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THE LUMBER CAMP REPORT

OF THE

WISCONSIN W. C. T. U.

FOR WINTER OF 1891-1892.

This work has grown steadily from year to year in our State, in interest, efforts and results, for the past five years, and, were it not for the magnitude of the work yet before us *undone*, we might in view of our success, be wrecked on "the rock of spiritual pride," but while we are proud of our opportunities, and thankful for the privileges before us, as we count up two hundred camps we have supplied, we view twice as many that we have been unable to reach, although at present we think we have done all that we could have done. In Springfield, Mass., twenty-five ladies each took a camp last winter, and in other places in Massachusetts, other individuals did the same, until beside the work done by our Wisconsin women, Massachusetts and New York women supplied with loyal care over one hundred camps, making over three hundred camps in our own State that have been receiving every week a great bundle of papers marked "Compliments of the W. C. T. U." Our missionary has been supported according to our financial plan, and as the lumber dealers have proved their appreciation of our work, by sending me half of his salary, we have only called upon the State treasury for half of what you apportioned to him. I think I may safely say this winter has been the very best winter in our work. Our missionary, J. E. Very, has visited more camps than last winter, with good treatment in nearly all cases, and a cordial invitation to come that

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way again. In midwinter he was joined by a young man hired by the King's Daughters of New York who accompanied him with a violin and an extra quantity of Gospel Hymns. Many men signed the Temperance Pledge Book he carries with him, and many avowed their determination to begin a Christian life: this is seed "sown by the wayside," and must be left to "the Lord of the harvest," to report. Reporting this decision as "Conversions in Camp" does not seem to us to be wise, although several men have been converted in just this way.

Two leading lumbermen's journals, *The Mississippi Valley Lumberman* and *The Chicago Northwestern* have given us kindly mention more than once in a whole column of commendation for the success of our work among lumber camps, especially our systematic manner of sending our home literature into camps which has aided us by bringing our work before dealers.

Business men who do not think much of evangelistic work, all speak well of our supplying the camps with literature. What kind of literature has been sent? Just such papers from the home library table as a mother would send to her boy were he in camp, *The Youths' Companion*, *Harper's Weekly*, and all illustrated papers and magazines; not forgetting the best of the religious and temperance papers, with as many foreign leaflets, as one can buy to add to the package. Many have sent to Mrs. Sophie Grubb, Lawrence, Kansas, for a package of her foreign leaflets for just this purpose. Over a thousand of Bishop Ireland's strong temperance leaflets in all languages were distributed in this manner. As there are many Catholics in camp, it is wise to send leaflets to them from their standpoint, and as many priests have come out strong and true on the total abstinence question, Mrs. Grubb, our National Superintendent of Foreign Work, has such utterances in leaflet form for this use.

Many camp men have sent their verbal thanks by our camp missionary, who has found universal appreciation of the W. C. T. U. of Wisconsin.

When we remember the wants and woes of a life in the pineries,—the long, cold, dreary winter months that these thousands of men spend, away from all the Christianizing influences of home, and our civilization, with but little to remind them from the outside world that they are not in "Siberia,"—is it any wonder we can see increased opportunities to serve "the Master" in our own state, in just this way? Our day and generation alone, will be able to hold this branch of Christian service, for in another quarter of a century the industries of settled towns will mark the spots where isolated camps are found to-day in dense forests, and the men who have spent half their lives in getting our state ready for its coming "homes," must not be left entirely outside of some of the holier restraints of "home" now.

We print two letters from camps to show how some of the men feel about our work. Don't be discouraged if the foreman has failed to thank

you. Another winter your superintendent will try to get more acknowledgments while you expect less, and we trust both will be satisfied.

Faithfully yours,

Mrs. MARY C. UPHAM, Marshfield, Wis.

Nat. and Wis. Supt. W. C. T. U. Camp Work.

Mrs. HATTIE S. HASTINGS, Green Bay.

Asst. Supt. of Wis. W. C. T. U. Camp Work.

VERNONA JCT., WIS., Sept. 21st, 1891.

President of W. C. T. U., Geneva Lake, Wis.

DEAR MADAM: Excuse the liberty I take in writing you this line, but I was working in one of Daniel McLeod's camps last winter and I was very much pleased and greatly interested in your weekly contributions to our camp in the shape of reading matter. I make bold enough to write and ask you to confer a favor upon us this winter also, and whatever your terms are please let me know and I will send you the money. (There is no money taken in camps for this work.)

Trusting in God that I do not intrude and that this will meet with your approval, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

CAMP FOREMAN.

W. C. T. U. NOTES.

The following letter received by Mrs. J. H. Gould from the lumber camps at Hayward, Wis., explain themselves:

MADAM: Your favor of the 31st ult. came duly to hand and contents noted. Accept my best thanks for your kindness in sending me so much reading matter. I hope I may some day be able to pay you for your kindness.

Yours very truly,

F. H. M., Foreman of Camp.

DEAR MADAM: Papers received all right, and in behalf of the boys in camp please thank all those who are interested in contributing reading for us. Tell them all we are very thankful, for it is all the news we get. And as one of the boys remarked when the last mail of papers came, "Now we can find out what is going on in God's country." Thanking you kindly one and all.

W. L. W., Foreman of Camp.