

FAMOUS CONFEDERATION PICTURES REPRODUCED FOR GUARDIAN READERS



JAMES EVANS, THE MISSIONARY, TEACHING THE INDIANS HIS SYSTEM OF CREE SYLLABIC READING

The missionary has played a conspicuous part in the history of Canada. Under the French regime Jesuits, Recollets and Sulpicians were explorers, companions of the voyageur and the fur trader, ambassadors of the state as well as the church to the Indian tribes. They penetrated to the Mississippi and the great plains beyond, they crossed the height of land to the slopes of Hudson's Bay. With the British rule, the Protestant churches entered the field. The Mohawks, the Mississaugas, and the Ojibways were served by settled ministers or by itinerant missionaries. From the Upper lakes the gospel messengers passed into the great northwest, and before Confederation all the churches were at work among the Indians of the plains and the wooded fur country to the north.

The services of these missionaries were by no means exclusively clerical. They acted as physicians, as advisers, as teachers of manual arts and agriculture. They strove to train the Indian to meet the coming white civilization which would sweep away their age-long nomadic life, to fit them in some degree to find a place in the new order of things, and to soften, as much as possible, the tragedy of their racial dispossession.

Among those who have devoted themselves to missionary work among the Indians of Canada none holds a higher place than James Evans, "the man who taught birch bark how to talk." Born in England, he came out to Upper Canada when a young man, and engaged in school teaching.

In 1830 he entered the Methodist ministry and was appointed missionary to the Ojibway Indians of Rice Lake. He had already served as school teacher to them, and had learned their language. With William Case, Thomas Hulbert, and Peter Jones, he worked on the translation of the scriptures into Ojibway. In 1840 he was appointed missionary superintendent of the Methodist Church in the northwest. He fixed his headquarters at Rosville, near the northern end of Lake Winnipeg, among the Cree Indians. Their language is closely related to that of the Ojibways, and Evans soon mastered it and set himself to the task of translating the Bible, as he had done in Ontario.

It was in the prosecution of this work that in 1841 he invented the Cree Syllabic, the alphabet of the Cree Indians an extremely simple system of less than fifty characters, by means of which the language may be written and printed, and easily learned by natives and white men alike.

He first wrote his Bible verses and hymns on sheets of birch bark, with ink made from chimney soot, and taught his Indians to read and to write in the characters he had invented for them. He then proceeded to manufacture type and to print his books. He cut his type molds out of wood blocks with a jack-knife, collected the lead linings from old tea chests, melted it and poured it into the wooden molds. Other types he cut out with his knife from musket bullets. With an old fur press as a printing machine, ink made from soot, and birch bark for paper, he printed his first

books, and set up the first press and publishing office in the northwest. Later a small press was sent out from England, and the Indian converts learned to set type and to print. His system was rapidly put into use throughout the missions. Catholic and Protestant alike, and adapted to the language of every tribe of the northwest. Evans died while on a visit to England in 1846.

The picture shows Evans on a missionary journey, teaching the Indians to read by means of his system. On a white birch tree he has written his alphabet with a charred stick. At one side stands his guide and interpreter. He frequently travelled in a sort of boat-canoe made of tin; this is shown drawn up on the shore.

The missionary wears a black double-breasted cut-away coat and vest, a white neckcloth, dark brown corduroy breeches, flannel or duffle socks to the knees, and moccasins. Some of the Indian men are dressed in fringed buckskin frocks and leggings, others wear coats and trousers of heavy coarse cloth of European manufacture, procured at a Hudson's Bay Company's post. One has a blanket coat or capote, and several have gaily colored sashes and neckerchiefs. A couple of them wear flat caps of black or dark blue cloth without pleats, like old-fashioned smoking caps, ornamented on the sides with bead work and with a long tassel hanging from the crown. The women wear shawls with gaudy patterns, and wide, deep skirts of dark blue cloth or flannel.

ROYAL MINT HAS ALREADY STRUCK 1,200,000 CONFEDERATION MEDALS.

