

THE INDIAN.

—A PAPER DEVOTED TO—

The Aborigines of North America,

—AND ESPECIALLY TO—

THE INDIANS OF CANADA.

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.50 A YEAR IN ADVANCE

Will be published by THE INDIAN Publishing Company, of Hagersville, and for the present will be issued Fort-nightly, and until further notice.

ADVERTISING RATES.

A limited number of advertisements will be received at the rate of \$4.00 per inch per annum solid measure. Contracts for shorter periods at proportionate rates. Special contracts with large advertisers at a reduction of 10 to 20 per cent. off above rates.

The Indian Publishing Co.

Hagersville, Ont. Canada.

Head Chief Kah-ke-wa-quo-na-by,
(DR. P. E. JONES) Managing Editor.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

Insertions under this head for Indians will be 25 cents.
For other than Indians 75 cents each insertion

DIED,

At her late residence on the New Credit Reserve, on Monday, May 10th, the widow of the late John Secord, aged about 100 years.

We feel certain that our subscribers desire that THE INDIAN should be a success. Not only a success in its endeavours to carry out the important and interesting subjects set forth in its prospectus, but also that it should be a financial success to the Editor and Publisher and not a drain upon his purse. To accomplish this end, it is necessary that we should have a large circulation, and, we ask each of our subscribers to act as an agent. Try to obtain one or more subscribers. You surely have friends and acquaintances, who are interested in the Aborigines of this country, and in their history. Ask them to subscribe and many of them will.

"The citizen who neglects to cast his vote is guilty of treasonable indifference to the public welfare. Equally indiffent to the demands of the public interest is the citizen who fails to secure himself in the franchise by getting his name on the voter's list."

The above is one of the editorial notes of the *Globe* of Saturday last, May 8th. We entirely agree with the advice given and hope our Indian friends will make every endeavor to see that this, "our Magna Charta," the greatest privilege ever granted to the Aborigines, is taken advantage of, and that every Indian who has been smart enough to obtain sufficient property to enable him to vote, shall see that his name is placed on the list for that purpose.

With this number, we commence a short sketch of the Life of John Sunday, the noted Indian Missionary, from the pen of the Rev. John McLean, Missionary to the Blood Indians at Ft. McLeod, near the Rocky Mountains. Mr. McLean is known as a great friend of the Indians. He has spent much of his life and labors amongst them, and his opinions and writings are respected and sought for by the

reading public. We can therefore promise our subscribers a treat while pursuing the sketch of the life of the celebrated Ojibway, John Sunday. The likeness we have had engraved is considered by those who knew him, to be an excellent one and we trust our Indian readers will appreciate our endeavors to make the INDIAN both interesting and attractive.

We would call the attention of our Indian friends to the advertisement of the Sun Life Insurance Company. Many of our people have good farms and are in a position to support their families comfortably without the aid of the annuity. Would it not be a good idea for such persons to invest the whole or part of their interest money in a life insurance policy? thereby securing for their wives and children in case of death, a sum of money which would, in a measure, compensate their families for the loss they sustain by your death. If you are able to earn \$1.00 a day for your family and die, your family lose over \$2,000. Be sure and have this partially replaced by an Insurance policy upon your life in a well established and sound Insurance Company such as the Sun.

We give in this issue extracts from the very fine report of the Indian Commissioner of the United States. The report is of such importance to our brethren across the lakes and of such interest to us in Canada, that we think it proper to reprint the greater portion of it in THE INDIAN. President Cleveland is the first Democratic heard of the Government for a number of years, and his election of the Hon. D. C. Atkins seems to be a wise one. As an Indian we would say that the great difficulty is to make the uneducated and laborous Indians believe that the Government intends to act kindly and justly with them. The Government should employ educated Indians to visit each Tribe and in their own language, let them know what you do, and what you expect from them, but before making a promise be sure you can keep it. If the United States Government once secures the good will of the Indian Tribe, it would never have more loyal and faithful subjects, but this can only be accomplished by honest, just and kindly treatment. Much care should be exercised in appointing these Indian agents for much depends upon them. They should receive these positions from known ability and integrity and not as political perquisites. In fact a strong and active political man has no business whatever in the Indian Department.

Speaking of timber reminds me of a curious thing told me by Mr. James Hager. He got a large elm tree from the Reserve this winter, and on getting it into firewood, what was his surprise to come upon distinct evidence that this self-same tree had been chopped into, and that the tree had in time covered up the wound and had since formed fifty-one annual rings. Accepting the record of the tree as the date of chopping, it must have been done prior to 1835, at which time there were no white settlers here. If we could interpret the language of the tree, what curious information we could get. Had this tree

but a tongue, what changes it could note since this bold, red man struck at its heart. I well remember that in May, 1881, a farmer, when digging post holes, came upon an ossuary of Indians, in Markham township, York county, about fifteen miles from Toronto. On digging further, over 300 skeletons were unearthed of all sizes, some of them being of gigantic size. Over the grave had grown and died a huge pine tree—dead in the memory of the oldest present. The tree was the data for solving the problem of the date of burial. How long this wholesale burying had taken place before the little seedling commenced its life, was a mystery, but it was unmistakable that the tree was over 300 years old. Antiquarians gave it as their opinion that it was a portion of the Huron tribe who had died of disease, or maybe of famine, for had it been war the skulls would not have been all unbroken. I have one very large skull which I got there. Although but the bare bone, it fits a No. 7½ hat.
—Brantford Telegram.

THE HALDIMAND ELECTION.

In reply to Mr. Landerkin Sir John Macdonald said that the Government had not selected the Returning-officer, and did not think there was any great hurry about it. The electors lists were now being prepared under the new Franchise Act, and there would probably be an addition of twenty per cent to the electorate. It was impossible that the person elected should take his seat in the house this session. It would look rather absurd that a gentleman should be elected to represent an electorate that was effete and it would be something like an insult to the new voters to debar them from taking part in the election. Those were the reasons for the delay, and if the matter were pressed he would ask for a resolution suspending the issue of the writ."

By the above it will be seen that the election in Haldimand will not take place until about September next and after the new Franchise list is complete.

The Indians residing in the township of Oneida will therefore soon be able to exercise their right to vote and we trust from now on they will take a deeper interest in the politics of the country and especially that part relating to Indian affairs.

Mr. Coulter, of Cayuga, has been nominated by the Reform party. The Conservatives will hold their nomination on Thursday, May 13th.

A NEW FERRY.

Mr. George Clark is building a new ferry for our "Clark's crossing." It will be one of the most substantial in the Grand River. It is 30 feet long, 11 feet 3 inches broad and 22 inches deep. It is to be christened the "Indian Girl." Of course he will be invited to break a bottle of wine over it, or a keg of beer, if it be launched, as expected, before Saturday, May 1st.—Brantford Telegram.

The fishery question—What did you pay [for that string of fish?

A fly wheel—a bicycle.