

— cents a pound, wouldn't it be cheaper " etc, etc, or in a spirit of exasperation against ruling prices somebody declares positively he could land his flour for so much less.

But he probably has never tried.

The Indians at the posts find such times very hard with their limited fixed rations and large and limitless families.

A family of Indian children is an unknown quantity (to feed) and consequently a good many meals have to be passed over in respectful silence at times.

The women and children are assisted by the mission on such occasions, when the need is absolutely pressing (but as much care has to be taken here as in giving provisions and clothing to the wild Indians, otherwise the whole fort would speedily be living at the expense of the mission !)

An Esquimo and his wife and family were "stopping in town." for the winter at Churchill, and during the cold, stormy, early winter weather, found existence rather troublesome. They could get no blubber except the rotten whale's meat kept for feeding the dogs with. Partridges do not feed and warm them (for Esquimo depend on their food for warmth) and the only thing the mission could supply to them was oatmeal. This they could make a thick warming soup of.

Later when the weather became pleasantly below zero for them, they built a snow "igloo" and lived in luxury on a polar bear carcase that an Indian had killed on the other side of the river.

Polar bear is as bad as whale—or seal. If you put some on a plate and let it dissolve you can drink it (an Esquimo can). It is all oil, like the whale and seal, and the meat (when you get down to it!) tastes like the smell of some oily old piece of leather burned in the fire, with an odour that is penetrating and comes to stay.

The mission has to carry on a medical and dental practice, and Indians come from all quarters of the country to have their teeth extracted or their diseases summarily cured.

An Indian expects to be cured on the spot, and likes to feel that he is being cured, so that whatever you happen to give him you must mix up in a large dose of red pepper, or drown it in "pain-killer," so that they may rest assured as to the efficiency of the medicine.

It would actually lose more than half its effect if the Indian's faith were not stimulated and warmed in this fashion—internally.

A Cree Indian woman will ask the missionary to "let the bleed"