

Condition of the Indians at Okanase.

FROM MR. MACPHERSON.

Okanase Mission, Elphinstone, Man., August 5, 1896.

When I wrote last, whooping-cough was very bad on our Reserve, and I am glad to tell you that we had no more fatal cases. The health of all the children has been very good.

The attendance at school has been very good considering the wet spring and summer, and I am glad to be able to report that good progress in learning has been made. Mrs. McPherson has been busy and keeping the girls busy—the younger girls with knitting, and the elder with making underclothing for themselves. We had a quantity of new duck cloth on hand, and Mrs. McP. cut new suits for all the boys and basted them together and gave them to them to take home for their mothers and sisters to make, which they did, and all were well done.

Our best scholar, Jemima Bone, has left us. Mr. Markle, our respected Government Agent, engaged her as help in his own home in Birtle. We are very glad of the good opportunity she has now of improving herself, and the good Christian home which, we feel sure, will be a blessing to her. She is a good girl and was always anxious to learn about housekeeping. She often asked to get to our house on baking days so that she could learn more for which she was grateful. Mr. and Mrs. Markle, I am glad to say, are well pleased with her.

Our church services have been well attended, and no one could wish for more attentive listeners, but I am sorry that I cannot report that any more have shown any desire to confess their belief and trust in Jesus as their Saviour. The parents of nearly every family in this reserve are, and have been for years, members of the Church, and are regular attendants in church and prayer meetings. Four of our members engage in prayer, and, I have every reason to believe, are earnest Christians, also others. Family worship is conducted in their homes daily, but I want them to show some interest in our Church—a live interest outside of themselves, to realize that they are part of the Church, and their duty to help the Schemes of our Church. I do hope this fall to persuade them to begin subscribing a little. However small the sum may be, I will be thankful.

I am sorry the attendance at Sabbath school has suffered through the wet season. The roads have been very bad. The children wait to come to church with their parents, who all drive. When the roads are good the attendance is good. I have the school divided into classes for the first time, the young girls in charge of Jemima Bone, and the young boys in charge