

Department of Indian Affairs.

Both schools are heated by box-stoves and kept quite comfortable. The fire-protection consists of ten Star fire-extinguishers distributed in the various buildings.

The class-room work occupies five hours of the day, and is governed by the official programme of studies for Indian schools. The pupils take great interest in their studies, and have made good progress during the past year. At Christmas and at the close of the year, they have given very creditable entertainments, consisting of class exercises, recitations, dialogues, songs, music, calisthenics and physical drill.

The boys learning trades have class-room work only in the morning; in the afternoon they go to work in their respective shops. The trades taught them are those of farmer, tinsmith, blacksmith, house-painter, carpenter and shoemaker. There is in connection with the carpenter-shop, a saw-mill and a complete set of machinery for planing, turning, door and sash-making, &c. Besides this special training given to a few boys, all the pupils are set, each one according to sex and ability, three hours every day, to various kinds of labour, such as sweeping, scrubbing, washing, sawing and splitting firewood, dairying, gardening, stock-feeding, sewing, knitting, helping in the kitchen, in the mill, on the farm, &c. They like these various occupations and become quite industrious.

Two hours a day, besides Saturday afternoon, are given exclusively to recreation. Both schools have good play-grounds furnished with suitable games and gymnastic appliances. The boys' grounds were much improved this last year, having been graded and levelled, surrounded with a new fence, provided with new water-closets and a spacious wood-shed. The boys' favourite game is foot-ball; they also take much interest in gymnastic exercises. The girls love the quieter amusements of the swing and the like. There are also play-halls for rainy weather, winter and night recreations.

The health of the pupils has been generally very good. With the exception of two cases of consumption contracted before coming to school, there has been no serious illness among them, the infirmary being closed as long as three months at a time.

The pupils are instructed very carefully in morals and religion by the missionaries themselves, and I am pleased to state that their moral and religious standard is most satisfactory. Likewise their conduct has been remarkably good, and but few punishments had to be administered last year, the discipline being enforced almost exclusively by means of emulation, prizes and distinctions of honour.

To sum up in a few words this year's work, I may say that this institution has been steadily increasing in proficiency and popularity, owing especially to the competency of the staff of officers I have been able to secure.

I will add a word about the day-school in connection with the industrial-school. It gives but little satisfaction, if any at all, owing to the frequent absences of the pupils. I respectfully suggest that the Department of Indian Affairs take steps towards enforcing the attendance at school of day-pupils, as the only manner of deriving profit from day-schools.

I have, &c.,

J. PAQUIN, S.J.,

Principal.

BRANDON INDUSTRIAL-SCHOOL, MAN.,

20th July, 1896.

The Honourable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—The Brandon Industrial-school is situated about two and seven-eighths miles north-west of the city whose name it bears. It is two-thirds of the way up the hill which must have formed the northern bank of the Assiniboine River in earlier days.