

Our Forest Children.

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SHINGWAUK HOME.

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ANY NUMBER OF

Copies Sent Gratis

to those who will interest themselves in the educating and christianizing of the

25,000 Indian Children

of schoolable age scattered throughout our country.

Our Present Position.

A friend of our Institutions for Indian children, signing himself "Niagara" has sent a communication to the *Dominion Churchmen*, Toronto, in which he deploras that our work should be at a standstill and that Church people should not have responded more liberally to our appeals for help; and he suggests that a Committee, or a Board of Trustees, of lay and clerical members should be appointed to relieve Mr. Wilson of his great burden and aid him in his work of Indian education in the Diocese of Algoma. To this we have responded as follows:—

"I would like to remind "Niagara" and your readers that I have myself in public print expressed the desire that such a Council or Board of Trustees as he describes should be appointed; I have often said in private letters and in printed circulars that the burden is too great for me, and that I would like especially to have a Treasurer in Canada to receive our funds as the Bishop does for the Diocese. But I maintain as I have maintained before that these Homes were brought into operation before there was any Diocese of Algoma, that they are not intended solely for the benefit of Algoma Indians, that we have always

from the first taken pupils from outside the Diocese, and of late years have drawn them from long distances in the North west.

I consider that no board or committee has a right to take the work out of my hands and change it from its original purpose. My aim and object is to establish a large central Protestant Institution for some 300 Indian children—drawn from all parts—here at Sault St. Marie and three or four branch or receiving Homes at various distant points. If a Committee can be found who will back me in this work—a committee of men who have faith in the work and believe in the capabilities of the Indians, I will gladly have them to co-operate with me. And if the church of England will take this work up and do it in the thorough and liberal manner that I want to see it done, then the Homes shall remain as they have been distinctly church of England. But I doubt in the first instance whether ten men whether lay or clerical can be found in this country who believe in the Indian and in his capabilities of becoming a self-sustaining prosperous individual. There are plenty of people who are ready to help the Indians so long as they are kept at arms length, so long as they are confined to their Reserves, they will give them blankets and cast off clothing and beads and tobacco,—but this sort of thing so far from helping me simply undoes my work; I want no beads and tobacco and blankets for Indians; I want kind sympathy and patient dealing and a "lend a hand" to help them up to a higher and better position in every way than they at present occupy. And as to the church of England doing it—I must confess I have