

the desired result. One of our own ministers acted as campaign organizer. The strict enforcement of The Liquor Act during the coming years will assist greatly in the success of Christian work in this province.

There is evident throughout the work an urgent need for the quickening of the religious life of the people, so that men may be converted to God, resulting in an increased membership and the greater efficiency of our local churches, and a newness of life in all avenues of Christian endeavor.

## Report of Missions in British Columbia

By REV. J. H. WHITE, D.D.

As this report is written the second year of war is drawing to a close. The seemingly impossible is being accomplished and the Province is slowly adjusting itself to new conditions. Owing to the fact that the wealth of British Columbia consists very largely of undeveloped, or only partially developed natural resources the business depression has been severely felt. According to returns submitted to the Legislature in February last the white population has decreased 100,000, or about twenty-five per cent., and our industries came almost to a standstill. Even in the distribution of such war orders as might have been handled, little came west of the Rockies.



AUSTRIAN HOME IN ALBERTA.

It will be readily understood that our smaller churches and mission fields have felt the loss of their people. This has been especially the case in those that were upon the verge of self-support. A review of the fields as a whole induces profound gratitude to God that so much has been accomplished in the face of great discouragement. Our smaller city churches are struggling with heavy property liabilities, their difficulties being intensified by extremely heavy general and local improvement taxes, for there is no exemption for churches here.

There are not wanting signs of slow and very gradual improvement. Copper is in great demand and brings high prices, resulting in much activity in some mining camps. Paper and pulp mills are busy, the timber industry is reviving and railway construction is being resumed. Best of all, confidence is returning and living has been adjusted to a more economical scale.

During this time of trial our missionaries have generally lived up to the best traditions of Methodism and have displayed a devotion and resource which has done much to minimize unavoidable losses and make the most of limited opportunity. The fact that so many of our boys are at the front, or on the way thither, with the sorrow that has come into many homes, has done much to fix our thoughts upon the great spiritual realities. There has been a vividness and emphasis in the preaching of the Gospel that is sometimes lacking in times of material prosperity, and

the minds and hearts of the people have seemed unusually receptive to religious impressions.

Some twenty-five of our ministers and probationers have enlisted for service overseas, a few as chaplains, more in the medical and ambulance service, and some with the regular combatant forces. The Conference decided, by combining and recombining the smaller fields, to try to hold the ground till the end of the war without increasing our ministerial staff except in cases of extreme need. This means in many cases a considerable reduction of service and some important fields have been left unsupplied. A notable instance is that of Dawson and Klondyke. With the full approval of our people there it was decided for one year to withdraw our missionary, allowing whatever income there may be to be spent upon the property, which needs repair. It is earnestly hoped this withdrawal may be only temporary and that with the return of normal conditions we may be able to resume this intensely interesting work.

Our Marine Mission did splendid work during the winter, and the *Crosby* is now very busy with camp and cannery work. It is probable that owing to reduced income the boat may have to tie up for the coming winter.

The Province is in the midst of a great prohibition campaign. In this the Methodist Church is not lagging behind her sister denominations. There is every prospect that the forces of righteousness will win a glorious victory.

While we regret that the Conference shows a diminished missionary income, there is satisfaction that the loss is less than was expected. The districts are entering upon a vigorous campaign for the coming year and hope that the lowest point has been reached and passed. For the first time in many years the Conference reports a small decrease in membership, owing entirely to many removals from the Province.

The Church in every department appears to have passed the period of discouragement and is entering on the work of the new year with renewed hope and confidence in our divine mission and assurance of the presence of the Master.

## The Real Yellow Peril

J. Campbell White, President of Wooster College, Ohio, delivered a notable address at the National Congress at Washington in May, in which he said:

"We are spending in this country \$21.50 per capita per year on liquor, \$10.91 on tobacco, \$10.00 on amusements, and a like sum on churches. But of the \$10.00 we are giving to churches, only \$2.00 is for missions and benevolence, and of this only seventy cents goes abroad.

"The millionaires could easily finance the missionary enterprise if they would. But the poor people can finance it. If 20,000,000 church members should give five cents a week per member in addition to what is now being given, we should have \$50,000,000 a year. Can they do it? Let the crowds at the moving pictures answer. We could get this fifty million a year if ten million people gave ten cents a week, or four million twenty-five cents a week, or one million one dollar a week. We shall have to give this money in order to save ourselves. Unless there be some such outlet for our prosperity, our nation will be pagan some day."

In Tokyo, where 100 churches co-operated, there was a sunrise prayer-meeting with an attendance rising from 60 to 600. Osaka is said to have been roused as never before, and over 2,000 inquirers were enrolled in the city.