

1935 From bound volume, "The Acts and Proceedings of the Sixty-First General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada." Held in Montreal, Quebec June 5-13, 1935.

*** NB 1935 includes some 10-year overviews - eg. of the Presbyterian Girls' Home and the Chinese work.

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

Sub-section "Reports of Synodical Missionaries"
"Northern Ontario and Manitoba" by "W. M. Mackay, Synodical Missionary" (3-page report not printed, written with Mackay's usual dramatic flair, disdain for the United Church, and evangelistic zeal)
Excerpt (p. 9) "It is ours to go forth as a church to possess the promised land or to remain in the wilderness and die there." Not unlike the other reports by other missionaries from other areas.

Further sub-section "Frontier Fields"
Section "Non Anglo-Saxon Work"; Sub-section headed "Chinese Work in Canada 1925-1935" [report submitted by David A. Smith and also republished with minor changes as a pamphlet by WMS]. Photo-copied p. 26-29. Summary of 10 years missionary activity.

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NB: sections headed "Western Relief" and "Non Anglo-Saxon Work" follow this section.

Sub-section, "Institutional Work"; Sub-heading "Presbyterian Home for Girls 1925-1935." Summary of ten years activity. Photo-copied p. 44.

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From "Report of Work of the Women's Missionary Society, (W.D.) from p. 65-66 "Names and Addresses of W.M.S. Staff" [Printed] Mary Murray at 1 Lockwood Road

CHINESE WORK IN CANADA

1925 - 1935

This is the Jubilee year of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. It is also the tenth year of reconstructive work following the disruption of 1925. It is, for both these reasons, a good time to take stock of our Mission work. The purpose of our report this year, therefore, is to do this very thing.

Not the least important of the Mission work that was saved to our Church was that among the Chinese in Canada.

It might be well to remind ourselves that, primarily, because of the action of the two Chinese congregations then existing, who by unanimous vote, determined to continue Presbyterian, it was decided to make Chinese work part of our missionary programme. It also goes without saying that this action on the part of the Chinese did help, not a little, to give heart to our people as they set about the rebuilding of the Church.

All that we possessed of property, after the Federal Commission had made its decisions, was the Chinese Church in Victoria, valued, however, at about \$15,000.00. Unfortunately, for some reason, we failed to get our Chinese Church in Vancouver. Also, the property in Montreal was set aside. It is worthy of notice, however, that so many of those who were in Chinese work in Canada, and in South China, from which part all our Canadian Chinese come, 12 missionaries in all, stayed with our Church, including two Chinese ministers. Does there not seem something significant in all this, for the Chinese, truly have a Presbyterian spirit.

There is much that one might say about the history of that transition time but that is not the purpose of this review. What we want is to see what progress, if any, has been made in the work since the ground was cleared and the new opportunity laid before us.

With a view to brevity let us lay out in order a number of things that best show the trend.

1. By far the most outstanding was the securing of a new Chinese Church in Vancouver to replace what we had lost. Vancouver has 10,000 Chinese people, one-fifth of Canada's Chinese population, and being the Gateway to the Orient is our most strategic point. Through this port pass all going to and from China. In 1930 this building was opened. For five years prior to that time the work there was in a rather precarious state, working, as we did, in very unsuitable quarters. In our new building with its manses, dormitories, kindergarten hall, and church, a new lease of life was given, and the work began immediately to go ahead. For the first time practically, in 40 years, we now had the proper foundation for a permanent constructive mission work. The cost of this new building was \$17,570. To date the amount contributed by the Chinese toward their part of the building cost, is \$4,868, having raised last year to this end no less than \$340. Moreover, since the opening of this building a saving in rents, and salaries has been made amounting to almost \$2,000 a year. Last year, also for the first time we were able to secure total exemption from taxes, thus saving several hundred dollars more.

2. A second sign of advance, is the way the Chinese have contributed to the Budget. Till 1925 they had never contributed a dollar. With the new need in the Church they realized they ought to do their share. Here was born an important factor in our Chinese work, namely a feeling of financial responsibility. Here is a summary of their giving since. In 1926 both congregations, for the first time, contributed \$50. This has been increased each year till last year Vancouver raised \$136, and Victoria \$189 — both places going over their allocation. Since 1926 Victoria has given \$867 to the Budget. This includes W.M.S. givings. In addition also \$767 was sent to the Budget from Chinese sources. This is surely an excellent showing. Moreover since 1925 these

congregations have been meeting all their own running expenses. Vancouver's last year was over \$1,400. They also paid for the entire salary of the Chinese teacher. All this is surely commendable and shows that the faith we had in them is bearing fruit.

