

The Indians of the Cat Lake and Trout Lake bands are employed by the Trading Companies to transport the supplies required for the posts. The supplies for Cat Lake are brought in from Hudson at a cost of eleven cents per pound, and to bring in the goods from Fort Severn to Trout Lake costs sixteen cents per pound. The supplies also for the English River and Martin Falls bands are freighted by the Indians, but ~~for~~ all the other centres are brought in by rail or by boat thus depriving the Indians of work which they formerly got to do.

Education.

The opportunities for education at most of the points visited is very limited. At English River a school is run in the summer time under the auspices of the English Church, a young missionary, Mr. Clarke, being in charge. He also looks after the medical needs of the Indians during his stay. At Fort Hope the school is under the charge of John A. Macdonald, and at Trout Lake under the charge of Reverend Leslie Garrett. At Trout Lake I counted one hundred and eighty-six bright Indian children between the ages of seven and sixteen years, who are being taught to read in English. The work being done by Mr. Garrett is most commendable. At Ogoki, Lansdowne, Osnaburgh, Cedar Lake, Fort Severn and Winisk, education is entirely neglected, there being no permanent missionary or teacher at these places. I visited the residential schools at Albany and at Moose Factory, but did not see many of the children as they were absent on vacation. The Reverend Blackburn, Principal of the Moose Factory Residential School, has resigned on account of ill health, and will be leaving in a few weeks for the front.

Health of Indians.

In spite of the adverse conditions I am glad to report that the general health of the Indians as a whole is good. Dr. Newbigging was both painstaking and sympathetic. I am confident that the policy of Dr. Stone, the Medical Supervisor, to appoint doctors to accompany me throughout the whole trip has already proved to be superior to that of appointing doctors for parts of the trip, for doctors ~~was~~ appointed are more interested in the work.

Dr. Newbigging will, no doubt, deal fully with the subject in his report.

I might add, however, that at every opportunity I impressed upon the Indians the necessity of cleanliness, the dangers of expectorating in their tents, and the need of keeping their clothing dry and clean. In some cases I refused to pay them any annuity until they bathed or washed themselves. I hope my exhortations have not fallen on barren grounds, but will be carried out during the next year.

Relief, etc.

Many times I have pointed out to the Department that the Indians of the Albany, Moose Factory and English River bands, are gradually being attracted to the front by the magnet of civilization. No great objection could be raised against them doing this providing they did not then depend upon the Government for relief. When making the payments at English River I ascertained that many Indians had left the inland posts for the line at Pagwa River where they claimed they received better treatment. I ascertained that some of them were getting relief, supposedly from the Revillon Freres Trading Company, when the same was really being paid by the Department. I am attaching to my report a letter received from T. Metcalfe, of Pagwa River, asking for authority to issue relief, but I wrote him that it was not the Department's

EXTRACT
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attached

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