

living, after having to some extent adopted civilized habits, and acquired a taste for the better food which the cultivation of the land now enables them to enjoy. They may die out in time, but it is extremely improbable that they will recede into the condition of being contented with merely savage requirements as regards their material wants.

The question of their arable land, however, on examining the ground, was quickly divested of considerations which might have been interesting in a more extensive and richer agricultural country. It gave way to the question what is it possible to give to these Indians for their arable land requirements? There are Indians among these tribes who, singly, have fenced and partly cultivated farms from 70 to 100 acres. If what these few Indians have done were taken as the standard for what the majority may do, and consequently for the general area of arable land required to be included within the reserves, this area would be a great proportion of the arable land in the southern interior of the Province. The scarcity of land fit for cultivation and within the reach of water for irrigation, became quickly apparent, particularly as the Indians naturally wished to have all their arable land near their villages for the sake of old associations, and that they might use farming implements in common. Their villages being generally in good parts of the country, white settlers had naturally made farms in the neighborhood. Upon the whole, the arable land question was not an easy one.

The average quantity of arable land in the amended Indian reserves is about $18\frac{1}{2}$ acres to each male adult.

This might be increased, but not to any considerable extent, if a heavy expenditure were made to bring water to irrigate portions of the reserves which seem to be fertile but cannot be cultivated without water.