESE WORK IN CANADA

The year 1930, despite the fact that in so many ways it has been exceptionally hard, has proved to be the most progressive year yet in the history of our Chinese Mission Work in Canada. Several things have made this possible. For instance, the falling away of the anti-foreign attitude on the part of the Chinese; the profession of faith in Christ on the part of the President of China; a new Chinese feeling of responsibility in giving, together with a more determined study of God's word, and the dedication of their lives to Christian service. There has also been an increased number of baptisms and membership, and the re-organization of classes that had fallen away. The condition of affairs in China has also awakened the Chinese people to a new sense of duty, and consequent interest in Christ and His teachings.

**Workers.** Many changes took place during the year in the personnel of the workers. Miss Ethel Reid went to South China and so forms an important link with her home work. Miss Agnes Dickson went to Montreal. Miss Lavina Dickman, Chinese teacher and Bible woman, and Rev. Ma Wou, were appointed to Toronto and District, while Mrs. G. P. Louie took the place of Miss Esther Dickman as teacher and Bible woman in Vancouver. A Mr. F. Y. Louie was also employed to teach Chinese there. Altogether there are nineteen workers on the field, nine of these are Chinese. There is also that large body of faithful lay workers from Halifax to Victoria.

**Population.** The Chinese population is approximately 55,000. Half of that number is in British Columbia. The Chinese male population is given as 47,000; the female 1,500, while the children make up the remaining seven or eight thousand.

**Activities.** In all departments of the work progress is reported. There were increases in kindergartens, Sunday Schools and night schools. Young women's and young men's organizations and a C.G.I.T. have been formed, while in Vancouver a few Chinese Women's Bible Study Group and W.M.S. have been organized for the first time in the history of the work there. Summer schools were also held at two points. These are all most encouraging, and best show the trend of Chinese interest.

Let us state briefly several noteworthy phases of the work.

1. *Vancouver's New Church.* The erection of the new Mission Church, Vancouver, was an outstanding event, coming into being as it did during these financially strenuous days. This building is excellently equipped. It has already been crowded to overflowing several times. There has been an increased interest and attendance. The recent Communion was the biggest ever held. The Chinese congregation is also meeting well their added responsibilities. This new building was much needed. The solution of Vancouver's Chinese problem rests largely in Christian Church hands. The problem is neither small, nor simple, and every encouragement is required by those trying to meet it.

2. *Financial Responsibility: Victoria.* Victoria's giving last year was the biggest in its history. In 1929 the congregation raised \$1,411.00, in 1930 \$2,350.00, an increase of \$939.00. They gave \$156.00 to the Budget, an increase of \$31.00. They raised \$1,140.00 for Chinese workers' salaries. They gave \$260.00 to Home Missions in China. They met all running expenses.

*Vancouver.* Vancouver also greatly increased its givings, raising for all purposes \$2,830.00. They gave to the Building Fund \$2,350.00, and to the Budget \$80.00. Add to this the responsibility for running expenses of the new building, and the raising of the salary of a Chinese teacher, and you see something of their new spirit. It is worthy of note that there has been a reduction, during the past two years in the grant toward this Vancouver work of \$1,740.00 a year.

*Toronto.* In Toronto our Church works through the Chinese Y.M.C.I. The Chinese themselves administer this Institute, and are responsible for the financing of it. Over 800 men have come under its care. This Institute wields a great influence throughout the whole of Eastern Canada, and is doing an important work.

*Windsor.* For some years the Windsor Chinese centre has been under Presbyterian care. A Chinese Christian leader has been much needed. During the year the Chinese community was most desirous of securing a leader, a rather unique step on their part. A Sunday Bible Class was begun, as well as week-night work. Fifty Chinese thus came under the influence of the Church. At a recent meeting of the Chinese, in order to assist our Church's missionary finances at this time, they themselves agreed to rent a suitable house, and begin an organized mission work. At the same time a young educated Chinese man, Mr. J. P. Chin, has offered his services gratis to this local work for the teaching of Chinese, and the doing of catechist work among his own people. Here is evidenced a great spirit. Facts like these best show the value of our missionary effort and the growth of Chinese Christian responsibility.

3. *The Work Among the Young.* The work among the young people is growing fast. Upon them the future of the work largely depends. They are more and more feeling the call of Christian Service. Some are thinking of the Christian ministry. Four young Chinese are already training for Christian Service. This type of life work is beginning to make a great appeal to them.

4. New and increased interest in Trade and Friendship with China is having a fine effect on the local Chinese, and on the Canadian spirit toward them. A new attitude is being born fast. The recent Trade Commission to China has done much to clear away misinformation and misunderstanding. The rapid growth of the Christian Church in China is also helping us here in Canada. Chinese pride in it is growing, and being reflected in Canada. There is a great Christian future before the Chinese people, and one feels that they are on the edge of a great movement for Christ. We as a church are privileged to have a part in that work, for the Chinese people have a particular pride in the Presbyterian Church, and truly believe in her as a powerful means of winning for Christ, China and the Chinese.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID A. SMITH.