

Marine Missionary

From the Log of Methodist Mission Steamer  
"Crosby."

Captain Wm Oliver, ✓

Missionary, C. M. Laté.

Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1918. Left Vancouver, B.C. at 1 P.M. with fine weather, and light westerly wind. Reached "Merry Island" Lighthouse at 6 P.M. where we found a number of visitors from Vancouver, besides the Keeper's family. Conducted an Easter service in which all heartily joined. At 7.30 P.M. we moored our vessel at Half Moon Bay logging camp, where we preached to a large number of men in the Bunk-house. Most of the men were very attentive; a few kept on with their card game; whilst others smoked and read. At the close Captain Oliver offered a very earnest prayer that God would use the message to lead many into the light.

Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> Forty-four years ago today, the Missionary arrived at Fort Simpson to organize the work among the Esimpseean Indians. With feelings of gratitude for so many years of active service we sped on our way making our next stop at Cape Mudge, where Bro. Rendle and his family have spent a number of years with the

Indians at that place. Although paganism still holds <sup>a number</sup> ~~many~~ of these people, many outward signs of improvement are visible. The missionary and his people were glad to see us, and we spent a profitable hour with them, returning to the boat for the night.

Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> Weighed anchor at 5 A.M., passed Seymour Narrows with a fair tide at 6 A.M. but encountered a strong head wind in Johnstone Straits. Reached Alert Bay at 3 P.M. where we spent a little time with the Indians, and were visited by Rev. Mr. Code and wife, our missionaries to the white people at that place; the English Church ministering to the Indians, whose children are cared for in a well ordered Industrial School. Anchored at Hardy <sup>Bay</sup> at 6 P.M. Took our Magic Lantern on shore, and preached to a full house on the Life of Christ, illustrated with 50 slides.

Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> Started at 5 A.M. and reached Shushartie Bay at 8 A.M. where we filled our tanks with water, the missionary visiting the Indians, and distributing literature among the white men and Chinese who are employed at the cannery. Crossed Queen Charlotte Sound, and reached Smith's Inlet at noon, where we found a white lady living alone in a house boat, her husband

having gone away to earn a little money. She told us she felt it a little quiet at times, but the Lord was her keeper, and all was well. Her nearest neighbors are the Kwasila Indians, who have never had a missionary, consequently are still uncivilized. We took on board some food and mail matter for the Egg Island Light-house, away off in the middle of Queen Charlotte Sound. Visiting this Light house shortly after the outbreak of the war, we found another lone lady, her husband have enlisted, and left her alone to keep the light burning. We advised her to write the Department of Marine asking that some family be sent to take her place. Her request was complied with, and another family <sup>is</sup> now in charge. I cannot tell you how glad they were to see us, and especially to get their letters and newspapers. Addenbrooke Island Light house was our next call, where we enjoyed a short religious service with the keeper and his family. Reached Namu at 7.30 P.M. where we gathered the Indians into one of their houses, and held a profitable service with them.

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Left Namu at 7 A.M. Called at Pointers Island Light house, and reached Bella-Bella at 10 A.M. Dr Darby invited the missionary to preach ~~at~~ the morning service, and to address the Sunday School in

the afternoon, which was a real pleasure (to the <sup>4</sup> Missionary) as he has not forgotten the day when Crosby, Pierce, and himself preached to them as savages in 1880. What a change in 38 years. A whole book might be written on Bella-Bella past and present. We are glad to note that Dr. Darby has his new Hospital nearly finished. Crossed to the Cannery and preached in English at 7.30 P.M. to a mixed congregation, in the large mess house which was crowded uncomfortably full. Captain Goss, the proprietor of the Cannery, was so impressed with the good work being done by the "Crosby" that he presented us with \$25. to help the running expenses.

Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> Steamed away from the Cannery wharf at 7 A.M. and called at Ivory Island Lighthouse at 9 A.M. reaching China Hat before noon. Spent an hour with Rev. Geo. Edgar and his people, but few of whom were at home. Our next port of call was Swanson Bay, where we looked through the large pulp mills, and visited a number of the people; but as the day was not yet spent we decided to go on to Hartley Bay for evening service, which place we reached at 7.30 P.M. and gave a lantern service in the Church to a delighted audience of Indians, with the Rev. John Gibson, <sup>Missionary</sup>

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> Reached Prince Rupert at 3 P.M. after a stormy passage through

Grenville Channel, where we encountered Hail and Snow. Took on a fresh supply of fuel oil, and made other preparations for tomorrow.

