

ther east, as far down as Sault Ste. Marie. Thus

THE CREES,

Plain, Wood, and Swampy—the Saulteaux and the Chippewas—all branches of the one great Algonquin family—fought their way westward and are proved to be not only by their traditions one race, but as well by their speaking tongues, which are dialects of a common language. Winnipeg may in a general way be said to be the meeting place of Crees and Chippewas. The French voyageurs who came northwest from Lake Superior, met as far east as Lake of the Woods, as they had already met at Sault Ste. Marie and Michilimackinaw, another family of Indians calling themselves Nadouessiw. Taking the last syllable of this word the voyageurs gave it the French form—Sioux—a name still retained by the Dakotas. On Lake of the Woods is still pointed out Massacre Island, where a band of Sioux 150 years ago put to death a priest and party of the French explorers. It was the

ASSINIBOINES,

one of the tribes of Sioux confederacy, which lived on the south side of the river bearing their name emptying into the Red River at Winnipeg. According to Bishop Baraga their name means Assini-Stony; Bwan-Sioux. So far back as 1697 the Assiniboines are spoken of as having separated from the Sioux, a "long time ago." After their separation, as to which there are several theories, they became friendly with the Crees, and largely intermarried with them. They are now reduced to a few remnants in the southwestern portion of the Northwest Territories, one of their most interesting bands being on the reserve on Bow River, 40 miles west of Calgary.

THE BLACKFEET

Are Indians living at the foot of the Rocky Mountains, and have been treated with by our government. They seem related in language and tradition with the tribes upon the Pacific Slope. Several other peoples, such as Bloods, Piegans and Sarcees, occupy the country with them along the course of the Bow River. Did we aim at giving a sketch of all the Indians of British North America, I should further have to call your attention to the Tinne or Chippewayans, lying north of the Crees, and related in several respects with the Indians across the Rocky Mountains, and still further north to the Esquimaux, extending along the

Arctic Sea from Behring's Straits, even to Northern Labrador and Greenland. The number of the various tribes in the Northwest and over the mountains to the Pacific Ocean is as follows :

Ospreys, Crees and Blackfeet, &c	34,520
Tinne, Esquimaux, &c	26,054
Indians of British Columbia	36,483
<b>Total</b>	<b>97,057</b>

This evening, however, I intend to speak chiefly of the nearly 35,000 Indians first named, and whom, from our having as Canadians, entered into treaties with them, I speak of as "our Indians."

GENERAL CONDITION.

A very decided change has taken place in the condition of these tribes since my arrival in the Northwest in 1871. It is true at that time many of the Indians were far from being entirely savage. The Indians of St. Peter's, for example, on the Red River, seemed nearly as far advanced as they are to-day. For fifty or a hundred years the Indians of this district have been under the influence of Europeans. Much of their intercourse with the whites was hurtful, yet the Hudson's Bay Company, with a wise self-interest, if from no higher motive, treated the Indian well; did not allow him to go very deep in his use of the firewater—the bane of his race—and gave him credit for such supplies in advance as he needed, a trust very rarely abused. The Hudson's Bay Company Indian, indeed, almost formed a distinct type of red man. He was an easy-going, light-hearted mortal, shrewd in trade, agile on foot or in canoe, fond of his ease, and taking on very much the character of his immediate superiors, good or bad as they chanced to be. In 1871 all the tribes were in a ferment. The old order had passed away. What was the new to be? The

INDIANS WERE RESTLESS.

I remember well the exorbitant demands, the long debates, the Indian fickleness and sulky grumbling that the commissioners met with when in Governor Archibald's time at Lower Fort Garry and Manitoba Post Treaties One and Two were made, and when Governor Morris negotiated at Northwest Angle Treaty Three. The Indians were unwilling to allow even the surveyors to subdivide the land, and the joint expedition which I remember well seeing in 1872, which on behalf of Great Britain and the United States surveyed the 49th parallel, was threatened. For several