

Regarding schools: upon my visitation to Woodstock I ascertained that the children who had formerly attended, had left the school; and I know that there is a great dislike on the part of the children, and their parents, for them to attend the white schools, and have remonstrated with the Indians as to their objections in attending the common schools, but to no purpose; they still adhere to the old cry—"Give us a school of our own; they have them in other parts of the Dominion, and we have as much right to school as they have."

I have to state that upon an examination of the law regulating the sale, &c., and for fines imposed regarding intoxicants among the Indians, I deem the amendment an improvement. I have now to call your attention to some other provisions of the Indian Act, viz., sec. 74, sub-secs. 1 to 11 inclusive, which owing to the want of education, they do not, or will not, sufficiently comprehend, to take a practical view of the matter at present; but if I may be allowed, under all the circumstances, to make one suggestion—that is if it can be done—(because I know that the Indians are placed possibly in this respect differently from other classes of people) to provide a police force from among themselves, by the authorizing of any of the bands to elect or appoint in their way, in council, such a number of police or constables as may be necessary to protect themselves, and to take to the nearest lock-up or jail, any one or more persons connected with their respective bands, who might be guilty of a breach of the law regarding intoxicants, so that they might be dealt with in the ordinary way. My reason for moving in this matter is, that I find it next to impossible to secure the services of the duly appointed policeman or constable, consequently the law is frequently violated, and the peace and quiet of the Indians and all classes, are occasionally very seriously disturbed; and supposing that the authority were given to the Indians, I do not intend that it should supercede the ordinary force authorized by law, but merely an addition for greater security and convenience.

Agriculture is carried on chiefly on the reserve at Kingsclear, in the County of York. I made some advances of seed, &c., to some of the Indians of St. Mary's, York County, and in the neighborhood of St. Stephen, and in St. George, Charlotte County; also in St. John, Carleton, Queen's, and Sunbury Counties, in most of which places some of the Indians have made good use of the seed, but I find that others are not disposed to plant or sow, and have used the seed for food, although I have always remonstrated with them, but in some cases to little purpose.

In consequence of the Indians keeping but few cattle upon the Kingsclear and St. Mary's reserves, &c., the amount of manure made upon the reserve is a mere nothing; and this spring, finding that they had hardly any manure, and that it was not in the neighborhood to purchase, I was compelled either to withhold the seed or purchase a certain kind of manure called super-phosphate, wherewith to enrich the land, which was really cheaper than ordinary farm manure (even supposing it could have been purchased); and the Indians stated to me that it answered a very good purpose, in fact, if they had not had this manure the various crops would have been almost worthless; whereas, they are generally loud in their praises of the very good harvest the almighty has been pleased to bestow upon them.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM FISHER,

Visiting Superintendent.