

INDIAN EDUCATION (NORTH-WEST).

At present, when everybody is so interested in Indians and Indian affairs, I may be excused for having something to say on the subject, seeing I have been among them nearly seventy years.

In all missionary and Indian school work much of the benefit which the Indians ought to derive is lost by their frequent absence from the reserve, which is sometimes of weeks' and sometimes of months' duration. During these hunts they completely forget the little which has taken so long to learn. Now, I think this can be remedied by compelling them to remain on their reserve, and only allowing them off on rare occasions, and then only by permission from the Indian agent. The children should not be allowed away on those hunts at all, but left behind so as to go on with their education. All children of school age should be compelled to attend school.

By not allowing the Indians so much hunting our reserves would soon show good farms, and the work of civilization would go on as quick again, and so would the education. Take and issue rations to all Indians working on the reserve, something like the plan pursued by the United States Government. There are said to be 22,000 or 23,000 Indians in the North-West looking to the Government and the people for support. Let us do it; but since we have to pay for it, by all means let us have our own way in the matter, and try to get the present young generation civilized as quickly as possible. Unless some such plan is followed most of the work of our missionaries and Indian school teachers is going to be lost. Now, we would all like to have much more to show for the money invested in Indians, but in the way in which it is at present being done, it is like putting money into a pocket with a hole in it.

When so much is being talked about industrial schools for half-breeds, I would say that the Indians require it most, and ought to get it first.

In some reserves the children are scattered over such a large section of country that it is impossible for them to