

## THE FRANCHISE ACT.

## THIRD PAPER.

On the first day March next the law requires that the Revising Barristers shall have completed their primary lists. On that day they must be published in the manner provided by the act. One copy must be posted in the office of the Clerk of the Municipality, or other officer whose duties correspond to the Township, Village, Town, or City Clerk in Ontario. No difficulty with respect to Indians will arise in the carrying out of this provision, with the exception of those living on the Reserve occupied by the Six Nations in Tuscorora. So far as the writers knowledge extends, this is the only instance in which a Reserve occupied by Indian voters embraces a complete Township. Most Reserves, at all events, resemble that portion of the Six Nation's reserve within Oneida, which only occupies part of a Township. The rest of the Township has the ordinary municipal organization authorized by the Ontario Municipal Act and of course, has a Township Clerk. As there is no officer in Tuscorora who corresponds to the Township Clerk, possibly the nearest approach to the Township Clerk's office would be the Council Houses on the different Reservations; and, if the suggestion may be made, it might be well to post copies in them, whether the reserve comprises the whole or part of a Township having municipal organizations. Lists must be mailed to the member or members of the House of Commons, and to the unsuccessful candidate, at the last election for each electoral district, to the sheriff, warden, mayor, Aldermen or councillors, clerk of the peace and treasurer, clerk or officers corresponding thereto, under whatever name they are known. It would seem that the chiefs of the various tribes and bands of Indians are "officers corresponding" to those named above. It is very likely that the Revising officers will adopt this view and each chief of an Indian tribe or band will receive a copy of the first list. But any person may get a copy of the list from the revising officer at cost price. This is fixed by the act not to exceed fifty cents. It is likely that no list will cost more than ten cents. Two copies of such parts of the lists as relates to the municipality in which a post office is situated. Each list will contain a notice of the day on which it will undergo preliminary revision. This day will be at least four weeks after the first day of March.

It will be seen that greatest care is taken to give full publicity to the lists of voters. No one will have to travel very far in order to see whether his name is on the list or not. If the Indians wish to vote they must see that their names appear on the list, and if any person finds that his name has been left off he must take steps to have it put on. The leading papers of one of the great political parties have been strongly urging their followers to make every effort to get their names on the first lists. If the white voter is to be urged to have his name enrolled so that he may secure his franchise, it is surely not improper to urge the Indian to do what these papers done, for weeks past, calling on his white brother to attend to. It has not been thought necessary in these papers to do more than point out, to all who may think it worth their while,

the propriety of putting themselves in a position to exercise the rights conferred on them by the Dominion Government. Such a course is not only proper but a journal devoted to the interests of a newly enfranchised class would fail in its duty if it did not pursue this course. It has not been thought necessary to advise the Indians to go to any great amount of trouble in furnishing evidence of their right to be placed on the lists at the present time. It struck the writer that to do this would be to imply a want of confidence in the eminent gentlemen on whom was imposed the duty of preparing the lists. There can be no doubt but they will all try to make the first list as complete as possible. But they cannot be expected to know every and it is unavoidable that some names will be omitted. As there will be ample time to provide for the remedying of any defect it will not be necessary in the present issue to deal with the question of who are entitled to vote and the manner of securing the placing of the names of such on the list.

EDWARD FURLONG.

## AN APPEAL.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette.

Sir.—In your leading editorial of the 22nd inst. in reference to the Indians of the North West you state that "last year most of them, at least, were fed regularly by the government, this winter we understand some changes have been made which may induce them to become mischievous and you advocate the raising and arming of military companies and preparations for hostilities against them. I see also that a correspondent signing himself "Ranger" advocates the employment of smooth bore 21-pounders, howitzers, canonades, shell and caister, small arms and fortifications; but I see not a word in favor of dealing liberally and justly with the Indians.

We must never forget that we have taken their lands, destroyed the buffalo which was their principle food, and have been the cause of depriving them of the means by which they and their people have lived for ages in that country. We cannot expect them to change their habits in a generation, much less in a few short years. They know nothing of farming or of labor, except the extreme exertion and labor of the chase. They know not how to secure contracts to build railways, nor have they the votes by which alone they can obtain public offices. They did not spend the summer scouting at \$5.00 a day, or teaming at \$10 a day. They must be assisted for a time or starve or die. A great people like the Canadian people can afford to be just even if the just cause were not the cheapest as it undoubtedly is.

We have fed them during the last year and now as I gather from your article, we have left them in the depth of winter in a terrible climate, starving to death. If they steal cattle to feed their children and to keep them alive, exaggerated reports of Indian outrages are spread by the telegraph far and wide throughout Canada (for the tribes are all in our hands), while the wrongs and cruelty perpetrated by our people upon them are more heard of than we hear statistics of the number of Indian lives lost by starvation.

It has cost the United States ten lives of their own people and \$100,000 in money for every

Indian they have killed, and in our own North West troubles it has cost our country, in addition to a greater loss of life than our enemy sustained, a sum equal to \$100,000 for every man we killed. For God's sake let our rulers do what is just and right, let them be liberal to those whose homes and livelihood we have taken from them, and then if war comes we volunteer who have to undergo the toil and hardships and dangers of the campaign, will at least have the satisfaction of feeling that we are fighting in a just cause, instead of shooting down those we have wronged and robbed and starved. Let us remember the saying "Thrice armed is he who hath his quarrel just."

## ONE WHO SERVED IN THE NORTH WEST.

[We will give the opinion of another gentleman who served in the rebellion in our next.—ED.]

## TEYERIHWAHKWATHA.

## MOHAWK.

Ka sa neh. Ne. Ke ris tus neh,  
Neh toa ga weh tah Kon.  
Seh shon gwa ya ta gwen. Ni yoh.  
Egh tsi te wa nen tonh.

Ne. Ra on pe senh tah kse rah,  
Ji ro ni ten reh sken  
Ran ho his hon, non gwe rya neh.  
Nou gwa rih wa ne renh.

Ah oh rih hon yeat. Seh te rat  
Yoe roh, se wen no teh,  
Enh sa yea go tonh ha ra geh.  
Ker ha rats ha ra gonh.

Ka seh, yoh s'no rah e tho ne.  
Tyet gonh ho weh. Ske neh  
Ska neh. Na, ta wa tonh ha reh.  
Sa no rouh gwa t'sa rah.

The Indians of New Mexico like the idea of bloodhounds being sent in pursuit of them. They shoot the dogs and eat them.

Upwards of sixteen thousand bushels of seed grain will be distributed by the Department of the Interior among the distressed settlers and half-breeds of Prince Albert, Duck Lake, St. Laurent, and Batoche, N. W. T.

"Toboggan," says one of the latest of the numerous writers who have volunteered derivations of the word, is an anglicised form of the Indian word "adoboggan," the name by which the Canadian Indian designates his sled, which consists of a mere piece of rough board, bevelled at one end, so as not to dig into the crust of the snow.

## ROBERTS SENTENCED.

G. W. Roberts, the Cherokee Indian whom we referred to in our first number, was sentenced by Judge Mackenzie, Saturday Feb. 6th., to two years in the penitentiary for defrauding the Indians of Lambton county by means of bogus certificates issued by him, which purported that the holder would receive a certain quantity of land on an Indian Reservation in the United States on moving to that country. Roberts represented himself as an Agent of the American Government on that behalf. The prisoner had been found guilty on three charges, and was sentenced accordingly, sentences to run concurrently. —*Sarnia Canadian*.