

INDIAN MISSIONS.

THE change of traffic by the Honorable Hudson Bay Company may possibly produce other movements beside the one referred to in the following letter. When the senior Secretary was in Winnipeg, in July, he met the teacher, Peter Badger, and, with the Chairman of the District, made arrangements for the day-school to be commenced; and, at the earliest opportunity, the Rev. George Young will visit the new settlement, and report to the Committee his views of its future. In the meantime the teacher, assisted by at least three leaders, will keep up the ordinances of the Church, especially on the Lord's Day. This dividing into small bands will entail additional expense upon the Society, and like as it is Ontario, be of no advantage in any form; but, on the contrary, socially and religiously, work adversely to their welfare. It is much to be regretted that a proposition made during Lord Elgin's administration, to form one large Indian community by the centralization of all the bands on the Peninsula, whose shores are washed by the waters of Lake Huron and the Georgian Bay, could not be carried out because of their hostility to leave their present Reserves.

From the Rev. J. H. RUTTAN, dated Rossville, Norway House, 5th April, 1875.

I take the present opportunity of this packet of acquainting you of a movement which will take place (D.V.) about the middle of June, that is, the first open water, when about thirty families, perhaps more, will leave this place for White Mud River, better known as the "Grassy Narrows," about three hundred miles south of this. There will be sixty or eighty children of school-age, and about eighty-five members of the Church, in the company that will be leaving. The reason, nay necessity, for such a change is as follows: The Honorable Hudson Bay Company have changed the route of traffic for supplying their inland trade, which is an immense supply yearly from York Factory formerly, to Winnipeg for the future; they have introduced steam navigation for carrying on their traffic, which throws some one hundred and fifty or two hundred of our Indians out of employment during summer. Formerly, when goods were brought by

York Factory, Norway House was the grand depot for supplying the whole trade; consequently four or five "brigades" of boats, employing a hundred and thirty to forty men, were constantly "tripping" between here and York Factory to bring the goods brought there by ship from England, to this place, for further transfer into the interior. Then a yearly brigade was sent up to what they call "the long portage," the border of the McKenzie River district, which trip occupied the whole season. This brigade gave employment to forty or fifty more of our Indians, who left here the first open water in summer, and only arrived just before the close of navigation to their families again; then there was a little traffic on Lake Winnipeg, which gave employment to a few more.

Now this whole system is broken up, and, consequently, the Indians are left without employment. The reason or necessity of the present