

PRESENTS.

Very few presents, except those usually supplied to destitute Indians, have been made during the past year.

Garden seeds to a limited amount have been given to Indians generally in the Province, who showed a desire to utilize them. Indians of the Okanagan Agency declined to accept any seeds from the Agent, but in all other localities they have been thankful for the gift.

MEDICAL ATTENDANCE.

The usual amount of sickness always exists in Indian camps, and on account of the absence of professional assistance much suffering is often experienced.

To this want may be attributed, in a great measure, the continuance of the "Gamanawas," or Indian doctoring, and its attendant evils among semi-civilized tribes.

Medicines have been freely supplied to the outlying Missions and to the Indian Agents and others.

This is, in my opinion, a very unsatisfactory mode of distributing relief, and it is not at all improbable that instances of mal-practice are occasionally perpetrated. However, there are no medical men in many isolated localities, and it appears to be the only course one can adopt under present circumstances.

I had the honor of reporting to you last year, that the Indians of Metlahkahtla had offered to pay half the salary of a medical man, who might make that village his headquarters, if the Government would supply the remainder. I am informed that the Right Rev. Bishop of Caledonia, who evinces great interest in the prosperity of his diocese has, with commendable energy, engaged the services of a qualified medical gentleman in England who will shortly take up his residence, possibly, at Metlahkahtla.

The urgent want of an Indian hospital and dispensary in Victoria for the care of serious cases which should have proper surgical and other treatment, is also one of the requirements for which Indians generally, and especially those who cannot be received in any other place, would be exceedingly grateful.

ILLICIT LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

The very fact of preventing an Indian from obtaining what the majority of white people often have a relish for, naturally creates in the former a desire to possess themselves of the forbidden luxury by any means. The consequence is that occupation is afforded a very low class of whites to supply the most abominable trash that can well be imagined.

In this way the Indian can never by any chance procure good liquor, but in the vicinity of white settlements he experiences little difficulty, notwithstanding the law, in obtaining the villianous compound.

I am glad to say that in some places the traffic is quite suppressed, and in many it is much less than it used to be, still it prevails extensively in other localities.

In country places justices of the peace do not like to act when perhaps a neighbour may incur punishment, and then again the judgments of rural magistrates have been so often upset that they do not like the risk of being mulcted in costs.

In the various Agencies the trade has been checked by the activity of some of the officers watching it, but more is required.

SCHOOLS.

During the present year, the following schools have received Government aid agreeably to the Order in Council regulating this expenditure:—

Nass River	-	-	-	-	-	-	Wesleyan.
Fort Simpson	-	-	-	-	-	-	Wesleyan.