

achieved by a minority, perhaps a small minority, of the Indians on these reserves. The majority so far do not and will not work. They have never done so. They regard it as beneath them, having lived in the by-gone days by hunting and fishing, but there is reason to hope that all this will be soon changed. The Indian is as sensible of the evils of hunger and cold and the benefits of abundance of food and comfortable clothing as any man, and when the idle Indian sees the comforts which his industrious brother enjoys and when it is brought home to him that through industry these comforts may become his own he will at no distant date cast his rifle aside and be willing to exchange the rifle and the net or the fishing rod for the plough and the hoe.

On the whole, so far as we could judge, the policy of the government seems to be a wise one, and is justified already by its results. The Indians while kept from starvation are given every encouragement to industry. The workers are better fed than the indolent, and inducements such as the ownership of cattle and land are given them as motives to persevere in well-doing. I cannot but believe—provided, of course, that other and higher influences are brought to bear on them—that these communities will soon become largely self-supporting. It should be added that the agents of the government with whom we came into contact seem to be excellent men, and to be doing their work faithfully and efficiently, while the supplies of different kinds provided for the use of the Indians were so far as we were able to judge, of the best quality. I think then that I am expressing the mind of the committee when I say that so far as what came under their observation is concerned, they are convinced that the Indian department of the government is most earnest and conscientious in its efforts to promote the best interests of the Indian population and that these efforts are well considered. They would also I am sure desire to bear special testimony to the deep interest taken in the Indians by Mr. Hayter Reed, Assist. Indian Commissioner, and to the earnestness and ability he brings to bear on the work under his charge.

So far I have dwelt on what the government is doing for the improvement of the Indians, but as I have suggested already, other influences must be brought to bear

upon them, or the work of the government will prove largely in vain. Hence I must advert briefly to

#### WHAT WE SAW OF THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

among the Indians on these reserves.

As I have stated above they are in a state of heathenism. Some of their chiefs, Pie-a-pot in particular, are bitterly opposed to the Gospel, and use what influence they possess to thwart our work. Others are indifferent—the fewest number are friendly. On all the reserves something has been accomplished. On Pie-a-pot's reserve we have a day-school, conducted by Miss Rose, which has been for some time in operation, while the Rev. W. S. Moore has just begun his work as missionary in this group. We have also day-schools on the File Hills and Indian Head Reserves, conducted by Messrs. Toms and McLean, while at Round and Crooked Lakes Reserves the Rev. Hugh McKay, a nephew of Dr. McKay of Formosa, and possessing much of his spirit, is laboring as missionary. Among the Indians as among ourselves, special attention must be given to the young; but I was not very favorably impressed with the working of our day-schools on these reserves. Not that I have a word to say against the agents we are employing. I believe them to be well qualified for their work. But the attendance is so small, and when not small is so irregular by reason of the indifference and opposition of the parents, that the results are disappointing. Something no doubt is effected but not to the extent that is to be desired. I believe that a new departure will have to be made. The Church will have to act a parents part to these children by the institution of

#### BOARDING SCHOOLS

into which they can be gathered and where they will be separated altogether from the evil influences now surrounding them and trained in Christian truth and habits. This will of course cost more, but the result, I am sure, will be worth the cost. A beginning has been made in this direction by Mr. McKay at Round Lake. He has established a Boarding School there which was attended last winter by 33 pupils, and is now making large additions to the building, so that next winter he will be able to accommodate at least as many more. The school was not in session when