3. With the passing of 1925 we found that the Chinese work in Toronto and Montreal was at a very low ebb, at least, so far as our official contacts were concerned. Here again we found a loyal band of workers, however, still with us. This time it was a group of lay men and women whose soul and heart was in Chinese work, and who organized themselves into a Presbyterian workers' committee, the better to do that work. We also found a large body of Chinese, who were still with us. Our work, therefore, in both Toronto and Montreal, mostly at the request of the Chinese was soon revived. He Toronto we were then without a minister, and Rev. K. C. Yeung was appointed. He later went to New York. At this time work was carried on co-operatively with the United Church at the Toronto Chinese Y.M.C.I. But in 1930 this co-operative work came to an end, leaving the Presbyterian Church in sole charge with the Chinese and Rev. Ma T. K. Wou, so long in charge of the work in Toronto was welcomed back into the ministry of our Church, and put in charge of the Chinese congregation brought into being two years before. It is well to remember also that Cooke's Church, Toronto, had at this time a complete Primary Department of Chinese, and Knox a large number in membership with that church. In Montreal a similar condition has prevailed. Here, however, our work to date, has been mostly among the women and children. Here, too, we have been carrying on in the Y.M.C.I. and in co-operation with the Chinese. In addition to a growing kindergarten and women's club, there, under Miss Agnes Dickson, a boys' work has been begun, and in the near future even greater work may be among the men also. In this connection we are hoping that a Chinese student will be appointed to carry on work with a view to more profitably co-ordinating and consolidating it.

4. With the new conditions confronting us, following the disruption the whole question of a proper policy governing the work was considered, with the result that it was decided to give more responsibility to the Chinese themselves. The result has been that of the 18 workers now on the field, 10 are Chinese, including Mr. T. Y. Lee who is in charge of the Mission in Ottawa, and who is paid entirely locally. With the inauguration of this policy it was possible to reduce the staff at two points, at the same time preserving the full efficiency of the work.

5. Another policy decided on was the selection of likely young Chinese men and women for training in definite missionary work. Two young women were selected by the W.M.S. (W.D.), one, Miss Lily Yeung, who is now carrying on kindergarten work in Toronto, the other Miss Lillian Leung, who is graduating this year as a qualified nurse, and will later take up hospital administration. A young man, David Lee, of Victoria, graduated M.D. from a Canton College last year, and is now planning studies in Bible work, with a view to medical missions. We also have a student for the ministry at Montreal, Mr. Solomon Leung, who in addition to his regular studies is doing excellent work among the boys in Chinatown.

The whole question of young Chinese men and women training themselves for service in different departments of Chinese life, particularly in China, has rapidly come to the front in the past few years. From Cooke's Church, Toronto, alone, have gone 11 students to China, as doctors, nurses, and teachers, all of whom passed through Cooke's Primary Department. From Saskatoon last year went out also a young man, graduate of the University there. This man today not only is Editor of a leading Shanghai Chinese newspaper, but almost as soon as he arrived was also appointed by the Government of China to an important position in the Foreign Office. Can you imagine the far reaching influences of that one man in that land, animated by the Spirit of Jesus Christ. The father of this young man joined one of our churches last year. These are but instances of many that could be cited of those returning to China to give their lives in service. Our Church has one of its most marvellous opportunities, by the

winning of these young men and women for Christ; of doing needed evangelism in that great land, which we as Westerners cannot so well perform. One Chinese father said the other day, "I pray God every night that he will use my sons, for Himself in China, by making one a soldier and the other a preacher." You can readily see the purpose of his prayer.

6. This leads us to another important policy adopted, and which is also bearing fruit. With the scattering of the Chinese men more and more into the rural and outlying districts the work of reaching them becomes more difficult. We are therefore concentrating on certain key men in the different districts scattered throughout the country, men who are already honoured by the Chinese community, and having them by careful cultivation become members of our local Presbyterian Churches. Already in a number of cases this has been done. Thus we are hoping to build up a strong body of Chinese Christian leaders who shall act as outposts for the more permanently established work in the larger centres. The constant movement of men in and out from place to place, as well as financial limitations, makes such a policy all the more necessary.

7. One department in which there has been important progress during the last 10 years, is that among the women and children. Until very recently this was not even possible. The fact that only one in forty entering the country was a woman, because of our immigration laws, is the answer. With the growing to womanhood, however of those girls born here, new homes are now being set up, and a happier condition is beginning to prevail among the Canadian Chinese.

At a recent Vancouver communion of the 66 present, 22 were women, a thing unheard of a few years ago. Vancouver alone is said to have over 600 young women who were born in this country. The increase of marriages among the Chinese will do more to solve Chinese conditions in this country than any other factor. This new condition therefore accounts for the present increase in attendance in all departments of our work, in kindergartens, Chinese classes, Sunday schools and Church membership. It accounts also for the very recent growth of C.G.I.T. groups, Boys' groups, Mission Bands, Vacation Bible schools, Women's meetings, and Young People's Societies. Victoria has a Y.P.S. of 34; Vancouver's organized last fall has 24 members, 6 of whom are University students. Toronto has also organized with a membership of 25. We have also for the first time appointed some of these as Sunday school teachers. These young men and women are being taught to take responsibility. They are taking to it with eagerness. This is one of the most important movements of our whole work for on them rests the future prosperity of the Mission. We have faith that they will not fail us, and will prove worthy of the highest interests of our Presbyterian Church.

