

1925 "Twelfth Annual Report of the Women's Missionary Society W. D., Presbyterian Church in Canada"

NB: "National Mission Work" now includes "**Oriental in Canada**" with sub-heading "Chinese in Canada" (printed)

Strangers' Department listed for 1924, but not for 1925 or later.

"Social Service" section; sub-heading: "Deaconess Work - Welcome and Welfare" (printed pp 49-50, mentions **Miss Murray** and the **Mercer Reformatory**)

ORIENTALS IN CANADA

Chinese in Canada

In the early months of 1925 the work for Chinese women and children continued in the three centres, Montreal, Toronto and Victoria. In the summer a break came when Miss Huggill in Montreal and Miss Dickson in Toronto, were relieved of their duties for a time. Later Miss Dickson went West on deputation work, and Miss Huggill was given some new work among the Chinese. In the new work it was planned that our missionary should visit Chinese women and children in Western Ontario centres, and should make her visit to each centre coincide, where possible, with the meeting of the Auxilliary, that she might endeavor to interest its members in their local Chinese situation.

Under this arrangement, during the fall and early winter months, several Auxiliaries were addressed, many W. M. S. members and some of the ministers were interviewed, and about forty Chinese families were visited.

Usually our missionary had opportunity to speak to the Chinese men, as well as to the mothers and children, and always a kindly welcome and courteous hearing were given her.

Special care was taken that the lone, and lonely Chinese woman was never overlooked, and here and there a friend was found for the friendless one.

In many places the Auxiliaries were interested, and accepted responsibility toward their Chinese neighbors, and many individual members undertook to do personal visiting.

In Eastern Ontario, a similar work was undertaken by Miss Davies of Brockville, who is giving her spare time to this visiting. Although delayed by illness, Miss Davies reports having visited twenty-six Chinese families, and a number of ministers and W. M. S. leaders, also Sunday School superintendents.

Through this new work, not a little added kindness has been shown the stranger within our gates, and the stranger, we believe, has sensed and appreciated the spirit of helpfulness in which the visits were made.

In Toronto, for the first six months of the year, the women's work included a Friday afternoon meeting; a Saturday afternoon of work, play, Bible study and hymn singing for the children; a Sunday afternoon service for women, and house to house visiting. In the early summer, members of the prayer group decided to give an hour each week to making articles for sale, the proceeds to be for mission work in China.

From August until the end of the year, Miss Dickson had no connection with the Mission. During that time the Friday prayer meeting and the Saturday children's gathering were discontinued.

On December 1st, our missionary was appointed Superintendent of the Chinese Primary Department in Cooke's Church, Toronto.

Near Christmas time, in this Church, your Secretary had the interesting and novel experience of sitting down to high tea with nearly one hundred Chinese women and children. Afterwards the happy groups gathered around the Christmas tree where Miss Dickson assisted Santa Claus in distributing gifts.

Towards the close of the year a conference between members of the W. M. S. of the United Church and of our Council Executive, resulted in Miss Dickson's return to Murray Street as our missionary in an interdenominational work, which is to be given a three month's trial.

In connection with the Victoria Mission, Mrs. McQueen reports a morning kindergarten with an enrolment of thirty-three pupils, an after-

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) HELEN W. HORNE,
Acting Secretary.

Orientalists in Canada—

noon English class of fourteen pupils, Chinese classes from four o'clock to seven with sixty-three on the roll, and a splendid group of young men and boys, fourteen in all, in a night class.

In addition there is a large music class, with a club which meets monthly. All pupils in music are expected to connect themselves with some organization of the Church. Mrs. MacQueen reports this as a very important part of the work.

The Sunday School with an enrolment of eighty-five, has an average attendance of fifty-one. On New Year's morning, at a gathering of all the Presbyterian Sunday Schools in Victoria, the children of the Chinese school occupied the centre seats in the Church, and were given a special welcome by the chairman.

The W. M. S. Auxiliary, with Mrs. MacQueen as President, meets once a month with an average attendance of nine women. At the last Victoria Presbyterian meeting, the annual report of the Chinese Auxiliary was received with the other Auxiliary reports.

