

the year being June, and winter far away, some could not see the force of providing for such a distant day. Sixteen families did purchase new tent cloth, which they make into "tepees" for themselves. The cost of material for one tent is about \$12. Each soul is entitled to an annuity of \$5. The head of a family of ten draws \$50 ; consequently when a child becomes orphaned, many are found extremely anxious to adopt the same on account of the annuity and the extra rations. They can beg a few rags to cover the poor child, and reckon a stray child clear gain.

Last year I could not get even one load of wood from the Indians. This year they have brought me all I will require. Even Piapot himself brought me a load. We consider this a great achievement. Yet there is much feeling against learning the English. The old people hate innovation, and children are wonderfully fond of "Nokomis," or "Nokoni"—grandma—and the poor old creatures will carry the children upon their old backs up the hills—and very steep, high hills they are too. It is said we are quite four hundred feet above the Qu'Appelle Valley. And in the valley they love to camp, because through it runs the small, sluggish stream known as the Qu'Appelle River. And most naturally they love to be near the water, not that they are over-clean in their habits, but smoke a great deal, and that seems to make even white gentlemen thirsty. Well, when the little ones come to school, "Nokoni" must buckle to and mount the hill with the five-year old on her burden-accustomed back.

Many little ones tease to come to school. So, when Nokoni sits down to rest, she tells the little one "Meshoshe likes you, but you are not to think all the whites do ; they do not. They want you to learn their ways, so you may die and they will take the land. They took our buffalo and our freedom. They put us upon a Reserve. We cannot leave without a letter from one of them. Instead of plenty of buffalo to eat, we have that ugly white flour and ugly bacon." She goes on to say, "You must do as little as you can for Meshoshe. But you must do a little, or she will give you nothing." This is the teaching of grandma Indian. Thus we make but slow progress in teaching. The Kindergarten methods are the best. I brought an outfit of gifts from Chicago when I came. They enlightened old and young. The gifts are too expensive for me to renew, and I am sorry to say the sets are all broken upon now. One box of Kindergarten blocks came from "Lend-a-Hand" Mission Band, Haynes Avenue, St. Catharines. I find most helpful. Not one, old or young, but are greatly taken up with them.