

*Fourth.*—As to the alterations which may be beneficially introduced in the mode of proceeding now adopted, as regards the annual Presents.

If the course of conducting the business, by means of the Commissariat, is to be perpetuated, your Committee can do little more than to suggest that such changes in the nature of the Presents should from time to time be made, as from the personal knowledge of the Chief Superintendent shall be desirable to the several Tribes, in relation to their becoming, more or less, a domesticated or agricultural people.

Mr. Jarvis already recommends the substitution, or rather addition of shoes and trowsers, as desired by the Indians. Even their adoption of this more convenient and comfortable form of dress, shews a prejudice got rid of, consequently a step gained.

Your Committee are struck at the immense expense said to be incurred in the transport of these Presents, before they arrive at the different Posts for distribution—an expense which, in many cases, is stated to be most disproportionably enhanced. This being, of course, paid out of the Parliamentary Grant, must, if true, seriously diminish the same, and absorb an amount, which, if a better mode could be devised, might be much more beneficially applied.

The increase in the price of goods imported by wholesale Merchants, and sold by retail in the remotest settlements of the North or the West, bears no proportion to that which is alleged to be in effect the price of the articles distributed to the Indians.

Upon reference to the Chief Superintendent, the Committee have reason to doubt the accuracy of Mr. Blairs' impressions upon this subject.

Upon the *Fifth* subject of inquiry—the present course of conducting the business of the Indian Department, and whether beneficial alterations might not be made—your Committee are convinced, that the present machinery of the Office is totally inadequate to effect any good, according to the course even at present pursued, and will be still less adequate, if the changes to be recommended by your Committee be carried into effect.

With regard to the Office of the Chief Superintendent, it is proposed to make such arrangements as will enable that functionary to attend more to the *Statesman's* duties of his Office, the extensive nature of which, and its importance to the good government and progressive civilization of the Indians, has been strongly shewn, instead of confining him exclusively to those services which might be equally well performed by a Clerk, and enable him accurately to know the real state of the Indians' Funds, without waiting to be enlightened from another Department, and so to organize the Office as to render it fit for the more efficient discharge of its more extended duties. The attention due to the property and general interests of the Grand River Indians, until lately managed by Trustees, is in itself sufficient to occupy one man's time.

To produce this efficiency in the duties attached to the Office of the Chief Superintendent, and (by supposition) about to be added, it will be necessary that he should be assisted by—

1st. A Chief Clerk, competent to conduct the business and correspondence of the Department, and act as its Head during the occasional absence of the Chief among the different Tribes, and his annual visit to the Great Manitoulin Island—salary proposed, £250.

2nd. A Book-keeper, who will have full occupation in attending to the Indians' Accounts, and Land payments, &c.—salary £200.

The salary of the Chief Clerk, it is proposed, shall be paid out of the Parliamentary Grant—the other out of the Indian Funds. It may be remarked here, that the salary of the late Acting Trustee, whose Office has been discontinued, having fallen in, will go a considerable way towards providing for this additional assistance to the Chief Superintendent; but the gain to the Indians from the better management of their property, will, independent of that, in the opinion of the Committee, far more than counterbalance this outlay.

3rd. It is next proposed to transfer to this Office the management of all sales of Indians' Lands, ordered to be sold for their benefit—the settling of conflicting claims, to which among intruders coming within those above comprised by your Committee in the *first* class, falls peculiarly within the Province of the Indian Department.

4th. To enable the Head of the Department to act without the intervention of the Commissariat.