

1937 From bound volume, "**The Acts and Proceedings of the Sixty-Third General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.**" Held in Ottawa, Ontario, June 2-9, 1937.

Page numbering below from **general minutes** (Acts and Proceedings section), not from the Appendices:

(p. 17) Under sub-heading "Third Sederunt" (afternoon session held June 3, 1937). Women's Missionary Society reports were delivered. "For the Western Division, the report, as printed, was presented by the President, Mrs. W.A. McLennan, who also addressed the Assembly, **giving much valuable information** as to the great work of the Division." [Bob Anger, archivist, is of the opinion that she said much more than was recorded in the report or the minutes.]

(P. 21-23) Sub-heading: "Report of the Survey Committee." This is the survey mentioned on p. 70 of 1936 report, I think.

(p. 44) Under sub-heading "Re: Home and Foreign Missions." Moved "That a Home Mission Secretary be appointed at the 1938 General Assembly, and that nominations for same be called for ..."

Page numbering below is from Appendices.

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

Sub-section "**Reports of Synodical Missionaries**"

What follows are reports on each synod's various types of mission work.

In sub-section "Northern Ontario and Manitoba" no mention of the Chinese.

In sub-section "Synod of Montreal and Ottawa," [report submitted by "Allan S. Reid, *Synodical Missionary*"], for example, there is discussion of United Church in Montreal's willingness to leave work among the Chinese to the Presbyterians, but there was some trouble: (p. 11) "The trouble evidently is with the Home Mission Board of the United Church of Canada, which refuses to withdraw their Chinese Work in Montreal unless we withdraw ours somewhere else. So there it stands."

Sub-section "**Frontier Fields**"

Further Sub-section (p.22) "Chinese in Canada" [Report submitted by David A. Smith]

"The Chinese as a people are today seriously interested in the study of the Scriptures, and earnestly discussing Christianity, and its true worth, to them and their country. They want to know."

(p.23) Sub-heading "I. *Workers*" ... "**Mrs. W. F. Adams, also, was appointed to work among the white women married to Chinese in Toronto. There are over 200. Mrs.**

Adams has had great experience as a missionary both in China and Canada. The whole Eurasian Problem has been made possible by the fact that Chinese women, under the Immigration Act, have not been permitted entrance to Canada, or at an impossible head-tax. Intermarriage is therefore increasing and presents a difficult problem.” ...

[Note: p. 77 list of WMS staff . Under “Chinese in Canada” there are listings for workers in Montreal, Toronto, Victoria and Vancouver. Toronto: Miss Esther Armstrong, Miss Lily Yeung, and “Mrs. W. F. Adams, 53 Millwood Rd.,(part time)”]; archivist has no personal papers from Mrs. Adams. There are also four “Travelling Secretaries: Miss P. B. Lamont, Field Secretary [no address given]; Miss Laura K. Pelton, Young Women’s Secretary; Miss Violet Tennant, Girls’ Work Secretary.]

Miss Mary Murray at “Apt. 1, Spruce Court, Spruce Court St.”

(p. 23) Praise for “those who, throughout the country are helping to preach Christ by showing a personal interest in the Chinese... [examples of individual outreach given]. Where such Christian kindness is shown, it goes a long way toward interpreting Jesus Christ to the Chinese. Right across the Dominion we have such Presbyterian people, as well as outstanding key Chinese men, who are in similar ways assisting us in our work.” ...

The Chinese are perceived to be particularly receptive to Christian proselytizing at this time because of the influence of **Chiang Kai Shek**. “Never in the history of this work, has there been such attentive hearing of the Gospel as now, the men even going so far on occasion, as to applaud the spoken work. I think there is a reason for this. Going on in China at the present time, there is what is known as the **New Life Movement**. It is headed by China’s Christian President Cheung Kai Shek, who today has a grip of China as no man has ever had. This movement has four fundamental points: – courteous manners; righteous living; a pure and simple life; and, a due sense of humility and repentance for wrong done. These are being spread systematically into every walk of life. Particularly does Mr. and Mrs. Cheung Kai Shek stress the reading of the Bible, and have themselves given large donations for the spread of the Bible and the gospels. Here, I think, is the secret. This, then, is being reflected in Canada. During the past three or four months President Cheung Kai Shek has succeeded in getting 90% of the people behind him in his work, not the least of which is this moral movement. For the Christian Church in China has organized evangelistic bands who are going out and taking advantage of this moral revival to preach Christ and Him crucified.”

Perceived zeal of Chinese for spreading Christianity within the Chinese community. Sub-heading: “III. *Progress in the Work*.” (p. 24) “Here is something of interest. One little girl in one of our Mission Bands, [usually pre-teen age group, 6-12 year-olds approx] the other day asked her teacher if it would be alright to bring a friend. “Certainly” said the teacher. Behold her amazement when this **little black haired miss led in a little English speaking blonde**. The Chinese girl had even loaned her a Bible to get up (p. 25) her verses before they came, and helped her hunt out the passages at the meeting. Moreover she brought her the following day to Sunday School, and has since brought in a second. So

the personal missionary spirit, we see, is also being developed." [Location not given; this section refers mostly to BC and Ontario; previous paragraph is about Victoria.]

Discussion of how Chinese donate money to the Church and often carry the expense of mission work.

eg. In Victoria: "This year they are also planning to put in a new furnace, and pews instead of chairs in the church. As one Canadian lady said when these things were discussed, "I like their spirit of self-respect. It is rather salutary." "