The Mission Band, under the faithful leadership of Miss Alice Eldridge and Miss Evelyn MacQueen, has a membership of forty, with an average attendance of twenty-five. At a recent Rally this Band had the honor of being chosen to demonstrate "The Model Mission Band."

On December twenty-third, a large and happy company met to enjoy a loaded Christmas tree and a splendid concert given by the school.

Mrs. MacQueen closes her report with the following words: "The loyalty of these people to our beloved Presbyterian Church has been very marked at this critical period, and they are surely deserving of our sympathy and help."

(Mrs. D. Inglis) EVELYN GRANT,

Secretary.

Persians in Canada

The prospect of opening work in the Persian colonies, in and near Fort William, Ont., and North Battleford, Sask., was discussed by the Council Executive in September, 1925.

As varied reports had come in regarding the number of families and individuals in each colony, it was agreed that we write the Presbyteries concerned for information, and at the same time let them know that we have available a Persian missionary, a graduate of Knox College, who could be sent for a number of months to each colony, if the Presbytery so desired.

The Superior Presbytery had a survey and canvass of families made, and their finding was that it would not be wise to send in a worker at present. Later, if the need arose, they would be glad to avail themselves of the offer.

In the Presbytery of Prince Albert and Saskatoon, through the Clerk of Presbytery and the Home Missions Committee, the matter was referred to the Session of the North Battleford Church, the Home Mission Convener stating that if the minister and elders of this Church thought it advisable, it might be well to have our missionary, Rev. E. O. Eshoo, go out to investigate, and if possible, get in touch with the whole colony, with a view to bringing them into the Church.

Later, the Rev. P. Fisher of North Battleford, wrote suggesting that if the W. M. S. could finance the undertaking, it might prove to be "richly worth while."

Accordingly, arrangements were made to have Mr. Eshoo leave in January, on a four months' mission to his people in North Battleford.

(Mrs. D. Inglis) EVELYN GRANT,

Secretary.

OVERSEAS MISSION WORK South China

Over the 1925 report might be written the word "Tragedy," for during the year this field was stricken as by a violent hurricane.

In China, civil war and the bitter anti-Christian, anti-foreign, communistic movement, particularly directed against the British, made everything exceedingly difficult, and our missionaries suffered much persecution and were driven from the work which had been built up by long years of labor and loving devotion. When the storm had somewhat spent itself and the atmosphere had cleared, it was found that our mission stations had been abandoned, the "Marion Barclay" Hospital and the Girls' Boarding School in Kongmoon closed, and the educational and evangelistic work at Shek-kei and San Wool disorganized.

Of the W. M. S. staff, five remained loyal to our Presbyterian Church: Misses Agnes I. Dickson, Agnes J. Dalmage, Ethel C. Reid, Luella I. Crockett and Dr. Jessie MacBean. Three of these were at home on furlough, and Dr. MacBean and Miss Dalmage took refuge in Hong Kong with friends of other missions who showed toward them very great kindness.

The Anglican Mission offered Miss Dulmage a position on the teaching staff of the Diocesan Girls' School at Kongmoon, Hong Kong, which, after correspondence with the Home Board, she accepted. Of this new position Miss Dulmage writes: "There are good opportunities for witnessing for Christ in this school. Each morning I have a class of forty girls for scripture; about half are Chinese, some Eurasian, some Portuguese and a few English, but almost none of them are Christian. God grant that I may make the most of this splendid opportunity, and that through His grace and power many of these dear girls may be led to make a decision for Christ."

About the same time Dr. Jessie MacBean joined the staff of the Hackett Medical College in Canton and writes that she is very happy in her work there, and considers it a privilege to take a share in such an important field of labor. Although the teaching schedule is heavy yet it is most interesting, her work being with the students of the third and fourth years, bright girls all of them. In the former case it is clearly understood that this is a temporary arrangement until such time as work can be resumed in our own mission stations, or in new fields opened by our Church.

