

APPENDIX III

The Presbyterian Church in Canada began its mission amongst the Indians in 1866 near the present site of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. An extensive work was begun on several reserves and churches were built.

When church union was consummated in 1925 a part of this task was undertaken by the United Church in Canada.

At the present time besides the work on the reserves we have two residential schools and one improved day school under the care of our Church—Birtle School, Manitoba; Cecilia Jeffrey School, Kenora, Ontario; and Mistawasis School near Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

Birtle School—

One hundred and nineteen pupils enrolled, 63 girls and 56 boys, from the following reserves:

Mistawasis	25
Round Plains (near Prince Albert)	4
Rolling River	11
Elphinstone	14
Griswold	6
Valley River	1
Birdtail	15
Waywayseecappo	43

In the Birtle School the course of study as outlined by the Department of Education for Manitoba is followed and all subjects listed therein are taught. All grades attend for the full school-day period from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. as in the Provincial schools. With the full-day system almost all children are able to cover the work outlined in the course for the year in that time. Four pupils are doing two grades in the one year. The highest grade is grade eight. Some pupils have voluntarily expressed their desire to return for further education but whether they will or not is yet to be known. In the great majority of cases the parents persuade them to stay home.

Special Subjects:

Household Science, which covers all phases and cooking, is taught to all girls over nine years of age. The four-year course outlined by the Extension Service Branch of the Department of Agriculture for Manitoba is followed. Each group receives one-half day per week of instruction and work and one evening per week. Near the conclusion of the term an Achievement Day is held in the school and all the work is displayed. The public is invited to the display and the articles are judged by a representative from the Extension Branch. Also articles

The boys in grades 3 to 8, inclusive, spend one-half day per week and one evening in Manual Training. This is the first year that a full course has been given in this work. As yet the workshop is too small and only hand tools are available, which limit the type and kind of work being done.

The girls and boys take a keen interest in both Household Science and Manual Training, and spend a great deal of their spare time on this.

Grades 3 to 8 each have two half-hour periods of physical training per week. Some of the classes are held in the auditorium and the others in the playrooms. In the warm weather they are held outside. Boys and girls are taken separately, and the period is spent in teaching folk dances, tumbling, physical exercises and organized games.