

MISSIONS TO THE INDIANS.

WABA-KA-KA PROVIDES CHURCH AND PEWS.

Here are some straws which show how the wind is blowing at the Crowstand. The letter is written by the Rev. C. W. Whyte and is dated August the 24th :

"We were delighted to have Mr. Frew [the minister at Birtle] step in upon us one night about eleven o'clock. He stayed over for two days. His knowledge of, and interest in the Birtle school made him an interesting and interested visitor. I was so glad to hear that a new school is to be erected at Birtle. The McLarens certainly deserve better accommodation than they have enjoyed. I believe they are doing excellent work. I was delighted with the school in almost every respect.

"We have received our first instalment of clothes, etc., from the ladies in the East, and if all the rest that comes is as good we will have an excellent supply that will be of great use to us. I am following Mr. Laird's plan of selling these things to the Indians. I give them nothing for nothing only to the very old. In most cases they work for these things. Some of them had the idea that these things belonged to them and that Mr. Laird was wrong in charging for them, but they have got pretty well over that idea now and are quite willing to pay. It is perhaps not very dignified to have the church carrying on a trade in old clothes, but it is certainly better than training up a lot of lazy paupers who come to look on the church as an organization whose business it is to feed and clothe them for nothing. I keep an account of all clothing sold, and the money thus procured will be put into clothing for the children or something else round the mission.

"A few children are coming into the school. This quarter's report will be a small advance on the last. The children remain very contented, and so far our plan of letting the children go home on the first Saturday of each month has worked very well.

"As for the mission work, the services at Waba-ka-ka's are increasing in interest. Although I refused, a little while ago, to baptize his child, explaining to him that until he himself became a Christian, baptism could mean nothing for his child, he has become more and more interested. The last Sabbath that I had service at his house he had had two long benches prepared for the people to sit on. This was done without any hint on my part and was certainly very commendable.

"Little Jimmy Crow who was brought back from Regina very ill, died some time ago. Another boy who ran away from the Regina school was thrown from a horse and suffered very severe injuries. His head was very badly hurt, and it is doubtful if he will ever be right again.

"We expect Miss McLean back on Friday next. We will all be glad to see her. The children will be delighted to have her with them again."