

property at present occupied by the boys' school. As all supplies would have to come by railroad, it will be necessary to construct a trail connecting the schools with Keefer's Station.

I wish it to be understood that I am most unwilling to regard these schools as of a permanently charitable character. It would be a most fatal thing, in my opinion, to pauperize the Indians, and I shall never cease impressing upon them their obligation to assist, to the utmost of their ability, and I believe this will be no inconsiderable item. I am prepared to agree, therefore, that after payment of all legitimate expenses any balance in hand derived from Government grant or contribution of Indians, shall be applied by the council in reduction of the Government grant for the following year: provided that all contributions of the general public, in the like case, shall be applied to prizes, scholarships, &c., for the benefit of the pupils. The girls will not be able to do much for their own support, but we reasonably expect that the boys will be remunerative; and it should be an object with us all to offer to the teachers the best inducements to turn the industrial work of the school to profitable account.

I am, dear Sir, your obedient servant,

A. W., NEW WESTMINSTER.

J. W. POWELL, Esq., M.D., Indian Agent, Victoria, B.C.

NEW WESTMINSTER, 16th February, 1885.

MY DEAR MR. HOMER,—I enclose you a copy of a letter written to Dr. Powell, in reply to one from him, asking me whether, on certain conditions, I would undertake the management of an industrial school for Indian boys. The proposal is one which I have been hoping for for the last five years. There seems a probability of our accomplishing something now, if the Government is liberal enough, but they must expect to have to spend money. I have been enquiring into similar institutions in the States, and I find that where Government bears the whole expense the cost averages about \$175 per pupil per annum; where the management is in the hands of religious bodies, the Government gives an annual grant of \$100 per pupil. My enquiries are limited to schools in Washington Territory.

Whether such schools can ever be made self-supporting is a doubtful matter. The Indians know perfectly well that the Government supply every white child with a free education, and they are not likely to see much reason in a proposal to make them pay for what the white man receives gratis.

Nevertheless, opposed, as I am, to the principle of free education altogether, I shall not omit to impress upon the Indians their obligation, as far as possible, to assist, by a voluntary tax, or by subscriptions, in the work of education. I shall be much obliged to you if you will make enquiries as to any existing industrial schools in the east, where I might hope to find suitable teachers in agriculture and handicrafts, and to send me the addresses of the managers; and I shall hope that you will exert all your influence to obtain for me the most liberal Government help in the prosecution of the work.

Believe me, faithfully yours,

A. W., NEW WESTMINSTER.

J. A. R. HOMER, Esq., M.P.

OTTAWA, 11th March, 1885.

SIR,—I have the honor to recommend that a sum be placed on the Supplementary Estimates to assist the Indian schools established in British Columbia by the Bishop of New Westminster, for the particulars of which I beg to refer you to the reply of the Bishop to Doctor Powell, the Indian Agent in British Columbia.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

J. A. R. HOMER.

The Deputy Minister of Indian Affairs, Ottawa.