



WIGWAMS AND RIVER.

Government grant, we gradually augmented our numbers, the boys to fifty-one, the girls to twenty-eight. At the close of the year we had forty-nine boys at the Shingwauk, twenty-three girls at the Wawanosh. The entire number of pupils under my charge during the year at Sault Ste. Marie and at Elkhorn has been 140.

I regret to say that we had several cases of sickness during the year, and that two pupils, while resident in the Home, died; a boy named William Esquiman in April, and a little girl named Mary Petuhwegezhik in December. Both were scrofulous subjects and died of consumption.

We were disappointed in our expectation of a Government grant towards adding to and improving our buildings. There had been placed on the Estimates for us for building purposes \$2,500, for fire protection \$900, and towards support of additional pupils \$1,380, but, on account, we suppose, of the Premier's death and things being thrown somewhat out of gear, these items failed to materialize and we had to do without them. And not only so, but even the allowed grants towards the maintenance of our Algoma Homes have, since July 1st. last, been only partly paid, and are now very considerably in arrear.

Notwithstanding all these drawbacks we have managed, I am thankful to say, to keep things together and have even launched out upon new ventures. We have now a man, instead of a female as formerly, in charge of our tailor shop, and the other trades, carpentering, shoemaking and weaving are also in full operation. Government having failed us, we have sought orders from the towns-people, and have been doing a good deal of work for outsiders. Our present buildings consist of five stone ones and five frame ones; they include our main building, chapel, drill hall, industrial building, hospital, factory, cottages, farm buildings, etc.; they stand on ninety acres of land and were built at a cost of \$22,000.

Instead of giving our pupils summer holidays we, at present, divide the year into six school terms of about seven weeks each, each term being followed by examination and seven or eight days' holiday. It is allowable to pupils to miss a term in the year if the parents want

them home for a visit, but there is no general break up during the year.

I have been feeling a little disappointed of late in regard to the results of our work. The Indian parents shew but little gratitude for what we are doing for their children, and comparatively few of our pupils follow the trades they have been taught after they get back to the Reserves. It seems a pity that the Indians—even the most advanced and civilized of them—cling so much to their own language and seem

to prefer living in separate communities to mingling with the white population.

Still I feel that the past twenty-three years of my life have not been wholly wasted. Numerous other Institutions for Indian children have sprung up and are springing up in the North-West, and this alone shews, I think, that the idea of gathering young Indians into such schools as our Shingwauk Home, is a right one. The progress may be slow, but I think it will tell in the end. Since our Homes were first started we have received, altogether, 516 pupils; of these 325 have been boys and 191 girls. Of the tribes they belong to, 334 were Ojibways, fourteen Mohawks, forty Sioux, forty-six Crees, twenty-three Delawares, thirty-three Ottawas, four Blackfeet, fifteen Potawatamies.

In drawing my Report to a close I would wish to thank most heartily those Sunday schools, ladies of the Woman's Auxiliary and others in Canada, who have aided us so much by undertaking the support of pupils or providing clothing for our Homes, and also those kind English friends who, from the first outset of the work, have done so much to help us. . . . Whether or not it may be the will of God for me to continue in the work much longer I do not at present know.

Of course, the separation from me of the Western Homes diminishes, to some extent, my own personal interest in the work, as it does away with the idea of making the Shingwauk our central Institution and bringing to it from time to time the little wild children from our branch Homes in the west. My own sympathies are, I think, more with the western Indians than with these half civilized natives of Ontario. Sometimes, too, I think for the sake of my growing family, and especially on account of my wife's feeble health, that I ought to be withdrawing altogether from the Indian field and seeking work in some other sphere. But these things, happily for us, are not for ourselves to decide.

There is a hand that rules above and orders for us our destinies. By that hand alone do I wish to be guided, and to engage only in such work as it may be the will of the Almighty for me to engage in, and I know and feel that that work, from time to time will be given me.