

# Our Work at Home and Abroad

## Schools and School Homes in Quebec Province



Tourville children supplying the furnace with wood.

THE new furnace which was put in the School Home at Tourville, last summer, has made the building comfortable this winter. The boys draw the wood for the furnace to the house on a toboggan. The school was kept open during the Christmas holidays to make up for time lost during the "flu" epidemic. The school session is continuing longer than usual for

the same reason, so anxious are the parents that the children should receive an education. They appreciate what the W.M.S. is doing for them but feel that they too should do something for the school. The girls have, under the guidance of Mrs. Chodat, been sewing for a bazaar to be held at the closing in May, when they hope to make enough to put a new sink in the kitchen.

At Namur, the people are finding it hard to pay their share of the expense of board for the children. Mr. LeBel, the missionary, writes concerning a poor man—a Protestant, but whose wife died still a Catholic. The older children were taken by the Catholic relations. This is what he says: "Two children, a boy nine years and a girl of seven, were brought to us by their father, Mr. Aubin. He was a widower and out of his family of ten these two youngest were left to cheer his home. 'I cannot bear the loneliness of my dwelling without them,' he said, 'but for the sake of their welfare I bring them to you while I go to the bush to earn.' The problem was to provide clothes for them—how Prosper and Bernadette stood the cold in their semi-nakedness is a mystery—no wonder the little girl appeared sickly! They were well at the W.M.S. home, seemingly forgetting the hardships of past days, but the father came back two months later to take them away. He had placed his stable in what proved to be irresponsible hands; the supply of fodder, enough for the winter, had gone with amazing swiftness. The animals would have to starve—so to provide for them, the children's schooling had to be sacrificed. This is only one of many cases of distress in that neighborhood." The W.M.S. have undertaken to get clothes and provide for the education of the two children.