

assistance indicates but little advancement towards their becoming self-supporting and independent.

Cultivation of the soil is only carried on to any appreciable extent on the reserve at Kingsclear, in the County of York.

The interesting Indian settlement on Lennox Island, in the Province of Prince Edward Island, is, I am glad to report, in a fairly prosperous condition.

Lennox Island was purchased some years ago, for the use and benefit of the Micmac Indians of Prince Edward Island—by the Aborigines Society of London, England; who placed it in the hands of Trustees; but the management of Indian affairs in this reserve is with this Department, which has its paid Superintendent on the Island, who also fills the position of School Teacher, and instructs the Indians in agriculture. That officer reports that there is a noticeable improvement in farming, that additional houses and barns have been erected during the year, and that the Indians generally are temperate in their habits.

EDUCATION.

This important branch of Indian management is receiving the earnest attention of the Department, with a view to the inauguration of an improved system. With this object information has been called for in regard to the working of each Indian school in the Dominion. One of the principal features in the new system will consist in a thorough and systematic inspection of all Indian schools, and the teachers will be required to hold certificates of competency and character from School Boards or other competent authorities.

The greatest obstacle to the successful education of Indian children at day schools consists in the irregularity of their attendance, caused in part by the neglect of their parents to oblige them to attend, and by the frequent absence of many families from the reserves while fishing, hunting and berry picking. In order to remedy this state of things, as far as possible, the teachers have been instructed to adapt the periods of vacation to the time when the Indians will be absent from the reserves.

The plan recently adopted, under Your Excellency's authority in connection with Indian day schools in Manitoba, Keewatin, and the North-West Territories, of granting bonuses annually, in addition to their salaries, to the teachers of the five most efficiently conducted schools, and of presenting prizes to deserving pupils will, it is hoped, tend to stimulate both teachers and pupils to greater exertion. A similar system might with advantage be introduced in the other Provinces.

The Indian day school is, however, under the best of circumstances, attended with unsatisfactory results.