

certainly appears strange to read in the Indian Superintendent's Report that he was hindered through his inability to meet with a Justice of the Peace, before whom to prefer complaints from prosecuting traders at Natashquan who had sold liquor to Indians, when that officer is himself clothed with the powers of a Stipendiary Magistrate, with the special object of his adjudicating in any case of infraction of the provisions of the Indian Act, and the reason given by the Superintendent for the non-prosecution of such parties is all the more remarkable when in his report he states that even on the reserve at Betsiamits, where he is stationed, breaches of the law in the above respect occur. The indisposition which he alleges certain magistrates on the north shore manifest to sit in such cases would appear to be shared by himself. There has been so much supineness displayed in regard to this very serious affair for several years past that the time appears to have arrived for a change of management to be made, as the loss to the Indians, both morally and financially, is of too great importance to allow of personal considerations weighing in the matter.

These Indians are stated to have increased in number to the extent of thirty seven souls, and their present population to be 1,497. They are all professed adherents of the Church of Rome. The value of the skins and fish captured by them last season is reported to have been \$56,600.

NOVA SCOTIA.

The Micmacs of this Province have decreased in number, if we are to rely on the figures in the returns last obtained from the different agencies, which make the Indian population of the Province 2,059, being eighty-six less than it was in 1888; but as from two of the agencies no returns have been received since those sent for 1887-88, and from one agency that for 1886-87 was the last which reached the Departement, this estimate of the population must necessarily be unreliable.

As a rule, the Indians of Nova Scotia are well behaved and law abiding, and last year formed no exception to this order of things. In the northern counties, notably in those of Cap-Breton Island, they are more enterprising and thrifty than their brethren in the southern counties, where the tendency to roam about the country keeps them from becoming domestic in their habits, and improving their lands. The Indians of the southern counties are also more prone to the intemperate use of intoxicants, as the temptations to which they are exposed in their wandering life are greater than the Indians of Cape Breton have to encounter.

The principal sources from which the former derive their subsistence are coopering, basket-making, and the other manufactures in which Indians are especially skilled. On the other hand, the Indians of Cape Breton devote themselves for the most part to the cultivation of the soil, and to employments which necessitate their remaining more at home; and the superiority of the one mode of life over the other is proven by the far more comfortable circumstances in which the latter Indians are found than the former.

Indeed, where some of the Indians of the southern counties, for instance on the reserve at New Germany, in Lunenburg, have turned their attention in earnest to farming they are in a much better condition than those who continue to pursue the old Indian methods.