

regular attendance—in some instances it is found that as long as the average to secure the allowance granted by Government can be obtained, little effort apparently is made for more.

I have it therefore in contemplation to suggest certain changes in the school system, which if adopted I am in hopes may meet with good results, for as it now stands but little power rests either in the hands of the Agent or the school teacher to compel attendance of any description. In the winter months lack of clothing being the plea advanced for the non-attendance of children.

#### *Industrial Schools.*

Experience has taught that little can be done which will have a permanent effect with the adult Indian, consequently, to create a lasting impression and elevate him above his brethren, we must take charge of the youth and keep him constantly within the circle of civilization. I am confident that the Industrial School now about to be established will be a principal feature in the civilization of the Indian mind. The utility of Industrial Schools has long been acknowledged by our neighbours across the line, who have had much to do with the Indian.

In that country, as in this, it is found difficult to make day schools or reserves a success, because the influence of home associations is stronger than that of the school, and so long as such a state of things exists I fear that the inherited aversion to labour can never be successfully met. By the children being separated from their parents and properly and regularly instructed not only in the rudiments of the English language, but also in trades and agriculture, so that what is taught may not be readily forgotten, I can but assure myself that a great end will be attained for the permanent and lasting benefit of the Indian.

Authority having been granted to start three industrial schools throughout the Territories Battleford was selected as one point, owing to the fact of its being favorably located and having Government buildings already erected, which could readily be turned to advantage. This school will be commenced as soon as the supplies intended for it can reach their destination. It has been placed under the charge of the Rev. Thomas Clarke, of the Church of England, and will receive boys from the whole of the Saskatchewan district, proportionately to the number of Indians in each Agency.

Work is about to be begun on a building to be used for a similar purpose and to be erected on a most favorable site selected at the mouth of the High River. This school will be under the direction of the Rev. Père Lacombe, a missionary of the Roman Catholic Church, long and favorably known throughout the Territories. Owing, however, to the lateness of the season, I fear it cannot come into operation before the coming spring.

The third is to be situated in the Qu'Appelle District (the exact location not as yet having been decided upon) and is to be under the superintendence of the Roman Catholic Church, as you are already aware.

During the first two years of these schools the expenses must naturally be somewhat high, but I can see no reason why after that time they cannot be self-supporting, or nearly so, in everything except the salaries of the principals and assistants, by the profits to result from the farming, stock-raising and trades taught.

I herewith append a list of the schools in operation throughout the Territories, from some fourteen of which returns are regularly received, the remainder are merely open at seasons when teachers can be obtained. Those from whom no returns are received obtain no aid.

#### *Manitoba Superintendency.*

Matters in this Superintendency are of a generally satisfactory nature, and for a detailed statement of its condition I would beg leave to refer you to the report of Mr. Inspector McCall, who has just returned from an extended tour of inspection.