

gated by means of a pump and windmill as the climate is so dry, and I propose to have a market garden, grow strawberries and vegetables, and also supply bouquets of cut flowers to the passenger trains—all of which wait half an hour at Medicine Hat station, to take water and replenish the dining cars. We hope also to have a dairy and supply milk and butter to the town and the trains. This Medicine Hat work will be exceedingly interesting as all the pupils will be little wild blanket children, with plaited hair and painted faces fresh from the teepees. There are a number of Cree Indians always hanging about the station at Medicine Hat, selling polished buffalo horns to the passengers, and those who have travelled west know how wild they look. We have already the promise of some of their children for our Sauketappi Home and also of children from the Blackfeet, Bloods, Peigans, and Sarcees. Mr. Sanderson, one of our Medicine Hat council, is a Cree Half-breed and government interpreter, and he will have great influence in getting pupils into our home. I do so hope that Sunday schools and friends will take up this work and try to make it a success. There is that \$1,000 idea which was started in St. John, N.B., never yet taken up. Is that to be allowed to lapse? And even the government grants cannot be used unless supplemented liberally from other sources. Surely our friends mean to help us—now that our work is getting to be so well established and so widely known. But I must pass on to our next point—*Elkhorn*. I am very thankful to say that during the five months which have elapsed since the new year began our receipts on Elkhorn maintenance account, including government grant, have a little exceeded our expenditure. This is *very satisfactory*, but still there is the old debt of about \$1,000 not yet wiped out, and this makes us afraid to push ahead as we would wish to do. My brother, Mr. Wilberforce Wilson, became local Superintendent of my Elkhorn Homes on March 1st, but within a month after his appointment, I am sorry to say, he took cold and became very ill with congestion of the lungs, and he is only just now regaining strength after a long illness of nearly two months. This has been a great anxiety to me. When I got up to Elkhorn the first week in April, I found the accounts and everything behind, and things a good deal upside down, owing to my brother's illness; it is a relief, however, to me that my eldest son, A. E. Wilson, now twenty-two years of age, is developing into a reliable and useful man. I have given him a little training in account keeping of the Shingwauk, and he is now at Elkhorn assisting his uncle; the Indian children are all very fond of him and he has a good influence with them. Our other Elkhorn employees are also all that could be desired. Miss Vidal is an excellent teacher, clever disciplinarian, and devoted to her work. Her

mother, Mrs. Vidal, has charge of the girls home, and nurses sick cases. Mrs. Leale who has been a number of years with us, first at Shingwauk and then at Wawanosh, is now matron at Elkhorn. Government placed \$2,500 at my disposal this spring for the erection of farm buildings and purchase of farm stock. Mr. Kring, whom I have engaged as farm instructor, seems likely to give every satisfaction. His wife is a sister of the Miss Robinson who was our first lady superintendent at the Washakada Home, Elkhorn, and niece of our late Bishop Fauquier. Our Elkhorn farm is a large one, 640 acres; the farm house is just completed and cattle sheds are in course of erection. We have already purchased a heavy pair of horses and a yoke of oxen, and farming operations are now in progress.

And now lastly, the old Algoma Homes—Shingwauk and Wawanosh. These, as our friends know, have been partially shut down during the winter months for lack of funds. That is, taking all our homes together, our books shewed us to be nearly \$1,000 behind on December 31st last. I am thankful to say that since the new year the receipts both for Shingwauk and Wawanosh, have a little exceeded the expenditure. But then the general management fund and the hospital fund are both behind; so, taking all the maintenance fund together, we are still \$600 and \$700 in debt. I am sorry for this. I had hoped very much that the whole debt would have been wiped out, and that we should be able now to make a fresh start with a little balance to the good. But I still have confidence in the work. I believe it is the work to which Almighty God has called me. My difficulties are no greater now than they were ten years ago. And in the face of them all my work has increased. When I partly closed the Shingwauk and Wawanosh Homes last fall, it was with the intention of opening them again with full members in May. I see no reason for departing from this plan. And so letters have been sent out to all the reserves inviting old pupils to return and new ones to come, and already we are fast filling up again, and before the end of the summer we may, I hope, have from eighty to one hundred pupils at our two Algoma Homes. We expect also to have a lot of building going on. A new laundry, with modern appliances, is to be erected on the Shingwauk land close to the river, and if funds permit, we hope also to commence on a new Wawanosh Home for fifty girls. Then we have \$900 also on the estimates to be applied towards a steam pump, tanks, etc., for fire protection. To provide for the increased number of boys at the Shingwauk, I have now two school masters, Mr. McCallum, who has been with us a number of years, and Mr. Dooley, an architect by profession, whom I have just engaged. Each of the masters will teach school half the day and superintend outside operations the other half.