

Along the Line.

INDIAN WORK IN THE NORTH-WEST.

FOR some time past the attention of the Chairman of the Regina District has been turned toward a band of Sioux Indians located some miles south-west of Saskatoon. They were reported to be an industrious and orderly band, living on a good reserve, and very desirous of having a school established among them. The Rev. Alfred Andrews, Chairman of Regina District, was asked to visit the reserve, and report the facts for the consideration of the General Board. His report is as follows:—

WHITE CAP'S RESERVE.

By request of the Missionary Secretary, and our esteemed Superintendent of Missions, Rev. J. Woodsworth, who was prevented by illness from undertaking the journey, I left Qu'Appelle station by the midnight train to visit the Saskatoon Mission and the Indians on White Cap's reserve. This band is situated about eighteen miles southwest of Saskatoon, on the west bank of the South Saskatchewan.

Having secured the hearty co-operation of the Indian Department in any proposition for the improvement of these natives, I first, in company with Rev. G. Daniel, called at the office of Lieut.-Governor Dewdney, to consult with him in reference to the work required. To our satisfaction, we found the White Cap and his brother seated in the office. They had arrived only a few minutes before, having travelled about 160 miles by the Regina trail. They had no knowledge of my intended visit to the Department, and had not been in Regina for two winters before. We found it a great advantage having the representatives of the Indians present with the Governor. And through Mr. Taylor, one of the clerks who acted as interpreter, we were able to ascertain pretty fully the views and wishes of the Indians. Already they had sent in a petition to me to be laid before the Indian Department asking for a school. This had been forwarded to the Department some time before, and a copy was forwarded to the Mission Rooms. After a long conversation, it was agreed that "after seven sleeps," at noon the following Monday, we would meet the band at White Cap's house. Desirous of granting us every possible facility, the Governor consented to send with us Mr. A. W. Taylor, who speaks the Sioux language, as interpreter, free of expense to the Missionary Society. We have found Mr. Taylor a most valuable help, not only at the reserve, but in travelling along the trail. We could not have had a better companion.

At midnight we took the train for Moose Jaw, where we secured the services of Rev. W. C. Bunt as companion and counsellor, his place being supplied during our absence by a young local preacher named Hallsall, from the Isle of Man. The story of camping on the prairie for meals and lodging, with search for water and wood for cooking, etc., and precautions to elude the search of the army of mosquitoes, would

scarcely be worthy of recital here. Suffice it to say, we reached Saskatoon on Saturday afternoon, having made the 155 miles in three days.

THE RESERVE.

On Monday, at noon, we met the old chief and some of his band. He reached out his hand, and said, "I am very glad you have done as you said, to come here at the proper time." After all the braves had gathered, we received promise of support in getting out logs and digging the cellar for the teacher's house, and help in the building. We allowing them their board while putting up the building, but no further remuneration. As the farm instructor was absent from the Reserve, and as he has charge of the band, it was thought advisable to have another interview with the Indians after his return, so we appointed Wednesday afternoon as the next time of meeting, and returned back to Saskatoon, about eighteen miles. Wednesday morning we were on our way back to the Reserve. Again the Indians turned out in full force, and went with us to select a site for the school and teacher's house, in case it is decided to build. This involved a very great deal of walking, and we did not decide until Friday afternoon. In the mean time Mr. Nelson, D. L. Surveyor, arrived with his outfit to resurvey the Reserve and make some changes in the boundaries. So he agreed to survey the site selected and make us out a proper description. The Indians were very anxious to have the work begun at once, but I told them we should have to report to Toronto before we knew for a certainty whether we could go on, and it must take some weeks to get an answer back. The farm instructor returned from Regina before we left, and gave us what assistance he could. On Saturday we returned to Saskatoon. After preaching at Clarke's Crossing, Blakeley's and Saskatoon on Sabbath, we started on Monday morning for Moose Jaw. A strong north wind blew, and a drizzling rain fell nearly all day. We were fortunate to reach Mr. Wilson's for the night. His mansion is built of sods, and roofed with thatch of mud and hay. Our bedding was the blankets and clothing we wore, and our beadsteads the soft side of the uneven floor. But we were able to rest and be thankful. Tuesday morning found us on the trail at four o'clock. The day was bright and pleasant, and our wet clothes and blankets became thoroughly dry before night. Near a good fire on the prairie, twenty-two miles south of the elbow of the South Saskatchewan, we slept soundly, and at four o'clock on Wednesday morning we started for our last day's drive, and arrived at Moose Jaw just in time to catch a freight train going east. The caboose was a model of neatness and cleanliness, and in four hours we reached Qu'Appelle, having been absent seventeen days and travelled 550 miles.

I hope that nothing will prevent the opening of a school for this band as early as possible. A gentleman said to me while I was away, "We send missionaries to convert heathen in India and other distant countries, but here are veritable heathen at our very doors." Should we begin, there is a suitable man, with a family, prepared to enter at once upon the work of building and teaching. In all the church work that has fallen to my lot, I have never seen any-