Wed. 10<sup>th</sup> Left for Port Simpson at 10 a.m. which place we reached early in the afternoon, after battling with a South-east gale in the straits. Dr Large took the place of the missionary, and the boat went on to Naas River, where the evening was spent among the Cannery-men; whilst the missionary, with the aid of Dr Spencer and his lantern, gave an illustrated address to a full house in the Simpson Mission Hall.

Th. 11<sup>th</sup> The boat returned to Simpson at Noon, and at 3 P.M. we started for Skidegate, B.C.I. Delivered freight and mail at Green Island Light house, and anchored at Fishermans Cove for the night, as it was too stormy to cross the straits.

Fri. 12<sup>th</sup> More stormy than yesterday. Visited <sup>several</sup> the fishing vessels through the day, and at night a number of the men came on board the "Crosby" for service, which was a very profitable occasion.

Sat. 13<sup>th</sup> Still blowing a gale from the S.E. The missionary went on shore in the small boat and visited a Camp of Port Simpson Indians, who are out on a hunting expedition.

Sun. 14<sup>th</sup> Service on board for the men from the

fishing vessels, who, with our own crew made quite a respectable congregation.

Mon. 15<sup>th</sup> Weather still stormy, but as the wind had abated we weighed anchor at 5 A.M. and very soon we were experiencing the "rough and tumble" of sea life. However we managed to get across to Skidegate at 4 P.M. after 11 hours of tossing. Lantern service at the home of Capt. Oliver in the evening.

Tu. 16<sup>th</sup> Visited some of the settlers at Sandspit, and spent half an hour with the children at the school. Crossed to the Indian village in the afternoon, where it was <sup>our</sup> pleasure to meet the Rev. Mr. Livingstone. Addressed the children in the day-school, and enjoyed the hospitality of the teacher, - Mrs. Fakely, and her associate, - Miss Wharton, field matron. Had a full house in the evening for our lantern service.

Wed. 17<sup>th</sup> Weighed anchor at 5.30 A.M. with a fine calm day in prospect, but had not proceeded far on our return voyage before a very strong South-easter sprang up, which made our crossing worse than when we came over. A lot of our crockery and furniture was broken by the heavy seas, and we were not sorry to reach Prince Rupert at 6 P.M. after calling at Lucy Island lighthouse en route.

Th. 18<sup>th</sup> Underweigh at 8 A.M. With great difficulty we made landings at Holland, and Lawyer lighthouses, on account of the strong S. E. wind, and heavy sea, at 8 P.M. we moored at the Butedale Cannery, and the missionary gave a lantern service in the store,

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whilst the crew took on water, and made other preparation for an early start next morning.

Fr. 19 Started at 7 A.M. and with a beautiful day we reached Bella-Bella at 3 P.M. and Namu at 6.30. where we tied up for the night, and held service in the mess house with the sawmill and Cannery hands.

Sat. 20<sup>th</sup> Left Namu at 7 A.M. and made calls at Addenbrooke, and Egg Island lighthouses. Nearly swamped our small boat at the latter place, as the sea was exceedingly rough, which increased in severity as we sped onward to Alert Bay, where we tied up for the night. Whilst the Captain and others were painting and cleaning ship preparatory to reaching Vancouver, the Missionary spent 11 hours at the wheel; and at 8 P.M. was called on to give a lantern service in the village school house, which was filled to overflowing with both white people and Indians.

Sun. 21<sup>st</sup> Started at 5 A.M. and held our first service at Rock Bay. The Hotelkeeper kindly arranged the sitting room and at 11.30 A.M. we preached to a good Congregation, among whom were several ladies and children; Mrs DeBrisay officiating at the organ which we took on shore from the Steamer. The people begged earnestly for another service in the near future. Our next stop was at Menzies Bay logging Camp; but as the men were all at work we could not hold service, so we went on to Campbell River, where the sitting room of the hotel was placed at our

disposal for service. Out of <sup>8.</sup> dirty men who were present, twenty were drunk; and with drunken rowdyism made it almost impossible to hold service. Some of the men were badly cut about the head and face having just finished a drunken fight. All this under prohibition law, and no police.

Crossed to Cape Mudge Indian village, where we preached to a good congregation of well dressed, orderly Indians. Bro. J. E. Rendle is the missionary.

Mon. 22<sup>nd</sup> In order to reach Vancouver in good time we started at 1 A.M. getting into port at noon, thus ending a most interesting, and we trust, profitable missionary voyage.