

OUR INDIAN HOMES.

REV. F. J. WILSON'S QUARTERLY LETTER.

I AM sorry to say that I was so over pressed with work last month that I found it utterly impossible to prepare my quarterly letter in time for April, but I now take the first opportunity that offers for doing so. Until money comes in more liberally, I fear this widely extending work among the Indians, in which I am at present engaged, must be a constant source of anxiety. It is a grief to me to think that last season many hundred dollars of Government money were lost to us simply because we were unable to make up our quota from other sources. It is no use for the Indian Department to offer us \$60 for the year's support of an Indian boy at the Shingwauk Home unless we have another \$60 or \$70 to place beside it to cover the cost of maintenance. The Bishop of Rupert's Land estimates the annual cost of each pupil at the Rupert's Land Industrial School for Indian children to be \$150, and I know from the long experience that I have had that such Homes as these cannot be carried on as they should be for a much less sum than that.

I have only returned quite recently from a visit to Ottawa and Montreal. While in Ottawa I had several interviews with the Indian Department; and in Montreal I had the privilege of addressing the annual meeting of the Montreal Woman's Auxiliary, which has already done so much to aid our work at Elkhorn.

I am thankful to be able to state that the

Indian Department appears to be disposed to assist our work at each of the three points at which it is now located, viz: Sault Ste. Marie, Elkhorn and Medicine Hat. Towards the erection of buildings at Medicine Hat there has been placed on the estimates the sum of \$5,000, and \$2,000 towards the first year's maintenance. These amounts, if passed by Parliament, will

enable us to complete and furnish the building we commenced last summer (a cut of which I have given), to fence in the grounds, and to commence work on a second building. And the \$2,000 will enable us to make a commencement this summer with 15 or 20 pupils, if a suitable person can be found as superintendent. But these sums will have to be augmented by further gifts and subscriptions, and I do hope that these will come in now that we actually have the prospect of making a commencement. A year ago a clergyman in Nova Scotia promised \$50 towards the Medicine Hat building fund if 19 others would join, so as to make up \$1,000. This was a generous offer, but nearly a year has passed and only one other has as yet responded. Will not some of our English and Canadian friends

help us in this?—16 more gifts of £10, or \$50, each will secure us £200 or \$1,000, towards our Medicine Hat Building Fund. When all is completed at Medicine Hat there will be three buildings, as at Elkhorn, with accommodation for seventy or eighty pupils, but the whole cost of building and furnishing will be about \$12,000.

And we want more Sunday Schools to take



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Formerly a Shingwauk boy, now at St. John's College, Winnipeg.