There is one part of the work, promoted since 1925 that is proving very successful. The distribution of Chinese literature has always been a fruitful source of spreading the Gospel. About five years ago, however, a new scheme was set up whereby the weekly Sunday School lesson helps, and picture cards printed in Chinese were sent out weekly to the different families throughout the Province of Saskatchewan. This has proved not only a wonderful way of keeping in constant touch with isolated families, but from the deep interest taken by the fathers, and men about, who are called on to explain the Chinese characters, it is also bearing fruit in their lives. This form of distribution has since been used in other provinces. All the literature used among the men, amounting to \$80 last year, is being paid for by an interested Christian Chinese, and placed in hospitals, outgoing and incoming ships, stores and homes, and to outlying places on request. It is worthy of note that these tracts are not simply Bible verses as formerly, but well written pamphlets pointing out the advantages of Christ's Saving Power, and the Chinese national and personal need of it.

9. There is one thing that must be mentioned and without which the report would be incomplete. During the past twelve months we have lost four outstanding friends of the Chinese in Canada. Adding the name of Mr. A. C. Colman, for 40 years missionary to the Chinese, that makes five in the last two years or so. These referred

to are Dr. R. G. McBeth of Vancouver, whose missionary zeal took special delight in caring for the Chinese; Mr. W. C. Laing, an Elder of St. Andrew's Church, Windsor, who for 25 years or more gave all his spare time to working locally among the Chinese people in the Border Cities; Miss Alice MacDougal of Toronto, killed last Christmas in the train disaster at Dundas, Ontario, who for generosity in giving and understanding in approach to the Chinese, especially the younger generation, who, today, called her "blessed," she has few equals. Lastly there is Mr. W. G. Gourlie, school principal of Vancouver, who for 25 years in school and in our Mission work showed himself a worthy and sympathetic friend of the Chinese. All these five we can ill spare. It is by self-sacrificing souls like these that our Church's good name lives amongst these people. The success of our mission in all parts of our Dominion is due in large measure to such souls who every week in their homes, in class and church show Christ to the Chinese. These unselfish personal contacts have ever been worth more than much preaching.

10. The ease with which we have been able, during the last two years, to go into Chinese homes, is also a great asset to the work. Only after the most careful planning could this be done before. Some put it down to the new spirit of nationalism that has come into Chinese life. Parents today are even sending their children without soliciting. Our customs are being more and more quickly adopted. Non-Christian Chinese are coming to see the real power of the Christian Church in the community — and most willingly assist financially when asked. The Chinese workers and ministers are being called into the homes. The number of Christian marriages and funeral services are growing. In this way we best see their desire to conform to the customs of our people and recognize in the Church their finest avenue of entrance.

11. There are one or two problems that are exercising the Chinese today. One is the question of citizenship. This applies particularly to British Columbia and Saskatchewan where the vote is not yet granted. In British Columbia this is so closely linked up with the Japanese problem and their fast increasing population, that political men are disturbed to know best what to do. The vote is being demanded especially for the native born.

Another problem is the growing number of Eurasians. This is an Eastern Canadian problem. West of the Rockies it is hardly known. Serious discussions, both by Chinese and Canadians, are taking place to figure out how best to meet this need. It is a delicate matter, and has most assuredly been brought about by the exclusion of Chinese women. Changes in regard to this law that forbids them entrance to Canada is also being advocated, as a solution for this condition. Japanese women form the majority of Japanese immigrants. Even before the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1923, Chinese women could not come or only at an impossible head tax cost.

There is also the problem caused by the concentrating of the Chinese in Chinatown, especially in the large centres. This is also being discussed and the need for meeting this condition. But we need not go into that here. There are so many phases of the work that we must leave, and be content with merely touching on them.

12. When a Chinese man was asked the other day what is the most important need in our work, this was his reply — "To sow seed! Sow the seed! Sow the seed!" he repeated, "for on the next generation depends the fate of the Christian Church in China." That is a telling and an urgent request. If the Chinese ever needed Christ they need Him now. They are as a nation, at the moment, bewildered, so fast are events crowding upon them. They are eager to know to whom to turn. Why should it not be to the Lord Jesus Christ?

DAVID A. SMITH.

PRESBYTERIAN HOME FOR GIRLS

1925 - 1935

In the ten years recorded the Presbyterian Home has gone steadily forward in its work of uplifting and making brighter the lives of those entrusted to its care. In this time 276 girls have found new hope and grasped more firmly the things in life that really are essential to their well being.

