

Miss Ruby Smith; Agent for Palm Branch, Master Joe Cather. This Circle has a membership of twenty-five.

The "Busy Bees" Mission Band, in connection with St. Alban's Church, Toronto, was organized on March 15th, with twenty members. The officers elected were: President, Miss Mith; Vice-President, Mrs. McCullough; Rec. Sec., Vera Fowler; Cor. Sec., Ethel Cassiday; Treas., Ethel Addison.

At the close of the Sabbath School at McCaul Street, Toronto, on April 15th, a young ladies' Mission Circle was formed, with about twenty-five members, and called "Heart-ease." Following are the names of the officers: President, Mrs. Lightfoot; Vice-President, Miss Riddle; Rec. Sec., Miss Brown; Cor. Sec., Miss Somers; Treasurer, Miss Smith.

Mrs. W. HAMILTON, *District Organizer,*  
*West Toronto.*

### Western Branch.

**W**ILL the corresponding secretaries of Auxiliaries please take notice that after June 27th, Mrs. A. Cunningham's address will be Box 406, St. Mary's.

### Kit-a-Maat.

**A**LARGE force of most interested and active toilers in our mission fields are rarely heard from. We refer to the devoted and self-sacrificing wives of our missionaries. Their sisters in the W.M.S. are wont to pray for them, and, we believe, glad to hear from them. We are sure the following will be read with pleasure:

*Dear Mrs. Parker*—Confident that the readers of the W.M.S. Department of the *OUTLOOK* will be interested in Mission Work, even though it be not directly connected with the Society, I venture to send you an account of that which is being doing at Kit-a-Maat. Possibly you are as ignorant of the geographical situation of this Indian village as I was a year ago, when I learned that Mr. Raley had been appointed to it by the British Columbia Conference.

In order to let every one know I must tell you it is 140 miles from Port Simpson, and about 500 miles north of Victoria, and 40 miles up an inlet called Douglas Channel; although so far from the main coast we have the salt water. Kit-a-Maat is one of the isolated missions; Hartley Bay, a very small Indian village at the mouth of the inlet, where we got our mail is our nearest neighbor.

We arrived last August, Mr. Crosby having taken us from Port Simpson on the "Glad Tidings." We found less than a dozen people at home, and the village overgrown with weeds, there was one redeeming feature, a row of flowers in a profusion of bloom in front of the shabby little mission house. We had quite a time to get things in order. The Indians soon began to return from the canneries and logging camps, but it was October before the village had its usual number, about 350.

Miss Shelvey, the teacher, arrived the middle of September and opened school. Our work had not to be sought, it was ever on hand.

Mr. Raley attacked the language at once, and is now able to speak it. I set myself to learn a few accomplishments—such as laundry-work and bread-making.

I was surprised to find how much of the missionary's time had to be given to the dispensing of medicine and the care of the sick.

Kit-a-Maat never having had an ordained minister before, Mr. Raley had a great many matters to attend to. I can scarcely tell you how the days passed, but each one brought numerous duties.

I had to train a choir for Christmas, and Miss Shelvey organized a Band of Hope, and drilled the children in some temperance marching songs; she made three flags for them to carry as they marched on New Year's Day. Christmas week was such a busy one we decided we could exist without another such for a year.

At this time we learned that nearly all the people would soon have to hunt and make canoes. We felt sorry that the children should be taken from school, but could see no help for it. However, the day after New Year's, without any warning whatever, Mr. Raley informed me we must have a home. I was thunderstruck, not because I could

not see the wisdom of the idea, but because of ways and means. In the first place, there was no house; the mission-house, which had been a thorn in the flesh to me, could accommodate no more. It consists of three rooms and a small place for medicines, and it was difficult to have anything like comfort, especially as I had to find room for six to twelve months' provisions. Notwithstanding seeming difficulties, after prayerful and thoughtful consideration, the thing was settled, and in two weeks we had the children under our care.

Mr. Raley bought lumber from the Indians, and by paid and voluntary labor he had a temporary building put up between the school and mission-house, uniting them. Of course the building was made of rough lumber; it contained a sleeping-room for the girls, and a small kitchen, wash-room and store-room. Such a time as there was to construct that building. The men who shingled had to come down frequently to warm their hands, and I remember that nails were so scarce in the village, after buying every available one, Mr. Raley drew some from my kitchen walls, on which tins, etc., had hung. The back of the school-room was partitioned off to make a place for the boys to sleep; the remainder had to answer for dining-room and school. We had twenty-two children, from eight to sixteen years old.

They brought their bedding and dishes, and such a motley array I had never seen, nor had I seen such queerly clad boys and girls; the outer garments were not the worst. However, in spite of inconveniences and cold weather, with seven feet of snow, and the coldest of cold buildings, we plodded on, and I think we can deem our maiden effort a success.

Miss Shelvey has the satisfaction of knowing that regular schooling for three months accomplishes more than haphazard for nine. She had charge of the children to a great extent.

We rented a stove for the kitchen, but found that the work could be done with more comfort by using mine. I looked after the cooking generally, and made the bread with the little help the girls could render. It was impossible to teach them much in the line of housework, owing to lack of suitable buildings, necessary utensils, etc. The boys had to saw, pack and split the wood and carry water. The parents provided some native food, and we supplied rice, beans, flour, etc. We get our supplies from Victoria, and it is sometimes difficult to bring them from Hartley Bay, as we have to depend on canoes. We were three months without mail during the winter.

The children had a daily drill in Bible study. They enjoyed it, too. I might mention that Mr. Raley started a Sunday School, and the older people were immensely pleased at the readiness with which the "Home" boys and girls answered. Rev. Mr. Crosby visited us in March and encouraged us greatly. He says the "Home" must go on. I believe it is the only way to educate Indian children. The people having returned, and the time for departure to District Meeting having arrived, we gave the children a holiday at the end of March, that is, so far as the "Home" was concerned. Miss Shelvey continued the day school as usual. We purpose opening the "Home" again as soon as possible after Conference. We find, in order to have cleanliness, we must furnish the bedding and much of the clothing. Let me assure you that these supplies, together with towels, dry goods, etc., etc., and donations of money, will be most gratefully received. The institution thus far has been carried on on the "faith" principle, and though, apart from the missionaries, no financial aid has come to us, yet we realize that our faith has been honored. Miss Shelvey and I have done our best, but we feel the need of a matron. Miss Shelvey, outside of school hours, tried to teach sewing, and she also served the meals. I, of course, had my own home to care for, and various other duties belonging to the lot of a missionary's wife. On account of our limited quarters and the presence of both boys and girls, it was necessary for Mr. Raley, or either of us, to be in constant attendance.

I sincerely hope that our "Home" may engage the sympathy of the W.M.S. and many others, and that soon we may have a suitable building and a matron in charge.

Yours sincerely,

MAUDE GILES RALEY.