

40 below was quite common. The geese and ducks are only just arriving here, and as the fishing has been poor, some of the people have had a hard time of it, but I hope fish will be plentiful in a few days. Most of the children here, of school age, go to the Home at Slave Lake. I hope to get the ones that remain to Sunday School when their parents return from hunting. A little boy called Peter has been around a good bit this winter, doing the chores for me, and is getting quite handy, he is picking up a little English, and surprised me the other day when I called him, by answering "what." Will you thank the All Saints' Juniors for the clothes, at which they are working, for this Mission. The little ones were much pleased with the dolls and pinafores given them on New Year's Day.

In reference to the passages marked in the LEAFLETS you kindly sent me, regarding the refunding of freight on bales, I know that what I am now writing expresses in general terms the feelings of most, if not all, my fellow Missionaries in this Diocese on this subject, and as we all serve the same good Master, I trust you will all give the matter your prayerful and careful consideration. Having given the matter full consideration, and weighed it in all its bearings, as it concerns both the Women's Auxiliary and ourselves as Missionaries, and while we can see the advantage it would be to the W.A. from a financial point of view, we cannot help but see the great disadvantage it would be to Missionaries who realize the solemn responsibility of preaching the Gospel to the Indians. We feel sure that our Christian friends of the W.A. would not desire to increase the already heavy burden of secular work, which so seriously interferes with the spiritual work nearest your hearts and ours. Our work might be much more aggressive had we more time to visit Indians living at considerable distances from the Mission Station. For us to comply with the conditions the Government wish to impose, would be to tie our own hands, and to do violence to our own consciences. We are endeavouring as much as possible to free ourselves from secular duties, and this is one important reason for our objecting to such an arrangement, and we are strongly impressed with the fact that to give the Government any such control over our Missions would not be in accordance with God's Word or His plan of giving the Gospel to the heathen. These Indians are non-Treaty Indians; there are no agents in this Diocese, and it is to the Missions the people go for medicines, or any gratuitous assistance.

*Extract of letter from Mrs. Holmes, Lesser Slave Lake, dated April 23rd.*

"We have had rather a trying winter, at least during the time my husband was at Wabiskaw. He left us with a very sick child, who was taken home to be with Jesus a few days after his departure, then as