

North-West Indians

In 1878 letters from Mrs. Bryce, of Winnipeg, awakened the special interest of the Board in the Church's work for the Indians in the Northwest. When the Rebellion broke out in which our Christian Indians were conspicuous for their loyalty our interest was intensified, and within a short time aid was given to the schools at Okanase, Sioux Reserve, Bird Tail Creek Mistawasis and Prince Albert.

Want of clothing and the severity of the climate being mentioned as the chief causes for non-attendance at schools, an appeal for help was made in 1884 which was liberally met by the Auxiliaries, and every year since that date has seen large quantities of new and second-hand clothing and quilts forwarded from every part of the Society for the children in the schools and for the aged and infirm on the Reserves. So great a work did this grow to be that a special secretary was appointed to take charge of the correspondence and shipping. Mrs. Campbell was the first Supply Secretary, and was succeeded by Mrs. Jeffrey in 1890.

Under the management of each of these secretaries the work became gradually systematized and controlled. There has now been for several years a regular plan of allotting supplies to each Presbyterial according to requests received from the various schools and reserves, the quantities given away diminishing year by year as the Indians improve in self-reliance and ability to earn. The supply work has been an unspeakable benefit to the Indians and a great encouragement to the missionaries as well as a means of blessing to the donors.

An acknowledgment may be made here of the kindness of the Canadian Pacific Railway which for three years granted half-rates of freight on our bales since then the Indian Department at Ottawa has continued to grant a refund of freight on clothing for which we are most grateful.

The progress made in every part of the work among the Indians is very apparent and satisfactory. In the older Reserves the changed conditions are



Mrs. Jeffrey