



CHIEF YELLOWHORSE AND WIFE
BLACK FEET INDIANS.

reported a slight increase in the Indian population. Last year the returns to the Government showed an excess of 350 births over the number of deaths, and while this is only a proportionate growth of four-tenths of one per cent., it is at least an increase, and hope is felt that the "noble red man" will not vanish from the land, but will increase both in numbers and in independence.

While we have no love for statistics in *SUNSHINE*, still it will probably prove of interest to note the tribal distribution of the native race in Canada and the numbers belonging to the chief tribes.

Exclusive of the 4,600 Eskimos or Innuits who inhabit the Arctic regions of the Dominion, it is estimated that the total Indian population of Canada is about 105,000. Of this number some 57,000 belong to the Algonkian or Algonquin linguistic stock; 11,400 to the Iroquoian; 11,000 to the Athabaskan; 8,000 to the Salishan; 6,000 to the Tsimpsian; 2,350 to the Siouan, and the remainder chiefly to several tribes on the Pacific coast and in the Yukon.

The Algonkian stock, embracing more than

half the total Indian population of the country, is distributed over a wide area from the Atlantic to the Rocky Mountains. The main subdivision of this tribe is that of the Chippewas, numbering nearly 30,000, who have their habitat throughout the provinces of Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Over 16,000 Crees and Blackfeet are to be found in the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta and in Northern Ontario. Other branches of the same stock are the Micmacs in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec, the Analecites in New Brunswick and Quebec, and the Montagnais, Abenakis, Nascapées and other small tribes in Quebec alone.

The Iroquois are to be found chiefly in Ontario and Quebec, and while they were the most warlike race in the old days, they have shown singular capacity for learning the arts of civilization and to-day stand in the forefront of their race as really valuable citizens.

The Athabaskans are a western race, living chiefly in Alberta, north of the Athabaska river, in the Mackenzie river basin and in Northern British Columbia.

In British Columbia are to be found the Tsimpsians and Salishans, besides the Haidas of the Queen Charlotte Islands and the Ahts of the Pacific coast. The Siouan stock, consisting partly of Assiniboines and partly of Sioux proper, are located in the prairie provinces. The Assiniboines, while they came originally from the United States, have been for a long time north of where the international boundary now runs, and are distinguished from the Sioux proper, who fled across the line fifty years ago to escape the pursuit of the United States troops.

The Indians of Canada are the wards of the nation. When Canada was handed to Great Britain by the French in 1763, the Indians were allowed certain large reserves of territory for their own occupation and use. In the different colonies some slight differences existed in the manner of securing additional lands from the Indians as they were required for settlement. In Upper Canada, now the province of Ontario, when the Crown obtained land with the consent of the Indians (a consent made necessary by Royal Proclamation) a regular purchase price or a fixed annuity was usually made the consideration. Adequate reserves were in every case set aside for the aborigines. The granting of annuities was not a frequent course in the other colonies, but reserves were always set aside, and other considerations made.

Not the least important of the departments of