

The girls are gradually losing their shyness and are making considerable progress in skating, softball and basket ball. The girls use the senior classroom for reading and quiet games in the evening. The boys have a similar arrangement in the intermediate classroom.

Farm:

The farm of 220 acres is owned but only about forty acres are arable. Two farms are rented, totalling 250 acres, with about 60 acres arable.

The stock on the farm is of good breed and each year the produce is practically all used at the school.

The farm played a big part in keeping up the standard of good food. There was sufficient milk at all times and usually enough eggs for two or three meals a week.

MISTAWASIS DAY SCHOOL

The teacher at the Mistawasis school is the missionary in charge, who is deeply interested in the Christian life of this reserve, ministering to all Indians, old and young.

The children who attend the day school receive a hot meal at noon. Our Society gives a grant each year towards the cost of providing these meals. Bales of clothing are sent in to be distributed amongst the needy. The school and the manse are used as centres for any social gatherings of the Indians.

Comments:

While there are plenty of children on the Reserves, parents are not always willing to send them to school. One of the reasons why the children do not progress as much as they should in their academic studies is that they do not come in until they are nine, ten, and eleven years old rather than beginning at six years of age. One marvels at the progress they make considering that they have to get accustomed more or less to school life, learning a new language as well as new customs. We feel that a definite effort should be made to persuade the parents to bring their children to the school at the age of six years. Then we might have more who would want to go on beyond grade eight.

In both schools there is the need for sports equipment. The health and happiness of the children require that they be kept in the open air as much as the school program will allow, and if there is sufficient sports equipment provided they will be much more contented.

In the schools more labour-saving devices should be installed, so that the children would not spend needless hours in the ordinary routine tasks of washing dishes and preparing vegetables, etc.

In the manual training shops more equipment should be provided that the standard of training might be raised to a higher level.

In reports received from the schools we know that an attempt has been made during these last few years to try to develop the social spirit amongst the children, as well as to introduce among them some idea of organization—for example, Girl Guides, Canadian Girls in Training, and Mission Bands. Choirs have been organized in both schools and the natural love of the Indians for music is being carefully cultivated. We point with pride to our Band at the Cecilia Jeffrey School, which has won notable recognition at music festivals in Winnipeg, and we would remember those boys in the Birtle School who have been learning to play the violin, and the girls who have learned to play the piano. It is always our hope that on their return to the Reserves these children might awaken in the hearts of their own people the desire to develop their musical ability.