

"During all this time one great difficulty was that in this remote region we could get nothing like steady or remunerative labour for those who were willing to work. In the fall of 1881, however, I learned that the railway was to run up our valley, just between my house and the river. I guided the first party of engineers to the old Bow Fort. I knew that the Indians would be exposed to greater temptations than ever before, and that their only chance was in the formation of habits of industry and self-reliance. Innumerable railway ties would be needed, and the Syndicate would have to bring them more than a thousand miles from the east, probably from the Lake of the Woods, and yet here on the Bow itself there was a good deal of excellent spruce and Douglas fir, and more on some of its tributaries.

"I therefore wrote the following letter to General Rosser:—

Jan. 12th, 1882.

"SIR,—Since your party of engineers began work in our vicinity, I have thought that a large amount of labour might be got out of the band of Indians I have under my charge. We are situated right on the bank of the Bow River, near the mountains. Handy to us there is plenty of timber fitted for ties, telegraph poles, etc. These could be delivered at any point on the Bow or south branch of the Saskatchewan. My Indians are willing to work, and if a contract could be obtained in which they could be employed, it would help us in our attempt to civilize them. I have the honour to be your obedient servant.

JOHN McDUGAL.

"To this letter the General vouchsafed no reply!

"The summer following I was in Montreal and called on Mr. George Stephen and Mr. Van Horne, and explained to them my project. These gentlemen entered warmly into it, and gave me every encouragement. I then proceeded to Ottawa and saw the Premier, who assured me, as Mr. Stephen had the day before, that the timber on the Bow belonged to the Syndicate. Having heard that the Cochrane Rancho Company had applied for timber limits somewhere on the Bow, I went into the Departmental Office to get definite information. The head of the office stated that the Rancho Company had been promised a limit on certain conditions, but that they had failed to implement these, and that their claim had lapsed. I myself had applied for a limit adjoining the Reserve a year previous, but no answer had been made to the application, and being now convinced that the Syndicate owned the timber, I entered into a contract on October 21st, 1882, to deliver before June 15th, 1883, at suitable points on the Bow, 150,000 ties at twenty-five cents each, of spruce, Douglas fir or Cypress pine, it being specified that 'the C. P. R. would settle all Crown timber dues, if any have to be paid.' I then returned home, and found that R. G. Baker, the great supply merchant of the North-West, had not brought in the expected quantities of flour, clothing and groceries, because of difficulties in the Missouri navigation and the influx of population into Montana. I also learned that the Rancho Company were claiming the timber and surveying limits. I at once started back to the end of the track and telegraphed Mr. Van Horne of these claims. On December 11th he answered 'go ahead and cut timber, and the Syndicate will protect you.' Accordingly I went on to Winnipeg, and on my own responsibility purchased supplies, forwarded them to the end of the track, and thence to this point—paying seven cents a pound for freight over 300 miles of prairie. I at once got about sixty Indians to work in the woods, made yards for piling the ties near the proposed line of railway, built a cook house, engaged a cook at sixty dollars a month, with Indian assistant; at first paid the men a dollar a day and board, and then to encourage industry and steadiness, gave them contract prices, furnishing them with meals at twenty-five cents each. While the men were thus at work, Major Walker, without a word to me, rode one day into the camp and in the name of the C. Rancho Company, ordered the foreman to desist. The foreman's answer was that he could take instructions only from his employer. The Major afterwards meeting me on the road, issued similar orders and threatened me with the police. I answered that I would respect orders from any authority, and, as he could produce no authority, we parted. Things went quietly for a little, but on March 3rd Captain McIlvee, of the Mounted Police, in charge of the Calgary post, acting for timber agent, came to see me and advised me to stop cutting timber. Giving him the same answer that I had made to Major Walker, he wrote out the following:—

"SIR,—Acting upon instructions received, I have the honour to ask that you will stop any parties in your employ from cutting any description of timber on the C. R. Company's limit. Any timber already cut, you may haul, if it so please you, to your piling ground, there to remain till further instructions are received. I have the honour to be, your obedient servant,

J. H. McILVEE,

'Supt. Acting for Timber Agent.'

