

Our missionaries speak of a decided improvement in their habits of industry. Many of these Indians have been employed by farmers during harvest, and in lumber camps in winter. There has only been one sun dance during 1896; they are also more willing to send their children to school."

The Secretary for North-west Indian work drew attention to the large number of children (sixty-three this year) who have united with the Church, and to the remark frequently occurring in the report of Indian affairs, by inspectors and agents, that "the Indians are becoming more self-reliant and industrious, and many old pagan practices have been given up." In reply to a question, Mrs. Jeffrey explained that non-treaty children in the schools are pupils for whose maintenance the Department makes no provision. The W.F.M.S. meets the deficiency by maintaining these, and also any children above the number which Government agrees to assist in maintaining.

THE HOME WORK.—"We are glad to be able to say that the past year has been one of advance in every particular. Notwithstanding the continued financial depression, the amount contributed by Auxiliaries and Mission Bands is considerably in advance of any previous year; there is an increase in membership, in both Auxiliaries and Mission Bands, and the average attendance is over three hundred more than the previous year.

"For many years the number of Presbyterial Societies has remained the same; but this year Glenboro' Presbyterial, composed of Auxiliaries formerly in the Brandon Presbyterial, and an Auxiliary and Mission Band from Winnipeg Presbyterial, has been added to the list. The wisdom of this step is apparent, from the fact that one Auxiliary has already been added to the new Presbyterial, while the three Auxiliaries removed from the Brandon (now Brandon, and Portage la Prairie) Presbyterial Society have had their places filled by three new ones.

"Fifteen Presbyterial Societies have increased their contributions, London again heading the list with an advance of over three hundred and sixty dollars. Nine have added to the number of their branches without losing any of those that previously existed; one has remained stationary, without increase or decrease; and of the remainder, four report a decrease of one or two societies. Among the causes that have contributed to the prosperity of the Society may be mentioned the addresses of missionaries and others. Miss Sinclair's visits are gratefully spoken of as having been a means of blessing; others have imparted a great deal of information about the North-West; and, though mentioned last, by no means least important, are the visits of Presbyterial presidents and vice-presidents to the various societies in their district."

The Home Secretary expressed gratitude to God, who had preserved so many of the fifty who composed the membership at the beginning of our work. Annual meetings of Presby-