

The zeal and enthusiasm and life on this Reservation is due to Mr. Ruffee's energy and his determination to surround himself with half-breed assistants. Every employé on the Reservation is of mixed blood. A mixed-blood family named Beaulieu, two generations of which took a deep and warm interest in the Indians, must be of the greatest assistance to him.

At Winnipeg, I met most of the leading men, clerical and lay, who could speak with authority on the subject of the inquiry, and to the experience, knowledge and courtesy of Mgr. Taché, Père Lacombe, Hon. Jas. McKay, and many others, this report is much indebted.

Among the Indians there is some discontent, but as a rule it amounts to no more than the chronic querulousness of the Indian character, and his uneasiness about food at this time of year will unfortunately leave no trace in his improvident mind when spring opens and fish are plentiful. The exceptions are furnished by one or two chiefs whose bands are starving, that is in the Indian sense of that word, without a certain prospect of food in the future. Distress will always exist among improvident people, and undoubtedly distress and misery exist in many Bands. The attitude of the chiefs referred to, and the language held by the chief on the occasion of a visit to the St. Peter's Reservation—language which showed that he was in communication with the unsettled Bands—open up, in the event of the disappearance of the buffalo (a disappearance no protective legislation can long retard), a prospect which demands the serious consideration of the Department. No race of men can be suddenly turned from one set of pursuits to another set of a wholly different nature without great attendant distress. But, suddenly, to make men long accustomed to a wild unsettled life, with its freedom from restraint, its excitement and charm, take to the colourless monotony of daily toil, the reward of which is prospective, is impossible.

The half-breeds or mixed-bloods are thoughtful, if not anxious, regarding the Government's intentions respecting them. But the problem before the Department cannot be settled by the issue of scrip. That problem can be solved only by gradually educating Indians and mixed-bloods in self-reliance and industry.

Colonel Porter's testimony given above, that of Mr. Ross, the position of these gentlemen and the position of the other leading men of the five "civilized" nations are instructive. Not merely is the only effective means of educating the Indians in self-reliance and self-support pointed out; the inference is not far-fetched that the mixed-blood is the natural mediator between the Government and the red man, and also his natural instructor.

The lesson would also be taught, were that lesson necessary, that the mixed-blood or half-breed is a man of capacity, intelligence and power. But that lesson does not need to be taught in the Dominion, where we have leading