"On the same day I had a visit from Mr. Pocklington, the sub-agent for the Indian Department of Treaty No. Seven, and he, after having asked

me to interpret for him in a council with the Indians, presented me, as he was leaving, with the following notice:—

"SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that it has been reported to me that you have been trading with the Indians for lumber cut by them on this reservation, contrary to the Indian Act. I hereby warn you to desist from that practice, until such time as I can communicate with the head office in the Treaty, and obtain a reply. I have the honour, etc.,

W. POCKLINGTON, Sub-Agent.

And further, as you have opened a trading store on the Reserve, you must desist trading in any form, pending reply from head office.'

"I at once told Mr. Pocklington that I was not on the Reserve, that I had settled here ten years ago, before Mounted Police existed, or Indian commissioners, agents, or Indians had come to the place; that if there was any mistake, it was on the part of the Government engineers who had no right to include the mission premises in the Reserve; and that I was here with all my rights as a British subject to buy and sell as I pleased. However, if the law forbade the Indians to use the timber on their reserve, I must obey; and as the C. Rancho Co. claimed all the rest and were backed by the Mounted Police, I decided to yield to the double-barreled gun, and at once called the Indians from their work. The Syndicate were far away. There was no mail, and no post-office within hundreds of miles, and, as Mr. Van Horne was expected up soon, I felt that I should wait for him. I reported the facts to his agent, Major Hurd, but he took no action and gave me no instructions. In the meantime the graders came along, and in doing their work, fires ran through the grass and got into the woods. My kitchen and cook-house and five thousand ties that were piled, there being no one now to work or watch, were all burnt to ashes. My direct loss thereby would be about \$1,400, but that was not one-fourth of my real loss, for I had incurred all the expenses connected with the contract. And so this plan for getting the Indians to work like white men was knocked on the head."

GEORGE M. GRANT.

EGERTON RYERSON.

(Concluded.)

Through the years 1825, 1826 and 1827 Egerton Ryerson led the laborious life, first of an itinerant preacher in Yorktown and on the Yonge street circuit, afterwards as a resident missionary to a settlement of Missasauga Indians on the Credit river. His diary during this time bears the mark of exertions which evidently tasked every power of mind and body. There is the same incessant struggle to reclaim the American wild man from the sensuality and the laziness which must decimate his race, until the red-skin has been blenched by inter-marriage or until death has enforced prohibition. It is curious to compare the Ryerson diaries of Indian missionary work with similar records of the Jesuit missionaries who furnished so many martyrs to sow the seed of their Church a century and a half before. There is a far greater hopefulness in Ryerson's diaries. All is *couleur de rose*. The Jesuit relations tell much more of their failures. Yet the Jesuit methods of conversion, being in the main thaumaturgic mechanism, ought to have given far greater apparent results than any form of Protestantism setting forth its simple gospel.

In 1829 the *Christian Guardian* was issued under the editorship of Egerton Ryerson. It was a much-needed vindication of the Methodist Church from the utterly groundless charge of "American republicanism" and "disloyalty." The arch-accuser of the Methodist brethren at this time was Dr. Strachan, then archdeacon, afterwards bishop in the Canadian branch of the English Church in Toronto. Against this foe, not unworthy of his steel, Egerton Ryerson wrote the first, and one of the most trenchant, of his many pamphlets.

Egerton Ryerson was the representative of a family whose loyalty was well known to be beyond all question. No fitter champion could have been found against the calumnies of Dr. Strachan's notorious "ecclesiastical chart." The Methodist Church owes a debt, not to be forgotten, to the memory of Egerton Ryerson. In many other ways he promoted her truest interests, in none more than in repudiating the contempt for "human learning" which the enthusiasm of the early preachers not unnaturally, but most unwisely, made a feature of their teaching. Victoria College at Coburg, is mainly a monument of Ryerson's work in favour of the higher education of the ministry of his Church.

Dr. Ryerson's advocacy of Sir Charles Metcalfe is the most indefensible feature in his career. There is no reason why a clergyman, more than any other man, should not write on political subjects. But he should not introduce the phraseology of the pulpit on the political platform. Of this offence against good taste Ryerson was guilty more than any other writer