

Government, while they have taken some encouraging steps, as by the installation of an anthropological collection in the museum at Ottawa, have shown no disposition to make the study of the native populations a branch of the public service. Anthropologists have thus two courses before them in Canada—namely, to press this task upon the Government and to carry it forward themselves. Now it is obvious that agitation for public endowment will not of itself suffice, as involving delay during which the material to be collected would be disappearing more rapidly than ever. If, however, a determined attempt were at once made by anthropologists, resulting in some measure of success, public opinion might probably move in the same direction, and a larger scheme might, before long, receive not only the support of Canadians interested in the science of man, but the material help of the Dominion Government.

On these and other considerations the General Committee of the British Association appointed Dr. E. B. Tylor, Dr. G. M. Dawson, General Sir J. H. Lefroy, Dr. Daniel Wilson, Mr. Horatio Hale, Mr. R. G. Haliburton, and Mr. George W. Bloxam (Secretary) to be a committee for the purpose of investigating and publishing reports on the physical characters, languages, industrial and social condition of the north-western tribes of the Dominion of Canada, with a grant of 50*l*. This committee the next year sent in a 'Preliminary Report on the Blackfoot Tribes,' drawn up by Mr. Hale. Their action in other districts was, however, much delayed by the difficulty of making plans by correspondence, and the committee were reappointed at Birmingham in 1886, in the hope that during the ensuing year Mr. Hale might be able personally to visit some of the tribes.

It has now been arranged to collect information, as far as possible, over the vast region between Lake Huron and the Pacific, the materials thus obtained being edited and presented in successive reports, as they shall be from time to time received, by Mr. Hale, whose experience and skill in such research are certified to by his volume embodying the ethnography of the Exploring Expedition under Captain Wilkes and by his subsequent publications relating to Canada. As a means of obtaining data, the present memorandum has been drawn up for circulation among Government officers in contact with the native tribes, medical practitioners, missionaries, colonists, and travellers likely to possess or obtain trustworthy information. The results gained from the answers will be incorporated with those of a personal survey to be made in some of the most promising districts by the Rev. E. F. Wilson, who has been named on the recommendation of Mr. Hale, and will act under his directions.

SUGGESTIONS FOR INVESTIGATION.

Physical Characters.—Tables of anthropological measurements &c. from Canada being extremely deficient, schedules drawn up by medical men and other qualified anatomists and naturalists will be highly acceptable. The following headings comprise the chief points on which information is needed in this department: stature, girth, proportions of trunk and limbs, cranial indices, facial angle, &c., brain capacity, peculiar bodily forms and features, special attitudes and movements, muscular force, &c., colour of skin, eyes, and hair according to Broca's colour-tables, form and growth of hair, skin odour. Statistics are required as to age of maturity and decline, periods of reproduction and lactation, longevity. Especial import-