

difficult, even if it were politic, to withstand the pressure, and persist in locking up large tracts of some of the most fertile land in the colony.

At the same time the present anomalous position of the Indians, at once labouring under the disabilities imposed by law upon minors, and enjoying some of the territorial privileges of independent sovereigns, involve any measure of this kind in difficulty, which it will be the province of the Commissioners to solve.

In accordance with the wishes of the Imperial Government, they will endeavour to devise some scheme whereby the expenses of the Indian department, and of the management of their territory, may be defrayed from the funds arising therefrom. They will consider how far it may be practicable to improve the present school system. All the Indians of Upper Canada who possess annuities, with the exception of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinté, at present tax themselves to the extent of 25 per cent. on their annuities for the support of the industrial schools, and in addition, they all defray the expense of local schools for each tribe.

In return for this large outlay they receive but small benefit. Even at the central establishment, apart from religious training, the instruction merely comprises reading, writing, arithmetic and the elements of geography. The questions before the Commissioners will be, whether it may be possible to diminish the cost of their education, or for the same money to afford one more commensurate with the outlay.

It will also rest with them to recommend what changes, if any, it may in their opinion be advisable to make in the social and political position of the Indians as members of the Canadian community.

Census.

It is difficult in the present careless way in which the census of the Indians is annually taken, to determine whether they are really decreasing or not. The computation has been, until last year, made solely with a view to the adjustment of the presents, and no examination has for the most part been hitherto made, whether the variation in the annual strength of a tribe arises from migration of some of its members, or from a difference in the relation of births to deaths; but the result of the inquiries I have made, and of my researches into the records of the office, tend to show that the resident and Christianized tribes are not decreasing.

The western district is the only one in which the census has been taken in such a manner as to show this distinction in the causes of fluctuation. The returns from that section go to prove that the decrease from mortality is, on the average, scarcely appreciable, while in some bands the births have exceeded the number of deaths.

The following table shows the numbers of the settled Indians in Western Canada in the year 1856, with the amount of their income:—

	Number.	Revenue from Land.			Annuities.		
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Six Nations(A.) - - - - -	2,330	8,326	5	4	-	none.	
Mohawks, Bay of Quinté - - - - -	550	594	10	-	450	-	-
Saugeen and Owen Sound (B.) - - - - -	520	42	-	-	1,250	-	-
Chippewas of Lakes Huron and Simcoe - - - - -	639	269	-	-	1,200	-	-
Chippewas of Christian Island - - - - -	45	} - Included in the foregoing.					
Sandy Island - - - - -	127						
Mississagas of Alnwick - - - - -	224	231	10	-	642	-	-
Mississagas of Rice, Mud and Skugog Lakes - - - - -	310	-	none	-	740	-	-
Chippewas of Sarnia - - - - -	559	279	-	-	1,100	-	-
Chippewas of Walpole Island - - - - -	824	-	none	-	} divided between these two bands.		
Chippewas of Thames and Munsee Indians - - - - -	620	196	-	-			
Moravian Delawares - - - - -	255	-	none	-	150	-	-
Wyandotts of Anderdon and Chippewas of Point Pelée (C.) - - - - -	368	219	16	-	-	none.	
Oneidas of the Thames - - - - -	519	-	none	-	-	none.	

The Munsees have no revenue of any sort.

(A.) In addition to the above, there is about 12,000 l. in hand ready for investment for the Six Nations.

(B.) About 20,000 l. additional is about to be invested for the Saugeen and Owen Sound Indians.

(C.) The Wyandotts now derive 615 l. yearly, in addition to this sum, from the rent of their quarries. The Chippewas do not share the revenues of the Wyandotts.

Progress of civilization among the Indians.

The education and civilization of these people, I regret to say, seem to progress but very slowly. Their apathy, and their unsettled habits, render them, for the most part, averse from continuous application of any sort. Nor do I see much hope of permanent improvement unless by the reduction of the size of their reserves, a system be adopted of locating them in fixed places of residence like other settlers. By some such means they may be more carefully superintended,