

kept them in the line of duty. The same year I was sent to Morley, Alta., where for nine years I taught school and filled the pulpit when required.

In 1889 I was received in full connection and ordained; the same year married a Miss Helliwell, daughter of Rev. Thos. L. Helliwell, member of the Manitoba and North-West Conference.

In 1894 we came to Fisher River, Man., where for nine years we have labored successfully among the people of the mission.

Yours in the work,

E. R. STEINHAUER.

HAZELTON, B.C.,

April 25th, 1903.

My Dear Friends,—Once more it is time for you to receive a reminder that we are still in the flesh and still at our post. Somehow it seems harder than usual at this time to settle to letter writing. It is so long since we had much news from outside that topics of conversation seem to be scarce. But this ought not really to make any difference



H. C. WRINCH, M.D.,
Indian Work, B.C.

Supported by Epworth Leagues
of Belleville and Picton
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College.

to a letter to you, for local news from here is really what you are looking for rather than comments

It is a Long
Time Since
We Hear from
"Outsiders."

on what is happening near yourselves. Our winter stayed longer than usual. It is only within the last two weeks that we have been able to see bare ground. And now

there is ice remaining in sheltered places. In some places the river is still blocked with ice, too. Generally it is clear from two to three weeks earlier than this. Everybody is speculating as to when the steamers will be able to get up. The Indians are very much interested in the question, for

they want to know what are their prospects for getting work at the salmon canneries at the mouth of the river. If there is a good demand for labor there, a great many of them will go down on the steamers. But they are more anxious than usual, for there have been reports that the other Indians down there are to go out on strike, and, of course, if they do, these will be expected to join them in it. A good many of them would much rather remain here all the time, and would do so if they were at all certain of getting enough work. There is talk again of surveying being done through here, with a view to a railroad coming. This also makes the people more unsettled until they can hear direct from the coast. This would also give the people quite a lot of work, so they want to know more about it before giving up the chance of work for the season at the canneries.

The Indians
Thinking of
"Going on
Strike."

How can
the Indian
Live Now?

The question of work is a very important one with these people. Some years ago, before white people came into their country, they lived all right without them, but now they have become so accustomed to using so many things that we use that they would feel the loss of them very much if deprived of them. And, of course, they have to earn money in some way, so as to be able to buy our food and clothing. It would be much better for the Indians if they could manage without going to the coast to work. They could then attend better to their pieces of land up here and could grow more on them. But there is not enough work to give them all employment up here. While the telegraph line was being constructed they got a good deal from it. So now they are hoping for similar things from railway construction, but they may have to exercise considerable patience, as well as hope, before it comes.

Cattle and
Fowl Bought.

But improvements always have to come about gradually, and so I suppose it will be with these people. One significant fact is that they are beginning to try to get a little stock. Before

this a number of them have kept some horses, but very few cattle. Now I find the Indian agent has ordered about forty head of cattle for them. A number of them are asking about fowls, too. So, perhaps they will yet develop into good farmers before long. We try to encourage them all we can along these lines, because it will keep them more at home, and so more out of reach of the strong temptations that beset them at the canneries or wherever they mix too much with white people.

**"Moving"
a Great
Difficulty.**

One of the greatest difficulties of our mission work is that the people pick up and move off so much. Thus, the school work for the children is broken up, and they do not make as rapid progress as they should. This also would be avoided if they would remain on their land more. The Government has been trying to encourage them in this by giving them large reserves of land suitable for cultivation wherever they could get it convenient for them.

**Eggs \$1.20
a Dozen.**

All this spring eggs have been selling at \$1 a dozen (when any could be got at all) in Hazelton, and for some time one woman got as high as \$1.20 a dozen for what she could spare. They are never less than fifty cents a dozen in the summer, so you would think they might be encouraged to go into that kind of work, when prices like this could be obtained. Hay became scarce here this winter on account of the snow staying longer than usual. Some of the Indians actually paid \$2.50 a hundred pounds for it to one another to keep their horses from dying. There are some very thin horses around here just now. This experience will teach the Indians to be more provident in future, and it is necessary experience, too, if they intend to go into stock-raising. Some may think that these business matters are a little outside of the real work of a missionary, but really they are very much his work. Mission work makes very slow progress, when the Indians spend only two or three months at home under the care of the missionary, and the rest of the year working on contract work, where the

Sabbath is disregarded as far as the law will possibly allow, and where every tendency about them is such as to lead them away from Gospel simplicity of life and principle. So that in whatever way we can aid them in finding profitable employment near or at home we may feel assured we are rendering good service to the cause.

**The Sawmill
at Kishpyax.**

Our Kishpyax Indians have a little sawmill, which, up to the present, they have tried to manage entirely themselves. They have not made much of a success of it yet, because they did not well enough understand business principles, but it has nevertheless been a great benefit to them in getting lumber cheaper and easier than they would otherwise have been able to do for their own buildings. Now they have engaged a Christian white man to manage it, and it is probable it will become more profitable and give employment to more of them.

**The New
Mission House.**

Within a few days we expect to have the carpenters at work at our own house. Already we have had the land cleared and cellar dug. We hope to be able to occupy it by June or July. We shall then be able to take in a patient or two in cases of urgency, even before we get the hospital built and running. We shall probably find plenty to do from now on in the many little things necessary in getting a house and its surroundings comfortable and convenient, besides in attending to our regular work. We have heard rumors of a severe epidemic of Grippe at the coast. We have been thankful it has not reached us yet. We have had the least of it this winter of any since we came up.

Since our last writing we have been remembered with letters from London (2), Rossmore and Corbyville. Probably the other letters we should have received have been resting at the coast and will come by first steamer.

Wishing you all continued success and blessing in your work.

Yours most faithfully,

HORACE C. WRINCH.