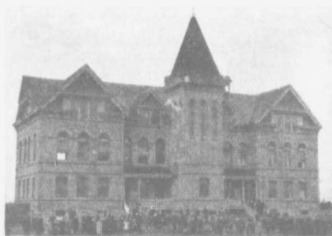


Educational Conditions

Under this head I shall not refer so much to the good work that is being done by the schools that come under my observation as to the defects in the system as applied to Indian educational work. Before dealing with these defects as they appear to me, I feel that it is incumbent on me to express once for all my high appreciation of the work that is being done by the noble band of teachers, who daily and quietly are really laying the foundations of the future in the souls as well as the minds of our Indian children.



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The habits of the Indian are nomadic. More than two-thirds of the children of school age in British Columbia never entered a school room at all during the year 1904. The Indian Report for that year gives a total of school age of 3694 ; 1625 were enrolled, 2069 were not. The average attendance of those of school age in all kinds of schools in the Province was less than one-third. The average attendance for the entire Dominion is only 42 per cent. of those of school age ; 9,785 children were enrolled, 4,627 were not.

The Indians are at home here from about the middle of October to the middle of January. The children, where there is no boarding school, must go with