Miss Dickson is in Canada on prolonged furlough, on account of family conditions, and is engaged in the work among Chinese women in Toronto. Misses Reid and Crockett have done valuable deputation work, the latter in Nova Scotia, where her home is. Although there seems little to report or tabulate for these six months, and perhaps more to dishearten than encourage, yet we must quietly wait, and trust that God is going to bring good out of all this disorder and opposition and that, in His own good time, He will reveal His will for His faithful workers.

(Mrs. Robt.) C. B. ROSS,

Secretary.

India

In retrospect the thought that comes uppermost is, how very fortunate we are that the two Presbyterian strongholds in India, Gwalior and the Bhill districts, where our missionaries have shown such unswerving loyalty and devotion, should be places of strategic importance both historically

Hospitals—

for salaries, taxes, etc., only being met from the general fund. From the enquiries coming in, we feel that the number in attendance will be materially increased next school year.

We would express our thanks specially to Rev. J. A. MacInnis, B.D., Mrs. McKnight and Mrs. W. N. Macdonald, of New Liskeard for the loving thought put into the beginnings of the work.

Miss McIlwaine in her report says, "We hope they are being trained to be leaders in all good works wherever they may be placed in the journey of life. We are trying to commit unto them a charge to keep and to pass on down the years."

Several applications for School Homes have been received, and it is hoped that two new Homes may be opened this fall. The Council Executive has agreed, on application from Provincial and Synod, that a Home shall be opened in Saskatoon, Sask., this fall. This will meet the need of the many young people coming in to the city to High School, who are unable to find suitable boarding places. We hope that a Home may also be opened somewhere in the Province of Quebec.

Our School Home has meant much to us all this year, and for all that has been accomplished we render humble and hearty thanks to Him who has led us all the way.

(Mrs. D.) HELEN M. STRACHAN,
Secretary.

Hospitals

STAFF.

South Porcupine, Ont.—Miss Annie E. Chambers, Lady Superintendent; Fort McMurray, Miss Mary D. Cuddy, Nurse; Miss Mary Tennant, Nurse.

The Presbyterian Hospital, South Porcupine, Ont.—Negotiations towards the establishing of a W. M. S. hospital in South Porcupine were begun at the instance of the Municipality of Tisdale, and its moral support, coupled with that of its material support, has been most generous.

In September, 1925, the request came to the Council Executive and was received favorably. About the middle of October a suitable house, both as to location and dimensions, was chosen. Necessary alterations followed, and on the 17th of February, 1926, it was formally dedicated and opened for the purpose of ministering to those who require medical aid and the soothing attention of nurses. Since the opening the staff has been more than busy, surgical and maternity cases being most numerous.

Fort McMurray, Alta.—Miss Olive Ross.—In March, 1925, information reached the Provisional Committee of the Women's Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, that Fort McMurray, a point three hundred miles north of Edmonton, at the junction of the Athabasca and Clear Water Rivers, whose population consists of Treaty Indians, Half-breeds and some white residents, was desirous of having a hospital unit. Owing to circumstances, this could only be considered sympathetically. In June, the matter was laid before the Council and in July a duly qualified nurse was appointed to the position of nurse at large. She signified her acceptance, but during the period prior to her departure for her new scene of labor, she developed a heart condition, which proved obstinate. The hospital committee decided as the season was late, they would get on the ground early in 1926. Carrying out this decision, Miss Olive Ross, a duly qualified nurse, was appointed and reported for duty at Fort McMurray the first of April. A small house has been secured in the meantime and supplies to fit it are already on the way. Miss Ross has treated already, a little child whose lungs were badly

Social Service

congested and two maternity cases are glad she is there. Two of three bachelors, doing their own housekeeping, were very ill with "flu," and appreciated a pail of veal and vegetable soup. Such service as the above is, we hope, the beginning of something better for Fort McMurray.

(Miss) ISABELLA S. PRINGLE,
Secretary.

Social Service

Deaconess Work—Welcome and Welfare

Among the milestones that mark the highway of our Women's Missionary Society are those that tell of the amalgamation of the sister societies within our Church. The tragic years of war followed by their inevitable burden of debt, the year of our happy emergence from that burden; then, after the year of darkening storm clouds when our Church was shaken to her foundations and tried as by fire, we come to the marking stone that faced us on our Missionary highway when on the 11th and 12th of June, 1925, we found ourselves seeking to gather together all that was left of our great organization.

