



INDIANS WATCHING IMMIGRANT WAGONS.

OUR INDIAN HOMES.

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

I REGRET that I am not able in this letter to speak very encouragingly of the progress of our work. It has been our lot within the last three months to undergo a good deal of discouragement and disappointment. It is not that our Indian pupils have failed us; our homes are growing in popularity, and I have at the present time about forty applications for admission. It is not that we are in want of accommodation, for we have room now for 100 pupils here at the Shingwauk and Wawanosh, and for seventy pupils at Elkhorn. But the trouble is that the means at our disposal are not sufficient for carrying on the work. So far from increasing, our funds have of late been again somewhat on the decrease. We had hoped to re-open our Shingwauk and Wawanosh with full numbers this summer; to have had our trades all in full operation again, and all progressing once more merrily and busily. But no sooner had pupils begun to arrive and to fill up the half-empty dormitories, than we found it necessary to put a stop again to the inflow. Discouraging news came from Ottawa that since Sir John Macdonald's death

retrenchment was to be the order of the day, as regards the Indian department, and no further grants could be allowed for the year. This just meant in plain words; (1) that an annual grant towards the maintenance of twenty-three additional pupils at our Shingwauk and Wawanosh homes would not be available; (2) that \$900 promised towards water pipes and fire protection at the Shingwauk Home, would not be available; (3) that the \$2,500, placed on estimates for additional buildings at the Shingwauk Home, would not be available; (4) that \$5,000, promised towards the erection of our new home at Medicine Hat, would not be available; (5) that \$2,000, promised towards the first year's maintenance of the Medicine Hat Home, would not be available. It meant, further, that the £100, promised by the S.P.C.K. to the Medicine Hat Home, and to be paid when the first building was completed and insured, would be lost to us. And it meant that we must give up all hopes of making any commencement at Medicine Hat this summer. It means, also, that we must reduce our expenses all round, at Elkhorn, at the Wawanosh, and at the Shingwauk.

But it is not the action of the Government that so much depresses us. It is rather the want of sympathy and active interest in our work