

*Third Report of the Committee, consisting of Dr. E. B. TYLOR, Dr. G. M. DAWSON, General Sir J. H. LEFROY, Dr. DANIEL WILSON, Mr. R. G. HALIBURTON, and Mr. GEORGE W. BLOXAM (Secretary), appointed for the purpose of investigating and publishing reports on the physical characters, languages, and industrial and social condition of the North-western Tribes of the Dominion of Canada.*

THE following 'Circular of Inquiry' has been drawn up by the Committee for distribution amongst those most likely to be able to supply information:—

At the meeting of the British Association at Montreal in 1884 the subject of Canadian anthropology came frequently under public and private discussion. The opinion was strongly expressed that an effort should be made to record as perfectly as possible the characteristics and condition of the native tribes of the Dominion before their racial peculiarities become less distinguishable through intermarriage and dispersion, and before contact with civilised men has further obliterated the remains of their original arts, customs, and beliefs.

Two considerations especially forced themselves on the attention of anthropologists at Montreal: first, that the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, traversing an enormous stretch of little known country on both sides of the Rocky Mountains, has given ready access to a number of native tribes whose languages and mode of life offer a field of inquiry as yet but imperfectly worked; secondly, that in the United States, where the anthropology of the indigenous tribes has for years past been treated as a subject of national importance, not only have the scientific societies been actively engaged in research into the past and present condition of the native populations, but the Bureau of Ethnology, presided over by the Hon. J. W. Powell (present at the Montreal meeting), is constituted as a Government department, sending out qualified agents to reside among the western tribes for purposes of philological and anthropological study. Through these public and private explorations a complete body of information is being collected and published, while most extensive series of specimens illustrative of native arts and habits are preserved in the museums of the United States, especially in the National Museum at Washington. If these large undertakings be compared with what has hitherto been done in Canada, it has to be admitted that the Dominion