

MISSIONS TO THE INDIANS.

THE GRIST MILL AS A CIVILIZER.

The following extracts are made from a letter written by the Rev. Hugh McKay, of Round Lake, on the 9th of March :

"When I arrived at the Agency I found a little excitement. The agent, Col. McDonald, has just got the new mill in operation, and the Indians were very much interested in bringing them little grists, taking them up to the hopper and then watching the flour falling into the sacks. This little mill placed at that place by the Indian Department at a cost of about \$1000, will do much to stimulate farming among the Indians. I am sure there were as many as twenty, men and women, watching the mill with deep interest. I got to Jacob Bear's about dark, and had a good meeting with the Indians. They seemed to be much interested in their new day school. Jacob has an attendance of nine and expects more as soon as the weather becomes warmer. Yellow Calf said : "I know the children would be much better at the school at Round Lake, where they get their food and clothing and are regular at school, but the mothers don't like to let their little children go so far, yet are willing to let them come to this little school as they can be with them every night and then neither mother nor children will be lonesome. Perhaps after being here a little while they will be willing to go to Round Lake." After a talk of two hours with the Indians I drove to the house of Mr. Cockburn where I spent the night. Then at 9.30 I met with the Indians again according to last night's promise to speak about the Bible and its teaching. Mr. and Mrs. Cockburn came with me to the school house where we found most of the Indians of the band, only the men and the boys, however, I remained with them until noon then bade them good-bye. Took one little boy (who was never at school before) with me to Round Lake.

The Rev. A. J. McLeod entered upon his duties as principal of the Regina industrial school during the first week of April. He is assisted by Mr. C. D. Mackenzie, a gentleman of decided executive ability, and of considerable experience in Indian industrial school work. He was Superintendent of the Shingwauk institution at Sault-Ste-Marie, and afterwards of that at Elkhorn.

Work is to be undertaken by the Presbyterian Church among the 16,000 still pagan Indians in British Columbia. Ground will be broken at Alberni, on the west coast of Vancouver Island, and Mr. John A. McDonald, a graduating student of Queen's College, Kingston, who has looked forward to this work for several years, will be the first missionary. For the first year at least he will combine home and Indian mission work.