



The Juniors Visit Muncey Industrial Institute

And See Many Interesting Things



We were all so much interested in our visit to the offices of our Church that we all wanted to be members of the deputation to Muncey. But our superintendent told us that we would all have a chance to go on some of the deputations before the end of the year, so we chose the ones from our society who would make the very best report, and while they were away, we tried to learn all we could about the Indians in Canada, and what our Church is doing to help them. The deputation gave us a splendid report.

REPORTER No. 1.

We went to Muncey by way of the city of St. Thomas. Here we found that we would have to wait for some time, so we had a chance to see something of the city. I think what interested us all most was Alma Ladies' College, and some of the girls on the deputation said they would like to attend there when they grew up. We got on the train for Muncey at the Michigan Central Railway station, and as we had only twelve or thirteen miles to go, it did not seem very long before the conductor called out, "Muncey!" We found that the village was a mile from the Institute, but we did not mind the walk. The Institute is situated on the bank of the River Thames. It is just on the edge of the "Reserve," which someone told us is the name given to those lands set apart for the use of the Indians. When we got to the Institute building, we went up to the main entrance, and asked if we might see Rev. Mr. George, the Principal.

REPORTER No. 2.

Mr. George was very much interested when we told him our deputation plan. "Why, I think it is fine," he said, "and I will do everything I can to help you get a good report of the Institute." Then he explained why there are Industrial Institutes, and I thought I had better take things down so that the Juniors would understand all about it. He said that years ago, before the white man came, the Indian used to roam around just as he pleased. He got all his food by hunting and fishing, so that it was not necessary for him to farm or know a trade. Then the white man came, and took up all the land except what the Government gave the Indian in these reserves. But the Indian did not know how to farm, and so something had to be done to teach him. So these schools are built, that the Indian boys and girls may be taught to live as the white people live. Mr. George said that we really owed it to the Indians to teach them these things, and he said, more than that, we owe it to them to teach them how to be Christians.

One of the boys asked if this was the only Industrial Institute, and Mr. George said, "No, there are four others, but this is the only one in Ontario under the direction of the Methodist Church."

He said that the Indian boys and girls came long distances to the school, and that one year there were pupils in attendance from sixteen different reserves. The building will accommodate nearly one hundred pupils.

REPORTER No. 3.

"Now," said Mr. George, "I will show you something of what we are doing."

He took us first to the kindergarten, and here we found the junior pupils playing the same games and singing the same

songs as our little brothers and sisters in the kindergartens at home. We almost forgot that these were not white children as we watched them. In the other classrooms the older ones were studying just the same subjects that are taught in our schools. Mr. George said that they have the same examinations as we do, and that the school is under the inspector for the county. He said that many of the Indian boys and girls are very clever, and do well in their studies. We visited the music room, and then one of the boys said, "Where is the place you teach the boys farming?"

Of course we all laughed, and Mr. George said, "I am just going to show you that now."

REPORTER No. 4.

We were sorry we could not see much of the farm because it was winter. However, Mr. George pointed it out as well as he could, and explained about the different crops that were grown, and where the cattle were pastured. Most of the grain that is grown there is sold, and many of the cattle are shipped to the markets of Great Britain. There is also a large garden and orchard, in which vegetables and fruits are grown to supply the table for the large family in the Institute. All the boys thought they would like to be farmers when we went to the great house and saw how nicely everything was kept. The horses and cattle and all the animals seemed so well fed and contented.

"Well, Mr. George," said one of the boys, "I am sure the Indian boys must get a good idea of farming from being here."

"But what about the girls?" said one of our girls. "Don't you teach them anything but school work?"

"Oh, yes," said Mr. George. "We teach them housework and sewing."

When we went into the building again, he took us into some of the rooms, and we saw that they were very neatly kept. We felt sure that the Indian girls would know how to keep house after they had lived in the Institute for a while.

REPORTER No. 5.

"Do you have church right here?" someone asked.

"No," said Mr. George. "We all go to service in the church in the village; Rev. Mr. Sanderson is the missionary there. But we have Sunday School here. We are just one big family," continued Mr. George, "and a very happy one. We have family worship together each day, and we try to make it as bright and interesting as possible. We have music and responsive reading, so that all the pupils can take part."

We thanked Mr. George for all the help he had given us, and said we were sure that we would always be interested in the work at Muncey. One of the girls said that she would like to teach in the Institute when she grew up.

"I want you to tell your League," said Mr. George, as he was saying good-bye, "that the Indian work is very important. We are training the boys and girls to be useful and happy Canadian citizens, and more than that to be Christian men and women. We want your Junior League to pray for us."

We were sure the League would want to help in this way, so we promised to pray specially for the Indian work at Muncey.

Appreciative Review

Rev. Dr. Withrow, who has always shown a strong interest in the Epworth League, has the following appreciative notice of the new book of League methods, "Practical Plans":

"Dr. Crews has rendered another important service to our Leagues by preparing this book of methods. His large experience and fertile initiative have enabled him to develop important plans for the betterment of League work. He gives, first, a historical sketch of this wonderful movement, which now enrolls two million of the young people of Methodism in the United States and Canada, the best blood and brain of our churches. He shows how to organize a League, gives important counsels and suggestions as to the officers and their duties, the business meeting, the different departments of League work, the devotional service, consecration service, look-out committee, evangelistic work, the League and the Sunday School.

"One of the most splendid outcomes of the League and of this brilliant nudge and prophecy of its future is the magnificent way in which it has taken up missionary work, in study, in prayer, in givings, in sending to the front and maintaining on the firing-line early seventy missionaries of its own.

"Nor are the other important functions of the League overlooked. In fact, suggestions are made for maintaining the literary department with its courses of reading, its Bible study, its discussions of great problems, and debates in which the members learn to think upon their feet and express themselves with fluency and force.

"We have social natures as well which need wise development. Some of the hints for these will guarantee lots of wholesome fun at the social meetings. The League is an ideal way for cultivating the many-sided activities of our young people. This book is simply indispensable to those who would make the most of it. Price in cloth, 60 cents postpaid."

The Power of a Voice

When you live in hotels a great deal—as I have more or less this summer—you realize the power of the human voice to soothe, or quite the opposite, Oh, what a lot of harsh, disagreeable voices there are in this world—women's voices, too! The pity of it!

The other morning I was on the beach at the bathing hour when I heard some one call "Tommy!" in discordant tones that set my nerves a-tingle with their acid sharpness. The child so called frowned and answered back in a peevish way. I turned, expecting to see some uncouth nursemaid; and to my surprise I beheld the extremely elegant mother of the boy.

Now, that woman's husband is always irritable and peevish, just like the boy; and who shall say her voice is not responsible for it?

One of the worst-tempered men I know married a woman with a sweet, low voice and an even disposition. He is now completely changed. You know, you simply can't quarrel all by yourself when everything is peaceful and soothing all around you. It seems to me if more women realized this there would be more happy homes.—Kate Clyde.