

these matters, and we are trying to give them, what so many have never had, an opportunity to rise above their surroundings, and to fit them for new conditions of life. In our workshops we find the boys intelligent and apt, their keen powers of observation making up for their somewhat slow habits. In the housework, where the worst features of camp life, viz., dirt, disorder and thriftlessness, show their influence most—the value of our training is very apparent. Some girls, though much improved, are still very careless and untidy, and, perhaps, will be so to the end. Others have gone through a perfect transformation in these matters, and will make excellent housekeepers. They can do work in either kitchen, dining-room, sewing-room or laundry in a very creditable way.

Now as to the matter of support. As you are aware, the Government of Canada gives us \$100 per year for each child. This has to be supplemented to the extent of at least \$50 more from such friends of missions as may be disposed to help us. In other words, we require now (as we are about to increase our number to eighty), \$4,000 per year from our supporters. We have fallen very far short of this in the past, and the result has been all along the cramping of our work, and in spite of strict economy a present deficiency of \$2,000. You will well understand how much harder our work is to us, when so much time and strength has to be spent in eking out insufficient funds, and in pleading for help which again and again seems to be denied.

I believe some of our friends have thought \$150 per year a large sum for maintenance and instruction. It may be well to state in reply, that the average cost per head in other schools ranges from \$170 at Carlisle, N.S., where they have 600 pupils and every appliance and convenience, to \$300 and even more in our large North-West schools, supported entirely by Government.

Although the aid given us has been much less than we expected and required, we have most gratefully to thank many friends in Canada for much assistance in both money and clothing. Much of the former has come to us either from Sunday schools for the support of different children—or as donations and collections through the Women's Auxiliary.

If you should have an opportunity I should be glad if you could thank the Women's Auxiliary for its generous help in this way. We have highly valued the gifts of clothing which have come to us, and which have relieved us of much anxiety in this very important matter. We shall be thankful to have it continued.

Perhaps I may be able during October and November to give our friends in the East personal information about our work, as the Bishop as Chairman of the Committee has desired me to visit Ontario and Quebec in the interests of the work, if it be possible.

BLACKFOOT RESERVE.



THE Rev. J. W. Tims writes to us from Gleichen, as follows:—I desire to thank all who have so willingly helped us during the past year, and to express the hope that all our old friends will stand by us in the year now begun. As the work grows, expenses naturally increase, and as the whole institution depends upon voluntary help, we sometimes get a little anxious lest that help should not come. We desire, however, to raise our Ebenezer at the beginning of this New Year, for "hitherto the Lord hath helped us." We began the year 1892 with building operations for the enlarging of our Homes. We had but \$150 in hand and a promise of \$300 from the Government at that time, and only God to depend upon for the rest. We did not depend on Him in vain. We have spent over \$1,400.00 in buildings, and with more than double the number of children we had last winter, we find ourselves in about the same position financially as when the last balance sheet appeared. We were in debt then, *we are in debt now*; but we feel certain that our wants will all be supplied as heretofore.

We have room for 35 children now in our institution. We have 33 in residence, some of them handed over to us in writing by their parents for a number of years. The boys who formed the nucleus of our Home three years ago are still with us. They have done the work required by the Indian Department in the third standard and are awaiting the inspector's visit. They have English Bibles and Prayer Books of their own, and follow the prayers at our English services. We lost in the spring of the year the services of our matron, who, as Mrs. Holmes, is now labouring in the Diocese of Athabaska. We rejoiced greatly over the arrival of Miss Garlick and Miss Symonds, both of whom entered upon their work with zeal and enthusiasm, so that in less than a fortnight after their arrival our girls' quarters were full, and are full still. Mr. and Mrs. Haynes still have charge of the boys in the Home, and look after them as their own children.

We are very grateful to the different branches of the Woman's Auxiliary that have sent us bales during the past year, and especially for the boys' clothing they have contained. Without such contributions of clothing we could not keep the Homes open, for the cost would be more than we could meet.

We hope, before long, that it will be found necessary to make more additions to our present buildings, for why should we stop at *thirty-five* children when there are about *three hundred* on this reserve growing up in filth and darkness—mental, moral and spiritual! Some day, perhaps not distant, these three hundred children will be under instruction in an institution