

A PETITION.

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD—SUPT. GEN'L OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

We, the undersigned members of the Six Nation Indians residing on the Grand River Reserve in the County of Brant, and Province of Ontario, humbly sheweth that for the reasons hereinafter shewn, you will be pleased to issue an Order in Council, directing that the provisions contained in Act 47, Vic., Chap. 28, and called "The Indian Advancement Act, 1884," be applied to the said Six Nations.

1. That the present system of committing the entire management of our affairs to a council of hereditary chiefs is in many ways detrimental to our advancement in civilization.

2. That the majority of the existing council consists of aged and uneducated men, totally unfitted to guide the destinies of a nation, largely composed of young men and young women, who, through education and training in the arts and practices of civilization are prepared for further advancement towards the responsibilities and exercise of municipal powers.

3. That the main influence of the existing Council is antagonistic to the advancement of education.

4. That little, or no encouragement, is afforded to young men of education and ability to devote their energies and talents to the good of the nation.

5. That a council of hereditary chiefs is not representative of the voice of the people, and thereby the majority, and that the most intelligent, have no share in the management of their affairs, or in the expenditure of their public funds.

6. That an Elective Council will tend greatly to promote general advancement as men of character and ability will be afforded an incentive to maintain an honorable reputation, which the young will esteem and emulate. Whilst all will be accorded their indisputable right of controlling the expenditures, and thus preventing such iniquitous misappropriations of their incomes as has been perpetrated in the past.

7. That it be enacted for this Nation in particular, a candidate for the position of Councillor shall be able to read and write, and express himself fairly in the English language, as the various dialects now spoken in Council, a great deal of which is said is unintelligible to the majority of hearers.

You will be pleased to notice how large a number of your petitioners have signed their own names to this their humble petition.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

A SELF-MADE MAN.

One of the gentlemen upon whom the University of Queen's College conferred the degree of Doctor of Divinity a few days ago, is the Rev. Silas S. Rand, a Nova Scotia Baptist Minister, whose attainments in scholarship is remarkable, more particularly so when it is considered that he is a "self-made man." In the course of his remarks presenting Mr. Rand's name for enrolment as an honorary graduate, Principal Grant stated that in his younger years Mr. Rand had

worked hard at his trade of a stonemason and bricklayer, and while thus engaged he taught himself arithmetic and English grammar and the rudiments of the Latin, Greek and Hebrew languages. After entering the ministry of the Baptist Church he continued his linguistic studies with unceasing assiduity, and so successful was he in the prosecution of that labour of love, which seems to have been a passion, that at one time he was able to speak thirteen languages! In 1846 he devoted himself to missionary work among the Indians of Nova Scotia. No small degree of success has crowned his efforts. "Mr. Rand," said Principal Grant, "has never lost faith in the Indians. He believes that the Indian is a man capable of progress here and of mortality hereafter. And he has lived to see great changes for the better in the material and social condition of the Micmacs and Malisets. When he began his work they were all in their primitive barbarism, with the vices of white men superadded; whereas many now live in houses, own property and schools, have the gospel and other books in their own language, partake of our civilization, and are inspired with our hopes." Mr. Rand, Principal Grant further remarked, "has made himself the authority on everything pertaining to the history, manners, customs, legends and language of the Malisets and Micmacs, and has studied also the Mohawk, Seneca and other dialects. He has translated the holy scriptures into Micmac, and has composed in the same language tracts, catechisms and hymns. He is at present completing a Micmac English dictionary, in which about 30,000 words are collected and arranged. Last session the Dominion Parliament recognized his services by giving a grant to enable him to publish this great work." In recognizing Mr. Rand's varied scholarship and self-sacrificing labours, by conferring upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity, Queen's University by thus honouring him has honoured itself. It is impossible to read of what has been accomplished among the Indians by him without admiring his character as a man, and to think of his attainments in the mastery of languages, and that, too, under circumstances at times the reverse of favourable for study, without being impressed with what can be accomplished by earnest, patient toil in the requirements of knowledge.

The Indians on the reserves in the Moose Mountain district have made a very successful effort to raise their grain. A short time ago the western reserve Indians took eight sleigh loads of wheat to the Pipestone mills to be ground into flour, and seemed to be jubilant over their success in this direction.—Beauford Telegram.

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