

## THE OLDER PROVINCES.

The condition of Indian matters in these Provinces is on the whole satisfactory. Any suffering of consequence during the year was confined to certain bands in Nova Scotia, who found the scanty stores laid in by them quite insufficient to tide them over the unusually protracted winter. The grants, however, made to the different Agencies in that Province enabled the Indians to exist. The cattle belonging to several bands in Nova Scotia were somewhat reduced in number, as insufficient hay had been saved to keep them alive. The prospects for this winter are more promising, as the crops were rather above the average; and the late setting in of the winter will not cause such a drain upon their resources.

The increased desire among Indians of the older Provinces for additional schools on reserves on which none have as yet been established or where those already in operation are deemed insufficient, may be regarded as an indication that the much-to-be-desired demand for enfranchisement on the part of some, if not of many, of the bands may follow as the result of this inclination for further enlightenment, and every facility compatible with reason to enable them to become enfranchised should be afforded those anxious for the step. The law might possibly be with advantage amended in this respect, so as to give Indians desirous of enfranchisement increased facilities for accomplishing their object.

I am pleased to be able to report that five bands in the Province of Ontario and two bands in the Province of Quebec, accepted location tickets covering their individual holdings. And 36 members of the Wyandott band of Anderdon, County of Essex, having, as stated in my Report of last year, been enfranchised, received Letters Patent covering the lands individually claimed by them.

## ONTARIO.

The Indians on the north shore of Lake Superior suffered from an epidemic of measles of a severe type; many of them succumbed to the disease. Schools which had been established at the Pic, at Lake Helen, and on Lake Nipigon, were to a considerable extent hindered in their operations owing to the prevalence of this epidemic.

The crops on the reserve near Fort William are reported to be in excess of those of previous years, and the band who own the same are consequently in comfortable circumstances, work being also readily procurable at remunerative wages.

The Indians at Garden River, and the few remaining at Batchewana Bay, suffered considerably from sickness, which resulted fatally in quite a number of cases. Their crops were about the same as usual, and the Indians were able to procure work at fair wages, at the mines and from lumberers.