As a guide to a fuller understanding, we direct their thoughts to God's word. Prayers are held daily. The girls memorize many chapters in the Bible and find much comfort as well as instruction in the verses contained. Every Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon a Bible class is held and under a capable teacher they are taught to realize their great spiritual need and to strive toward a higher goal.

Here the girls are taught the hygienic value of cleanliness in the care of themselves and their babies. They are instructed in cooking, sewing, gardening, and receive a thorough training in the practical care of a home.

During this period there have been no deaths among the girls and we have been free of all contagious diseases. Many of our girls are now married and in well regulated homes of their own. Others hold good positions as domestics and a number are graduate nurses. In this time we have received 1,011 visits from girls who have found shelter here and are now happy witnesses of what the Presbyterian Church has done for them.

In our work of adopting children we have met with good success. Of the 185 babies admitted, 106 have been adopted into good homes, 61 of these have been placed since 1930.

Looking back over the years we feel that we can indeed "Count our many blessings and see what God has done," and it is with a sense of rejoicing we review the work that has been accomplished from year to year. In the upkeep and maintenance of the Home we have much reason for thankfulness also, especially in the last few years. We have been able to meet our needs and with the help of donations of money, clothing, food, etc., from churches, associations and friends, have been able to carry on successfully despite the troublesome times.

MYRTLE MCKINNON,

Superintendent.

NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE, HAMILTON

Despite the adverse conditions existing for several years in the district served by the Neighbourhood House, your Committee feels that much splendid work has been done in this polyglot locality ever since we acquired the mission from the United Church in 1927. We would like to put on record our appreciation of the faithful and efficient work done by the staff. The Beach Road district in which the Neighbourhood House is situated lies in the northeast section of Hamilton, separated on all sides by railways and factories—a community in itself with over twenty nationalities and fourteen religious persuasions represented.

For several years Rev. J. A. Isaac rendered an excellent oversight, and conducted an English service each Sunday evening for the friends who assembled there. Following him Rev. Frank Kovacs, in addition to his work at his Hungarian Church, gave not only the Sabbath evening service but aided in many ways by his splendid executive ability and contagious optimism. Since Mr. Kovacs' departure early in the year to Bekevar, Sask.—on leave of absence—the Sunday evening service has been withdrawn temporarily. Pulpit Supply varying from Sabbath to Sabbath, does not seem to appeal

to the minds of those in the habit of attending, and many will look forward to the return of Mr. Kovacs, with the inspiration and good cheer his presence brings.

In addition to the above-mentioned services, we have two full time workers—Miss Maria Sloan and Miss Marie Snor, both rendering to Church and city a service which only consecrated Christian womanhood can give. There is also a part-time boys' worker, and several volunteers in various departments. During the Daily Vacation Bible School in July, three other helpers were paid by the Local Board of Women.

The regular activities include: the Sunday evening service, Sabbath School with an average attendance last year of 47. It was much higher four or five years ago. A well-baby clinic was conducted by the Babies' Dispensaries for several years, but during this year when the health services in Hamilton were amalgamated (under their policy for economy) this clinic was removed to one of the Public Schools and combined with another, play-school for children of pre-school age five mornings a week, Saturday morning play-time for all ages, five clubs for girls, four clubs for boys, one club for young men—especially for unemployed young men, one mothers' club.

Occasional activities include besides concerts, picnics, hikes, etc., the Daily Vacation Bible School in July. Last year the average attendance per day was 52. We have had as high as 128. The program includes religious instruction, memorizing of choice hymns and Scripture passages, wood-carving, sewing, drawing and painting, etc. At the closing exercises which are attended by prominent W.M.S. ladies, and members of Presbytery, the children take great pleasure in reciting their memory work, and displaying to the visitors their various accomplishments. The commendations given, are very acceptable not only to the children but to their mothers too. Twenty-three nationalities are represented on this roll which numbers 300. The total membership for all activities was 450.

A local committee of ladies appointed from all our Presbyterian congregations in Hamilton provides by means of teas, rummage sales, etc., for the necessary repairs and general upkeep of the buildings. The rummage sales serve a two-fold purpose—the financial returns for the expense fund, and the wonderful values at unheard of prices prove a blessing to so many poor families.

It is impossible in an institution of this kind to tabulate or even to estimate the work at all accurately. During our eight years of service here attendances at the various clubs and societies have varied, and the prejudices of so many nationalities and religions are sometimes quite pronounced. Lack of employment and scarcity of money affect attendances here as elsewhere. But in a place and at a time when communism appeals so strongly to many, who can tell how much this institution has meant to the civic life as well as the Church life of Canada, in arresting the drift toward lawlessness and atheism. Our Church owes much to the courage and consecration of the staff at Neighbourhood House.

Yours respectfully,

W. I. McLEAN.