Those who went out from us were allowed, by law, to become the custodians in the meantime of our common work, and if we would not be idle it seemed that we must look for new fields to conquer for the Kingdom.

They tell us no cloud is so dark that a silver lining does not glimmer through, and so in this department of Social Service we found some shining bits of brightness. Here we had some work to do and here were workers to do it.

Ships still sailed the seas, and were bringing new people to make their homes in our broad Dominion, and at the Port of Montreal, we still had Miss Lily MacArthur, and, at Quebec, Miss Scott, ready to bid them welcome in the name of the Church of their fathers and of ours—the Church of the Blue Banner and the Burning Bush, a Church rich in her heritage of history and achievement.

The sick, the lonely and the straying were still in our city and Miss Murray was with us to continue her ministry of loving service among them. The gospel still held its message and its power for the souls of men, and Miss Allan continued to tell the story of redeeming love.

There were little groups of strangers in a new land, setting up their homes. They needed help to build according to the Master Builder's plan. For such a group Mrs. MacKenzie continued her service in Christiana nation-building among peoples gathered from many lands.

There were Jews still to win to a faith in the Messiah who came long years ago according to God's promise, and Miss Macdonald continued to go out and in among the Jewish people, loving them and telling them of the risen Christ.

So, as the days have gone on the wings of time, we have left that memorable milestone of June, 1925, behind us. We have watched the silver lining grow more radiant with its shining of good deeds done, of opportunity opening wider doors, and of workers waiting to be sent. We see now that even when we stood by that last milestone, shadowed by over-hanging clouds of uncertainty, even then, our Father, who had led us all the way, was bidding us be of good cheer and continue on our way rejoicing.

The department of Social Service functions under two divisions:—The Deaconess work and the Welcome and Welfare. Under both we have most interesting reports.

Miss Murray, Toronto, tells us of her visits to the hospitals of the city, The Home for Incurables and the Moore Reformatory. In these

institutions Miss Murray, representing the Women's Missionary Society, comes in contact with the lonely sick and the straying ones, not of the city alone, but from all parts of our province and even from beyond its bounds. She speaks of the grateful remembrance shown, sometimes long years after, by those whom she had helped and comforted, and of the helpful co-operation she has had from doctors and nurses and City Social Service workers. Miss Murray has been the messenger of cheer and hope to many burdened hearts, and has helped to set some straying feet in the right way. A number of Auxiliaries have heard from her the story of her work. In her message of thanks to the Society for the supplies that have been provided for her, Miss Murray says that in the twelve years of her work in Toronto she has never experienced such a sense of encouragement or such a consciousness of being constantly borne up in prayer before the Throne of God.

Miss Allan, Hamilton.—Miss Allan's work lies in St. David's Church and in the Group that came out of Laidlaw Memorial Church when it went into union. This Group has no building except a rented hall for Sunday services. All its other meetings are held in the homes of its members, organization is therefore incomplete, but there is a good work being done. In St. David's congregation, the women and girls are thoroughly organized for all congregational and missionary responsibilities and are showing by their good attendance a real interest in the welfare of the Church. Their women's prayer meeting is notable because of its spiritual influence in all parts of congregational work, and even beyond its bounds. To these praying women has come the joy of experiencing some wonderful answers to their prayers.

Miss McDonald, Scott Institute, Toronto.—Our veteran worker, reports again a large number of visits in Jewish homes, of tracts and gospels freely distributed, of the class for Jewish mothers continuing its center of influence among the women, of sustained interest in Sabbath School and Bible Class work, and of rejoicing in the mission because of the public confession and baptism of one of the young women.

In January, Miss Ethel Gunn was appointed to Jewish work. She visits in the homes of the people, a work for which she is by experience well qualified. Miss Gunn has also spoken in a number of our Auxiliaries and has created a deeper interest in this part of missionary endeavor.

