

educational purposes. These schools are mainly supported by voluntary contributions from the tribes, each of which devote one-fourth of their annuity to this object, with the exception of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, whose village schools are in a very flourishing condition; and the Wyandotts, who receive no annuity, and whose poverty deprives them of the privilege of participating in the benefit of the industrial schools; and the Six Nations, who are now relieved from this charge by the exertion of the New England Society, who supply entirely their requirements in this respect. As, however, of all the Indian tribes in the province, the Six Nations are best able to support their own schools, and as their quota would be equal to the present contribution of all the remaining tribes, the project I have already mentioned of inducing the New England Society to remove to Manitoulin, would, if carried out, be attended with the most beneficial results to all the tribes in Upper Canada, since it would have the effect of nearly doubling the industrial school fund. The distance at which some of the tribes are situated from these schools, and the expense consequent upon the journeys of the children to and from them, combined with the natural indolence of the Indian character, has the effect of excluding them altogether from the school. Even those in the immediate neighbourhood who may be supposed to appreciate the advantages of this system of education, since they are willing to contribute so largely to its support, have not energy to insist upon their children taking the benefit of it. It would, therefore, be highly desirable, if possible, that the department should exercise some authority in enforcing the attendance of children. In what manner and to what extent this authority could with propriety be exercised, must ever be a matter for your Excellency's discretion. There are many measures of undoubted benefit to the tribes to which they have such strong objections as to render any opposition to their wishes questionable; as, for instance, the concentration of all the tribes into two or three large communities, or the surrender to the Crown for sale of their reserves, although I think that circumstances might even here arise rendering an interposition of authority an imperative duty. The control which, in its capacity of guardian or protector, the department exercises over the affairs of the Indians, ought certainly to be proportionate to the amount of responsibility which devolves upon it, and surely this control could most legitimately be extended over those interests which affect their moral and intellectual culture.

It seems of the utmost importance, as conducive to the success of the industrial schools, that the children should be sent at a very early age, and kept at them for several years, in order by exciting their emulation, to rouse them from an apathy which seems almost constitutional, and by a salutary system of discipline, train them to steady habits of thought and action. The management of these schools is a matter of so much importance, and at the same time of so great difficulty, that I would venture to recommend that a competent person be sent to examine and report upon them, with a view of ascertaining any further alterations or improvements which the development of the experiments up to this period may have suggested. As the village schools also exercise an important influence upon the well-being of each tribe, it would be desirable that an investigation should at the same time be made into their present condition and requirements. By subjecting every youthful member of a tribe to an educational course, at one or other of these schools, the more intelligent and industrious will soon arrive at a sufficiently advanced state to warrant their emancipation from their present dependent condition. Many are desirous, even now, of sharing the privileges and responsibilities which would attend their incorporation with the great mass of the community, and were increased facilities afforded of raising themselves to the intellectual level of the whites by whom they are surrounded, there is every reason to believe that they would frequently take advantage of them. The prospect of one day sharing upon equal terms in those rights and liberties which the white community now enjoy, would operate as the highest stimulant to exertion which could be held out to young Indians. In order, however, to the acquisition of these privileges, the production of certain testimonials and a favourable report, either from the local superintendent or a person appointed for the purpose should be required, when the successful applicant would be entitled to a sum in commutation of his annuity, with which to commence his career as an independent member of society.

In conclusion, I venture to indulge the hope that the views imperfectly embodied in this report may meet with your Lordship's approbation, as tending in the first instance to relieve the Imperial Government of the burden of maintaining an expensive department for the administration of Indian affairs in this province, and by affording increased agencies for the civilization of the respective tribes, ultimately to procure its extinction.

I have, &c.

(signed) L. Oliphant,

Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs.

His Excellency

The Right Honourable the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, K. T.,
Governor-General, &c. &c. &c.

Sub-enclosure 1, to Enclosure in No. 1.

Sir,

Indian Office, Cobourg, 16 August 1854.

I HAVE the honour to report to you that before entering upon the subject of the Indians ceding the Saugeen Reserve to the Crown for sale for their benefit, I had prepared the