

14th Dec. 1908.

Archbishop of Rupert's Land, -4-

that the comparative heavy mortality is directly attributable to the prevalence of tuberculosis in the race, which in some form or other must be held responsible, directly or indirectly, for something like forty per cent of the premature deaths, and until means can be found for effectively checking this scourge the numerical growth of the native population must necessarily be very slow."

Does not this cast a great responsibility upon us? The callousness of those immediately engaged in this work is, to me, simply incomprehensible. As to some stronger charge might be made, for it is not only that no action is taken to remedy the trouble, but attacks are made by them on those who call attention to this plague and urge the absolute duty of devising and carrying out all proper means for arresting it.

I do not know whether you have received copies of the reports of the Indian Department from Washington for the year just closed. They are full of helpful suggestions. Lest you should not have received them, or have not had time to read them, I venture to send you the following quotations dealing with the efforts of the Commission to stamp out tuberculosis. Mr Francis E. Leupp, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in this report says:-

"Tuberculosis is the greatest single menace to the future of the red race. The Indian Office is confronted by the urgent necessity of doing more than has ever been done before in the way of protecting the Indians against the ravages of the disease; not only for their own sakes, but because the infected Indian community becomes a peril to every white community near it. It is, of course, almost hopeless to try to change the ways of the old-fashioned Indians past a certain point. What can be done in that line will probably be done through the work of the Agency and School Physicians who several months ago were constituted Health Officers, with large authority to direct and control the sanitary conditions of their respective reservations."

"Our Indian children are particularly prone to pulmonary complaints. Ever since we have begun clothing the Indians, and thereby making them physically more tender, the lungs have been their great seat of trouble; and when one child has begun to show pretty plainly symptoms of tuberculosis, it is not only cruelty to that child to shut it up where it shall breathe the enclosed atmosphere, but it is a menace to the other children with whom it is brought thus into close unwholesome contact."

"Having been satisfied by Dr Hrdlicka's investigation that the wind instruments used by the boys band in the

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 4024, file 289,032-2)

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