

contraction of our work. Should the consensus of Church opinion point in this direction, so be it, but otherwise I shrink from taking the responsibility of such a retrograde step, involving as it must, the cutting down of my staff of co-workers—injustice to a number of faithful and devoted missionaries—the abandonment of promising fields of labor—the consignment of hundreds of loyal sons and daughters of the Church to spiritual destitution, and, last but not least, deep reproach and dishonor to the Church of England in Canada. These, then, are the simple facts of the case. I submit them for the consideration of the clergy and laity. Action is needed and that immediately. Justice is not being done to the missionary diocese of this ecclesiastical province. The pledges entered into fourteen years ago are not being redeemed. Far off fields possess more attractions than those nearer home. The Church is wearying of her firstborn. If this be punishment for neglect or unfaithfulness on our part, we will accept it without complaint. Otherwise, while very grateful for past assistance, we claim the continuance of it as our rightful due.

July, 1896.

E. ALGOMA.

UPPER PEACE RIVER.

The following letter from the Rev. H. Robinson tells a tale of struggles and disappointments. He echoes the cry that comes from so many quarters for more laborers:

"It is for lack of laborers and means to carry on the work that we are languishing, and strongly tempted to give up in despair. We have to work in the face of many hardships and difficulties, but we cannot for a moment think that God is closing the door against us. Every ear is open to hear the glad tidings—parents asking us to take their children and teach them, and others inviting us to visit them in their camps. We dare not give the work up. 'No man having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.' We are here to do the ploughing and sowing, and I would earnestly plead with those who have helped us in the past to increase their subscriptions, and awake others to a sense of their duty and privilege in this glorious work of spreading the Gospel of Christ.

"My straitened circumstances prevent me from engaging any reliable help for farm work. Visiting is impossible; Sunday services far from what they ought to be. I am one of those who have the care of cattle, pigs, and horses, and I can speak from experience that they need attention seven days in the week. Many of our kind friends are looking for great results, but this cannot be until we have more laborers.

Can nothing be done towards sending out and supporting a good reliable man, one who has a good knowledge of stock and farm work in general? We are able to raise wheat, oats, barley, all kinds of vegetables, even pumpkins and cucumbers; but last year, I am sorry to say, was a total failure. After the snow disappeared in the spring, no rain fell before July 22, and the temperature day after day was over 90 degrees in the shade. Only a very few of the seeds germinated, but after the rain they came up well and grew very quickly, but it was too late in the season for any of the grain to ripen. The loss to the mission in securing food supplies and farm help is very great. On this we were depending for our subsistence and for school purposes. Our cherished hopes of having about fifteen or twenty children have all vanished, and, to the great sorrow of our hearts, those who might have been under our care have all left their homes, and are now running wild in the bush in search of food. We are thankful to learn from them that fur-bearing animals and rabbits are plentiful, so there is no fear of starvation. That we should continue the mission farm, raising our own supplies, etc., seems unquestionable, as we cannot even buy flour in the springtime of the year, and freight charges are so great that it is simply impossible to live on imported provisions. I have just arrived safely home from a long trip of about 300 miles. I travelled nearly all this distance on foot. I used horses to Lesser Slave Lake, and from there I travelled with dogs to Athabasca Landing. This, I know, will seem a long way to most of our friends for anyone to travel for seed grain, but I can assure you this means a great deal to us, and I am thankful for the little that I have been able to bring safely home. Owing to the tremendous expense of getting it to Peace River I was not able to bring more than vegetable seeds and ten bushels each of wheat, barley, and oats. Our friends will at once see that, though we may have more than an average crop next summer, it will not be sufficient for the support of a school, though we might reap more than the usual quantity of seed sown every year, which is between 50 and 60 bushels. Vegetables, trust, we shall be able to raise, and of beef we shall have sufficient, but we need about 3,000 lbs. of flour, beans and groceries, which will cost about \$150 dollars, before we can take in the children next winter.

"Our church consists of its baptized members of Europeans and Protestant half-breeds. Last year I admitted as members of our Church by baptism three infants, and only last Sunday another one was baptized, though we cannot speak of any converts. Yet the prospects are bright if only I had the time to work amongst the people. I commend the work and its needs to your sympathy and prayer."