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## Presentation to Archdeacon Tims

In Honour of Thirty-Eight Years' Work as Head of Indian Missions in the Diocese of Calgary, Alberta

ON December 11th, in the Tapestry Room at the Hudson Bay Co., Calgary, a happy party gathered together as the guests at a luncheon given by two genial hosts, Mr. Sidney Houlton, Secretary-Treasurer of the Diocese of Calgary, and Herbert J. Akitt, Esq., in celebration of the birthday of Archdeacon Tims.

The birthday gift consisted of a handsome coon coat, coon gauntlets, gloves, and muffler, which had been subscribed to by many friends and admirers of the splendid work done by the Archdeacon during the past thirty-eight years. The subscribers' names were written on a scroll and presented with the gifts, this work of art having been freely done by Mr. Love.

The presentation was made by Archdeacon Hayes who spoke of the magnificent work done by the Archdeacon, in the course of which he said that one of the outstanding features of the Centenary celebration in Winnipeg, was the splendid address given by Archdeacon Tims on his work amongst the Indians right from its inception. Archdeacon Hayes emphasized the deep spirit of humility which Archdeacon Tims has always shown about his work, but pointed out that whilst this spirit is a very beautiful one, it oftentimes prevents people from realizing how much has been accomplished by this most able and saintly missionary.

Archdeacon Tims, who was completely taken by surprise, asked Archdeacon Hayes to convey to all the kind friends who had contributed, and whom he could not thank in person, his deep gratitude and sincere thanks. He said this was the second occasion in Alberta when a party such as this had been specially given in his honour, the first one being in the town of Gleichen shortly after the Riel Rebellion, in appreciation of work done by him at that time.

Archdeacon Tims was born at Oxford, England, on December 24th, 1857. He was ordained on Trinity Sunday by the then Bishop of London in St. Paul's Cathedral in 1883, at twenty-five years of age. He came out to Canada as Missionary to the Blackfoot Indians that same year; having been told not to come via Winnipeg, he crossed over to New York, taking from there the Northern Pacific Railway to Helena in Montana, from whence he drove five hundred miles to the Blackfoot Crossing in Alberta. At that time there were no white settlers throughout the long

tiring journey, the only white men he saw being traders and a few Government Officials.

The Blackfoot Nation at that time were wild and uncivilized, continuously engaged in petty warfare; all Indians in those days carrying either an old flint gun or a tomahawk, their clothing being shirts and pants made from deer skins, and they each wore blankets. Buffalo hides had been their former covering, also had been largely used as bedding, and for tents, but these had now become scarce.

Each year at the Sun Dance Season the Indians held a ceremonial, called "The Making of a Brave," when an Indian in fulfilment of some vow would be terribly tortured. Archdeacon Tims was instrumental in getting this torture abolished.

Archdeacon Tims reduced the Blackfoot language to writing, also preparing a grammar and dictionary, for which later on he had the degree of Doctor of Divinity conferred upon him by the St. John's College of Manitoba.

The boarding schools upon the Reserves, for the Indian children, were initiated by the Archdeacon, for, owing to the nomadic habits of the Indians, day schools were found to be impracticable for the children.

In the year 1890 the Archdeacon was married to an English lady who was visiting in the Northwest with friends, and in the year 1895 the title of Archdeacon was conferred upon him by the Bishop of Calgary.

Archdeacon Tims and Canon Stocken exchanged work in the year 1896, when the former took over the work of the Sarcee Indians near Calgary, in which work he is still engaged.

In 1888 there were no Christians amongst the Indians. To-day there are one thousand, with two hundred Communicants. Many Christians of late years have gone to their heavenly home. Many of these, still living, have been educated in the boarding schools over which Archdeacon Tims has had supervision.

The Bishop of London was consecrated Bishop-Suffragan of Stepney 23 years ago on last St. Andrew's Day and 3 years later he succeeded Dr. Creighton as Bishop of London. His is the longest London episcopate since that of Dr. Blomfield, who retired in 1856 after 28 years' service in that position.

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