Mrs. MacKenzie, All Peoples' Mission, Gonor, Man.—This Mission celebrated its fifth anniversary on the first of April, 1925. Begun in faith, to meet an evident need, it has grown steadily and has been richly blessed to many lives. Sabbath School work was its first endeavor, and there were three schools held. Later, two of these were combined when during the summer months it was possible to meet in a large tent secured for the purpose. In 1925, further consolidation was effected by the securing of a small frame building or shack, and the three Sabbath Schools were able to meet as one. Soon this building also became inadequate and our W.M.S. purchased a lot, had the building moved to it and enlarged to meet the constantly growing needs of the Mission. The Opening Services were conducted late in December by Rev. Mr. McIntosh of Knox Presbyterian Church, Selkirk. They were memorable because on that Sabbath morning, the celebration of the ordinance of Baptism and the Lord's Supper took place. On that occasion seventeen Sabbath School scholars were received on profession of their faith. The regular services are the Junior School, Sabbath morning at eleven, Senior School in the afternoon and an Evangelistic Service at seven in the evening. There is also a flourishing Mission Band which contributed seventeen dollars to the Provincial fund.

Three of the Mission girls have passed their entrance examination. They want to enter on service for their Master when they are equipped. They are attending the Collegiate in Winnipeg and in order to help themselves are assisting in homes in the city.

Mrs. MacKenzie says in closing, "I cannot speak too highly of all the help and encouragement that has been veritably rained on us by the Presbyterian women east and west. The Lord has done great things for us and we are grateful."

Three deaconesses at-large have been appointed. Two for the summer months in Northern Ontario and one for Montreal. In Northern Ontario Miss Whitby will work in North Bay and adjacent points. Mrs. Mitchener at Cochrane and other nearby places. Miss Huggill will assist in some Montreal districts where our Church requires such help and during the busy immigration months will assist Miss MacArthur in the port and cross-city work.

We are hoping to place a deaconess at-large in Winnipeg. A worker is available and the work is there.

"Hands of Welcome" stretched across the Seas, waiting at the ports, establishing contacts all across our Dominion and finally by acts of friendly kindness making of the stranger a friend and a fellow member in our Church and our community—that is the meaning of Welcome and Welfare.

Six thousand, one hundred and seventy-four names have come to this department since the 10th of June last—every name representing a soul—many far from home and country, many of them responsive to the kindly word and act. Over two thousand, four hundred of these names were received before the end of 1925, and were sent out to all parts of the Dominion.

Miss Scott at Quebec, and Miss MacArthur of Montreal, have been unsparring in their service and kindness to the newcomers. In addition to her port work, and sending on to Toronto the bits of the Presbyterian passengers, Miss MacArthur does cross-city work in Montreal, verifying the addresses of those who remain in that city and introducing them to the nearest Presbyterian Church and pastor. One grateful Swedish woman who had been helped on her journey wrote back to Miss MacArthur from her home in British Columbia: "We are now located at our new home and feel very satisfied and proud of your beautiful Canada." Miss MacArthur's station cupboard is kept well stocked with games and pictures, babies' and children's clothing, as well as various other comforts to supplement the sometimes scanty outfit of a weary traveller passing through.

We are grateful to Miss Scott for her voluntary service at Quebec port last year, and count ourselves fortunate that she has consented to become a part time worker there on salary, and so continue for us the benefit of her experience in this work.

When passing through New York early in the year, we were able to arrange with the Bureau of Reference for Migrating People under the Home Missions Council and the Council of Women for Home Missions, for the forwarding of names of people coming into Canada via New York, and in this connection a number of names have been sent to us. We have also followed our families who move from one part of Toronto to another, through the information given by the Board of Education regarding the transfer of school children. Names sent us of our Canadian Presbyterians moving from one town to another have been cared for also and a cordial welcome given them in their new location. This part of Welcome and Welfare is only well begun. Another year should see much more accomplished for there is a wide field.

Too much could not be said of the splendid work done by our faithful Secretaries for Welcome and Welfare in each province. Their efforts have been untiring, and the results secured correspondingly good in gathering together the scattered and sometimes shattered forces of this department.

Alberta.—Miss A. Foote, Calgary.—In this province there are three main centres of distribution—Edmonton, Red Deer and Calgary. Of the