OTTAWA, June 16.—By intense effort, necessitating night work, the Royal Mint has already struck 1,200,000 Confederation

medals of various models. The majority of those are the medals Royal Mint is also proceeding with to be distributed among the children of the gold, silver and iron who participate in the Jubilee bronze medals which are to be distributed, practically all of which tributed in various other directions, have already gone forward to Never since the great war has the Mint been so busily engaged.

Tidbits From Tryon And Vicinity

(By "Eismac.") Mr. Eldon Lord, Crapaud, visited Tryon Sunday.

Mr. Jack McLeod, Granville, spent Sunday in Tryon.

Mr. William Thomas, Cross Road, is seriously ill of diabetes.

Mr. L. F. McKenna, Albany, visited Victoria and Crapaud Sunday.

Miss Edith Lord, Summerside, spent Sunday with relatives in Tryon.

New Ford owners here are Mr. Alfred Wood (touring car), Mr. Elmer Walsh (racer.)

Miss Cora McNeill, Summerside, is visiting her sister, Mrs. Delaney, North Tryon.

Mr. George McLeod motored to Victoria Tuesday evening to visit his brother, who is dangerously ill.

Mr. Gus Waddell and family motored to the Provincial Capital and returned home again Saturday evening.

Among recent visitors from Tryon to Summerside were Brenton Howatt, George McLeod and Roy McKenzie.

Mrs. Percy Callbeck's Star coupe is again in good running order, and was seen in Tryon and Westmoreland Sunday.

Miss Jeanette McVittie, Westmoreland, spent the week-end in North Tryon, the guest of Miss Jessie, Chisholm.

Mr. J. A. Thomson, who has been confined to his home for some time past with mumps, is now able to be up and about again.

Mr. Norman Lowther, Charlottetown, Conservative candidate, South Prince, spent Sunday with his colleague, Mr. Louis Howatt, Tryon.

Miss Mabel McInnis, little granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Sharkey, is seriously ill with pneu-

Master Denzil, baby son of Park-er and Mrs. Delaney, is recovering from pneumonia under the skilled care of Dr. E. A. Bell, Cape Traverse.

Mrs. William Kidson is, we are sorry to write, confined to the house with high blood pressure. We trust she will soon recover and resume her wonted activities.

W. A. Pooley, our popular garage man, has the Flu. Two days in bed—a record for W. A., and a call from Dr. Boyver. But now he is out. That is the way the "Doc" fixes 'em up.

Among those visiting Summerside Saturday evening, were Messrs. Ken, McDonald, Eldon Lord and the Misses Amy Harvey and Ella Canfield; Messrs. Geo. McLeod, Roy McKenzie, Misses Margaret Dawson, Minerva Gillis, Arthur and Mrs. Dawson, James and Mrs. Dawson, Mr. Reg. Thomas and Misses Jessie Chisholm and Jeanette McVittie.

The political meeting on Friday evening, the 10th, in Tryon Hall, was well attended. The candidates Messrs. Louis Howatt, Norman Lowther, (Conservative) and Messrs. Walter M. Lea and Horace Wright (Liberal) gave good speeches, and outlined for those present the policies of their respective parties. Mr. Edwin Dawson occupied the chair, and the order was good.

Mrs. Annie E. Morrison, Naramatta, B.C., is visiting in North Tryon, the guest of her brother, D. J. Thomson. Mrs. Morrison left B. C. early last autumn and spent the winter with her sister, Mrs. Neil McDonald, Boston, later visiting relatives in Hartford, Conn., and St. John, N.B. Mrs. Morrison will spend the summer with her relatives on P. E. I., returning to B. C. next autumn. She is at present spending a few days with her brother-in-law, James A. Morrison, of Summerside.

On Monday evening at the home of the bride's father, Mr. Jack Gillis, friends of Ray and Mrs. Cameron gathered in "to shower Ray and Georgie," as a friend put it, and shower them they did with numerous and costly gifts, both useful and

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