

railway on this continent has been built in so orderly, expeditious and satisfactory a manner. Instead of the prohibitory liquor law being looked upon as a temporary law for a primitive state of society; to be done away when settlers fill in, Canadian sentiment is coming to the point of saying that it should not only be retained, but extended as a protecting aegis over our so-called highly organized state of society as well.

#### INDIAN AGENTS.

In closing, I have a word or two to say as to our Indian agents. Everyone knows that the "Indian Question" in the United States has been largely created by the rascality of Indian agents. However a few years ago we may have suffered from the same, we seem now to be better served. Of the Indian superintendent of treaties 1, 2, 3 and 5, Mr. Ebenezer McColl, I can speak with great confidence. He seems enthusiastic in doing everything to have the Indian progress, that may lie in his power. He is very much interested in the moral and intellectual advancement of the Indian. With the Indian agents of this Manitoba Superintendency I am acquainted either by personal knowledge or accurate report. I believe them to be an honest, painstaking and respectable band of officers. I have to thank a number of the Government officials for their kindness in supplying me with such information as they had a right to give. As to the officials and agents of the Western Superintendency, from Governor Dewdney downwards, I cannot speak so surely. With

some of the agents, as well as officers of the Mounted Police, I have some acquaintance. While some of these gentlemen are useful and reputable, I am bound to say in some cases the public opinion both in Manitoba and the Northwest is unfavorable. As in the case of inefficient missionaries and teachers I have spoken out plainly, so I would say the pruning hook should be applied where it is needed in this part of the Indian service. I believe the Government is anxious to do well by the Indians. It is almost a tradition of Conservative Governments in Canada to treat the Indian well, as the Liberals claim it is their forte to succeed in dealing with the new settler. Public opinion should back up the Government and its officials. The Indian must not be looked upon simply as having a lower nature. There is most danger in this. We must not despair of the Indian. Routine is the deadliest enemy of progress. We want the Indian to improve. We want him christianized; we want him rescued from ignorance; we want him to become independent enough to support himself. The agent in charge should be inventive; should try new plans; should encourage the Indians; should recommend the Government to be as liberal as possible. The agent should lead the way axe and hoe and plough in hand, if example would induce the Indian to try the same.

God bless the Indian, and help us to raise him to a civilized and Christian life.