



INDIAN GIRL MUSICIANS.—A GROUP OF MANDOLINE PLAYERS AT ERMINESKIN'S ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL, ALBERTA.

There are 325 Indian schools in Canada, mainly supported by the Government, though certain bands assist towards the support of their schools, and religious denominations provide considerable amounts in aid of institutions conducted under their auspices. The attendance at all the schools is 11,303, or about one in eight of the Indian population for which detailed returns are given.

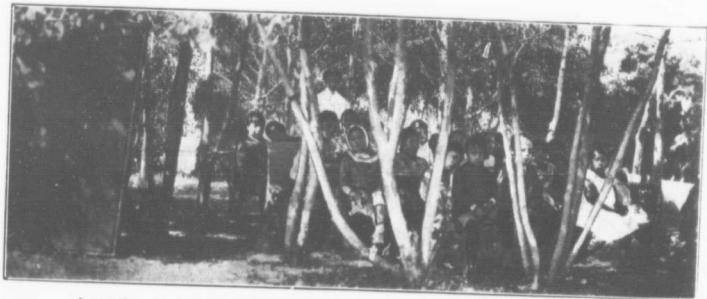
The residential schools, 74 in number, are doing excellent work. The attendance at them is about 4,000. The class-room is not allowed to absorb the whole attention of the pupils. It is sought to have the hand trained as well as the head. In school the girls are taught household duties, such as cooking, mending and making clothes, knitting and fine needle-work. Most of such schools have farms attached, where the boys are trained in practical agriculture. In the most advanced of these institutions, which are called industrial schools, a number of the boys are also taught carpentry, shoemaking, blacksmithing and baking. The pupils are expected to enter resi-

dential schools at six years of age and remain therein until they are eighteen.

The day schools number 250, and are doing only primary work. Many of them are handicapped by irregular attendance owing to the parents taking their children with them on their hunting trips. Even at home the parents are indifferent about their children's attendance. This difficulty is now to some extent overcome by the Government supplying conveyances, especially in winter, to take children living at a distance to school, and providing them with a mid-day meal.

The majority of the Indian schools are under the auspices of certain Christian denominations. The churches which have engaged in this work are chiefly the Roman Catholic, Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian.

But this is by no means the whole credit due the churches for their work in helping to uplift the Indian. They send missionaries among the tribes to whose support the Government gives no direct aid, except so far as they may be also principals



INDIAN CHILDREN IN OPEN-AIR SCHOOLROOM, AT FINE HILLS BOARDING SCHOOL, SASKATCHEWAN.