

state, and in great need of clothing. The third house was equally as destitute of home comforts as the first. The wife and four children were very thinly clad, and had no food in the house. I could say much more about these appalling sights, but suffice it to say that these are only a few instances, but far from being exceptions, and may be taken as a description of many more.

This state of destitution naturally reacts on the school attendance, for it would be unreasonable to expect the poor children to attend school with regularity when even in the bitter weather of a northern winter they are too often without food or adequate clothing. So few are the rags that frequently cover them that it is a subject of astonishment that they can possibly survive the cold, and yet to their credit be it said that in many cases they are sent out, and willingly come to school, when the teacher is well aware that they are suffering from hunger and lack of proper clothing. This, as you may be sure, is a subject of grief to the teacher, since the scantiness of his own salary places it entirely out of his power to render the aid he would otherwise so much like to afford.

It will be well to bear in mind in considering the foregoing state of affairs that opportunities of making a living, which are within reach of the Indians along the line of the C.P.R., are entirely wanting to this people.

There are only about a dozen white people within a radius of some two hundred miles, and the nearest post-office is 250 miles away, consequently work is so scarce as hardly to be taken into consideration, and the land here is so stony and swampy that it is only in small plots that a few potatoes and other vegetables can be raised. Of course in winter they make some profit from fur (in fact if they did not they would absolutely starve), but this also is getting scarcer year by year, and the prices of the necessities of life are so exorbitant that the little fur the majority procure only provides them with temporary relief. Of course it is not to be supposed that they are so thrifty and economical as thoroughly civilized people would be under the same circumstances, and the adults seem unable to learn the first lessons of economy.

It is this clinging to the old improvident ways of their forefathers, who could rely from day to day on a daily supply, that is such an obstacle to the due civilization of the mature Indian. And this leads me to touch upon a project of establishing a Home on the plan of the Rev. E. F. Wilson, for the better education of the children in ways of civilization and general improvement. The fact that all the Indians throughout this agency, which contains six separate reserves, are all of the same race and almost of the same family, renders it certain that such a Home would be very largely taken advantage of, and I only hope this plan will eventually meet with success. Up to the present no response has been received from the Government, but I am sanguine that if it could only be started

it would eventually be made self-supporting.

Another part I would mention is that the aid received from the Government by the Indians in this agency is a mere trifle and not to be compared with that afforded those on the line of the C. P. R., and in fact the little encouragement given by the Government in furtherance of either the educational or physical benefit of these Indians is becoming a matter of general comment, and much dissatisfaction to all those who are laboring amongst them, or are aware of the true circumstances. Now with the above painful facts daily pressing upon us I feel that although so soon after your kind assistance to the Indians at my former place a further appeal may appear somewhat importunate, but surrounded as I am with so many instances of pressing need I think I am only doing my duty in bringing such absolute destitution to the knowledge of those whose aim it is to honor the Master by clothing the naked and administering to the wants of the necessitous; I feel too that the fact that all the poor people, for the alleviation of whose bitter lot I am pleading, are not heathens but are humble Christian brethren, who are according to their light and knowledge trying to lead humble lives, must speak with a loud voice to those more fortunate brethren who have enough and to spare of the good things of this life, and that their hearts will surely be touched at the thought of so much suffering and want.

As I am aware that Auxiliary associations are generally glad to be informed what kind of clothing would be most acceptable, I beg to offer a few suggestions. For the boys warm underclothing such as the shirts previously sent to me, and for outer garments brown duck or other strong material, or even blanket coats or capotes. For the girls grey flannel skirts and plain underclothing—for men any kind of warm shirts and underclothing—and for women the knitted wraps you sent were excellent, in fact all the clothing you sent me last May was most suitable for distribution amongst Indians, and similar articles will be even more appreciated here than there. For general purposes blankets, quilts, stockings, socks, mitts, tuques, knitting needles, yarn and little work bags will gladden many hearts, and if you would send a few children's picture books and also a few strong toys suitable for out door games the little ones would be delighted.

As we are so far from civilization I rarely see a Canadian paper, so I feel sure you will excuse my putting in a little appeal for myself, which is that if any kind friends would send me secular or religious papers, or, in fact, any good literature, I would be very grateful for the same.

I think I have now given you a fairly descriptive account of the circumstances and needs of both the Indians and myself.

I sincerely and earnestly hope that this letter may be by the aid of the Lord the means of influencing many hearts to extend to us permanent help.