



SHINGWAUK, FROM THE RIVER.

OUR INDIAN HOMES.

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

DEAR FRIENDS,—Since my last letter, written in October, our homes have been passing through somewhat of a crisis, and, for want of funds with which to sustain our fast increasing work, we have been obliged most reluctantly to partly close our Shingwauk and Wawanosh homes. Any one visiting our Shingwauk just now would find the local superintendent's office and bedroom deserted, boys' east dormitory closed, boys' north dormitory closed, some junior boys sleeping in the back school-room (separated by folding doors) so as to economise fuel. Industrial building closed, all except the bootshop, hospital closed. The only rooms still in use at the Shingwauk are the large school-room, the large front dormitory, the dining-hall, and the kitchens. The boys number twenty-nine and the employees are schoolmaster, matron, needlewoman, carpenter and shoemaker. At the Wawanosh one dormitory is closed and the girls number fifteen. The carpenter with two or three boys is finishing off a Government contract and so is no expense, and the shoemaker so soon as he has made sufficient "shoepacks" for these homes and for Elkhorn will go back into the bush to cut cordwood. We are thus economising funds this winter in every way possible, but not with the slightest idea of stepping backward. Rather is it preparatory, as we hope, to a great step forward. With the new additions and building which

two years' Government grants have enabled us to erect we have accommodation now at these Sault Ste. Marie homes for a hundred pupils, and a hundred pupils we hope next summer, if it please God, to have. We have also accommodation for seventy pupils at our Elkhorn homes. And at Medicine Hat, a handsome building is already erected, the walls of concrete, separated with spaces of a square yard or so by dark painted timbers which shew on the face like some old houses one sees in England. Before winter set in the walls were completed, the roof on, and surmounted by a cupola, but it would require about \$1,400 (£280) more to be raised before the building could be finished, and then there would be the expense also of furnishing. But we have good hope of a liberal Government grant in the spring, and our many friends both in England and Canada will also, we hope, help us, and thus the "Sokitahpi Home" at Medicine Hat will, like those at Sault Ste. Marie and Elkhorn, soon be in active operation.

It is a great satisfaction to us to feel that many of those who have gone out from us are at present doing so well. David Osahgee continues to give every satisfaction in the Indian Department of Ottawa; John Maggrah is making steady progress at St. John's College, Winnipeg; Joseph Sorey is studying hard at Trinity College School, Port Hope, and his last report shews him at the head of his form for Latin and Algebra; John Esquiman is married and teaching school near Spanish River. Every once in a while an old pupil drops in to