

Salt Spring Island Church Monthly

FEBRUARY, 1905.

Mr. and Mrs. Ward have gone to California for the winter months.

Mrs. H. Stevens arrived home from St. Joseph's Hospital, January 5th, but it will be some weeks before she will be able to be about.

Mr. Dodds is the new teacher at the Central School.

At the Directors' meeting of the Agricultural Association called for January 18th, there were not a sufficient number present to do business.

A handsome design for the Mahon Memorial Tablet has been decided on. The cost will be \$40, and special subscriptions are solicited. Col. Craig heads the list with \$5.

Received for Church Monthly: Lieut. Walter, R. N., 50c.; Jas. Horel, 35c.; Mrs. Bird, \$1 00; Mrs. Roe, \$1 00; A. Ward, 50c.; W. Manson, 50c.; Mr. Leask, 50c. L. G. Tolson, \$1.00.

Mr. Wilson's son, Llewelyn, has been appointed assistant postmaster at White Horse, Yukon.

The Agricultural Hall at Ganges Harbor will now be known as "the Mahon Hall." It has been proposed to use both it and the grounds for other purposes besides the Agricultural Show, such as entertainments, concerts, tennis, cricket, etc.

The Creamery is at present making 600 lbs. of butter per week. It is holding its own all right.

HOME SUNDAY SCHOOL—FIRST CLASS. (Joshua, Chapters 20 and 24). (1) Name the Cities of Refuge. (2) What were they for? (3) Name the Tribes of Israel. (4) After whom were they named? (5) Who was Abraham? (6) Who were the great leaders of the Israelites? (7) What happened at Shechem? (8) What did Joshua write? (9) Why did he set up a stone? (10) What is a covenant? SECOND CLASS. (11) How many Cities of Refuge were there? (12) What had the slayer to do? (13) What were the elders to do? (14) How long must the slayer remain in the city? (15) What did Joshua do before he died? (16) Who said, "We will serve the Lord"? (17) What is said about an oak? (18) How old was Joshua when he died? (19) Did the people serve God after he died? (20) Who was buried in Shechem?

ELEVEN YEARS, THIS MONTH

I first set foot on Salt Spring Island, Sunday, February 4th, 1894. I had passed the night at Kuper Island and came over in a small boat, landing at Mr. E. J. Bitancourt's store, Vesuvius Bay. I found my way up to Mrs. Steven's Boarding House, close to St. Mark's Church, and word was sent round that there would be service at 3 p. m. Mrs. Percy Brown played the organ, and quite a fair congregation assembled. I had to go back to Victoria on Monday, but I returned the following Saturday and settled at Mrs. Steven's. On Sunday we had service at 11 a. m. at St. Mark's, and Mr. A. Walter lent me his horse and cart to drive to the Valley in the afternoon. On Wednesday, 14th, I paid my first visit to Beaver Point, and stayed the night at Mr. Ruckles'. The places for worship at this time were St. Mark's Church at the Central Settlement, a Roman Catholic Church at Fulford Harbor (the priest coming once a month), and what was called "the Union Church" in the Valley, where a Methodist Minister from Maple Bay held services. Of schools there were four, and the teachers were Miss McKinnon at North End, Mr. Purdy at the Central,

Mr. Cooke in the Valley, and Miss Furness at Beaver Point. On March 26th we had a "Church Bee" in the Valley and hauled the lumber for St. Mary's Church. My predecessor, Rev. J. B. Haslam, had collected about \$400, with which the lumber had been purchased, and I collected about \$300 more. The Church was built and the Bishop came and consecrated it on the 3rd of June.

In April I had bought a farm, and, there being an old log house on it, I fitted it up in a rough way and moved in,—and one or two members of my family subsequently came to join me in my camp life. It was not till the following December, that we got a house built fit for us all to live in. We pulled down part of the house we had built in Victoria and brought it to the Island on a scow together with all our furniture and belongings which had come with us from Ontario. We were a party of twelve at that time. Our only steamboat in those days was the Joan, sailing between Victoria and Nanaimo, and calling at Burgoyne Bay and Vesuvius Bay on Tuesdays on her way up, and at Ganges Harbor and Fulford Harbor on

Saturdays on her way down. It was a motley crowd that used to assemble at the wharves on "Boatday," mostly ox waggons and saddle ponies. Mr. Booth, our member, was about the only person who had a buggy. There was an organ at St. Mark's church and one at Mr. Broadwell's, and I think a piano at Mr. W. Scott's—these were about all the musical instruments on the Island except for a brass cornet or two and some fiddles.

The improvements and additions to St. Mark's church since I came on the Island have been: The levelling of the ground in front, 1895; chancel carpet and choir seats, 1897; Scott and Smedley memorial window in chancel 1898; church painted, new altar cloth, etc., 1901, Victoria memorial window in west end, 1902; cemetery levelled, fenced, marked in burial lots, lych gate, etc., 1903. St. Mary's church, Fulford Harbor, was built 1894; little "Vicarage" and stable 1897; bell-tower added to church 1899; stained glass window in chancel, and church painted, 1901; new pulpit, reading desk and lectern, 1902; interior of the church stained, new organ and church bell, 1903; chancel rail and carpet, 1904.

The first baby I baptized was Percy Horel, and I have christened 75 in all: and there have been 40 burials. Of weddings there have been but few, my own family furnishing the majority. St. Mark's Ladies' Guild was started in 1897, and has been actively engaged ever since, holding a sale of work every second year and supplying many of the needs of the church. The Home Sunday School I commenced in 1896. There were 32 children to begin with. Now we have about 60. Children prepare their lessons in their own homes every Sunday, and are examined and receive marks once a month. In 1895 I started our Monthly magazine. At first it was "Parish and Home," 12 pages. In 1901 I changed it to the "Church Monthly," an illustrated paper of 24 pages. There is always one page of local matter.

Among new buildings close to my house, erected since I came, are the Public Hall (30x60), built 1896, with Jubilee flagstaff 1897, and "the People's store" and Post Office, 1901. The road from my house to Ganges Harbor was in those early days almost all thickly wooded; Mr. Norton's large house was newly built, Mr. Purvis and Mr. Cundell were building. Now the road is clear and has fields nearly the whole way. At Ganges Harbor are the Agricultural Hall and grounds, 1902; Malcolm & Purvis' large general store, sheds, and blacksmith shop, 1902; the creamery, 1903; butcher shop, 1904; and, up the hill, A. R. Bitancourt's large general store, 1900. In the valley are the new school house, 1896, and Edwards' store and post office, 1896. Telephone wires were begun in a small way in 1897; cable laid to Vancouver Island, 1901; Ganges Harbor connected with Victoria, 1904. A branch of the Farmers' Institute was established in 1898. The first Agricultural Show on the Island was held in the Public Hall, Central Settlement, 1896. The school on the Divide, called Ganges school, was opened 1896, and the new one at Isabella Point 1904. I hold services at three school houses besides the two churches. The moral condition of the Island, taking it all over, has, I believe, improved. There is no tavern now on the Island and not nearly as much drinking as there used to be. Many bachelors have married and new settlers with families have come in. Bicycles are now numerous. Lawn tennis and rifle shooting, with an occasional concert or dance, seem to be the principal amusements. There is, I think, very little gambling, and even card-playing does not seem to be much indulged in. I would like to be able to feel that there was some increased interest taken in spiritual matters, but of this I fear there is not very much outward evidence; God, however, alone knows the secrets of the heart, and I trust there are many truly on His side even though they may not evidence it by their interest in church matters. Perhaps brighter days may yet dawn.

EDWARD F. WILSON.