

of settlement it may not be amiss for me now to give some particulars concerning the Indian tribes.

The original bands living to the East of the Rocky Mountains as far as Lake Winnipeg and Red River, within British territory, were as follows:—

Cree,	Shoushwap,	Yellow Knife,
Assiniboine,	Mountain,	Dog Rib,
Blood,	Saulteaux,	Strong Bow,
Blackfeet,	Takall,	Inland,
Beaver,	Nahany,	Copper,
Carrier,	Chipewan,	Swampy.

The population of the above in 1855 was, as near as it could be estimated, 47,000. A large proportion of the above bands, however, have become extinct since then, or they have become merged into other tribes, and according to the last census there were only 33,959 Indians in the North-West Territories.

It is notable that the Indians of the British North-West have ever compared favourably with those of the United States, and we have no wholesale massacres or prolonged Indian wars to chronicle such as the Americans have experienced at the hands of their Savages. This is owing to the good treatment ever extended to the Indians by the Hudson's Bay Company, and to the faithful performance of treaties and considerate management of Indian affairs by the Canadian Government.

In 1857 the Canadian Government fitted out an exploring expedition under the charge of S. J. Dawson and Henry Youle Hind, M.A., for the purpose of penetrating the North-West Territory and obtaining some definite information in regard to it. This step was probably taken under the impression that some immediate action would be recommended by the Imperial Government to bring about a transfer of the country to Canada.

In 1858 an attempt was made to organise a mail service between Canada and Red River Settlement, *via* Lake Superior, but in 1860 it was abandoned, having proved a failure. The United States, however, succeeded better, for in 1857 they established postal communication with Pembina on the boundary line, and a carrier from the settlement brought the mail from that place to Fort Garry.

About this time the traders had to cart their goods some six hundred miles over the prairie from St. Paul, Minnesota, and the Hudson's Bay Company, in addition to using this route for bringing in supplies, brought