

following Diocesan officers were elected: President, Mrs. Thorneloe, Sault Ste. Marie, 1st Vice-President, Mrs. Gibbs, Port Arthur; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. Bridgeland, Bracebridge; Sec. Treas., Miss Begg, North Bay. Thus four centres are formed, and the idea is to work in, gradually, all women's organizations in the Diocese, as far as possible. With God's help there is, doubtless, a great future for Algoma's W.A.

HERSCHEL ISLAND, ARCTIC OCEAN,

N.W.T. CANADA, Jan. 10th, 1898.

In writing to one's friends from this country, year after year, there appears to be very little information to give, but I shall endeavour again to relate a few occurrences of the past twelve months. You may have seen some short account of the first half of the year, but it will not, I think, be out of place to briefly review the events since my last annual letter of February '97. We were then at Peel River. Mr. Whittaker was away at the coast on what proved to be a very trying journey, on account of the storms and intense cold. Mr. Young and I were engaged in getting out logs, and sawing boards for our house. With Mrs. Stringer's aid a day school was carried on, with an average attendance of about fifteen. After Mr. Whittaker returned, in April, Mr. Young and I started for the Arctic, first spending a few weeks at Herschel Island, conducting services with the ships' people, and the natives. There was generally a good attendance at all meetings, and a growing interest manifested. During the first part of May we crossed the great basin of the Mackenzie to meet the Eastern Eskimos at Richard's Island. Five weeks were spent with them, first in their camps on the ice, and when the river broke up travelling with them to Peel River. Game was abundant, geese, ducks, deer, fish and rats, and Mr. Young often remarked how luxuriously we were living—on the fat of the land literally. The fowl are quite fat then. The Missionary work, however, was not as encouraging as one would wish. There was an indescribable something, a restlessness, an indifference amounting, at times, to a half-concealed hostility to our teaching. Indifference is common amongst them, but I never experienced quite the same as this since the first visit to the village, in the summer of '92, when the chief ordered me away from the place. Personally, they were very kind both to Mr. Young and myself, but they seemed unwilling to learn. I could not understand their apathy until the chief told me that some white men from the ships had circulated certain false reports concerning us. Two murders had also been committed, and there were rumours of others, and this had unsettled them more. On the way up the river, however, some of them were quite anxious to learn. We were delayed a great deal by ice, the spring being late, and the chief asked me if this was not on account of the murders. I journeyed in his boat, and Mr. Young was with a man who had made a partner of him on the way up. We arrived at Peel River