

I should recommend, at once, an extensive application of the principle of industrial boarding schools in the North-West, were it not that the population, both Indian and half-breed, is so largely migratory that any great outlay at present would be money thrown away.

The recommendations I venture to submit are as follows:—

(1.) Wherever the missionaries have schools, those schools should be utilized by the Government, if possible; that is to say, a contract should be made with the religious body controlling the school to board and educate and train industrially a certain number of pupils. This should be done without interfering with the small assistance at present given to the day-mission schools.

(2.) Not more than four industrial boarding schools ought to be established at first. If the Department should determine to establish more than four, the Reservation recommended by Mr. McColl, (Appendix B.) would possess many advantages. Here the population is settled and to some extent civilized. The soil is rich. The Missionary Society is withdrawing its aid from the school, which will henceforth be dependent on Government aid, and voluntary contributions. The Rev Mr. Cook assured me that here there would be no difficulty in getting a sufficient number of children from eight years old to twelve to attend the boarding industrial school.

(3.) An industrial boarding school should be established somewhere in the fork of the North and South Saskatchewan, near Prince Albert, in connection with the Episcopalian Church. The land is wonderfully fertile. There are a good many Indians in the neighborhood. There are Bands of Indians near Carlton and near Dutch Lake. There is plenty of fish and timber.

(4.) In no place could an industrial boarding school in connection with the Methodist body be more properly placed than near Old Bow Fort. The Blackfeet and Stoneys, wild but noble types of Indians, would thus be reached. There are numbers of good places between the Saskatchewan and the Athabasca rivers; but the needs in those quarters are not so pressing, as the Methodists and Roman Catholics have here been very successful, the boarding-school principle having been tried with great success by the Roman Catholics in at least one instance. The want in the Blackfeet country is pressing. A Wesleyan mission exists to the east of Old Bow Fort. Timber and fish are at hand, and a vast tract of the finest grazing soil in the world. There ought to be no difficulty here, in a few years, in rivaling the Cheyenne and Arapaho Agency with its promising herd.

(5.) At Qu'Appelle it might well be thought we should find an appropriate site for an industrial boarding school to be conducted by Roman Catholics. The soil, it is true, is generally poor, but where the river narrows it leaves a good