

being well laid. It is a thing deserving of special remark in this agency that the 11,311 Indians so nearly supported themselves with their small Government allowance that only \$784.60 needed to be spent for the relief of destitution—an amazing contrast with the western superintendency. In

TREATIES 4, 6, 7,

great efforts have been put forth to teach the Indians agriculture. It is a question whether the results have been commensurate with the amount expended. In 1879 a large number of farm instructors was appointed to reside among the western Indians and direct them in agriculture. Much amusement was caused at the time by the choice of some for these positions, who to say the least were amateur farmers. This was, however, probably inevitable. These farmers have been at work four or five years, and the expense of their maintenance is heavy. There were in 1883 twenty-six farms scattered over the Territories. The expenses of these was \$33,777, and salaries to the Instructors amounted to \$47,062. The total cost for 1883 of these farms was \$80,839. The leading items of produce raised were 15,854 bushels of barley and 49,301 bushels of potatoes. I have fixed the full market price on all raised on these farms during the year, and find it amounted to \$63,739.05. The deficit on the farms thus is upwards of \$17,000, no allowance whatever being made for the Indian labor employed. Of course it is an easy matter to find fault, and that is not my purpose in this discussion, but it seems very questionable, now that the farms are started, and that there are local agents having in charge a certain number of reserves, whether the nearly \$50,000 paid annually to farm instructors might not at this stage be saved. In treaties 4, 6, and 7 making up the western superintendency, I have to notice the

ENORMOUS EXPENDITURE

incurred for destitute Indians. The farms are a long way indeed from supplying their wants. The Government feeds the Indians, issues regular rations to them. I am well aware the disappearance of the buffalo has been a tremendous loss to the plain tribes, but yet I am astounded in stating that in 1883 there was expended among the 21,209 Indians of this superintendency the immense sum of \$480,163. Of this sum \$409,248.32 was paid to one firm, that of

I. G. Baker & Co. These sums do not include, it must be remembered, annuities and other yearly amounts paid to those Indians of say \$120,000 more. The striking disproportion between the \$784.60 paid in 1883 in Manitoba Superintendency for relieving destitution among some 10,000 Indians, and that of well nigh half a million dollars among some 21,000 Indians in the western superintendency is startling. I again state that the circumstances, especially of the Blackfeet in Treaty 7 are exceptional, but I also assert that it becomes the duty of our legislators and rulers to see that the expenditure of so large a sum of money spent in an Indian country, away from a healthy and impartial public opinion, should be carefully enquired into.

PROHIBITION.

One of the chief means of preserving the peace, and of giving our Indian population opportunity to advance is prohibition of spirituous liquors. Not only is it illegal to sell or give an Indian strong drink, but in our Northwest Territories it is a crime to introduce strong drink at all, so completely prohibitory is the law. The ravages made by intoxicating liquors in organized society are terrible. What would they be in an Indian country? Hear the decided words of one of the chiefs of Treaty Three when making the treaty with Governor Morris. "As regards the fire-water, I do not like it and I do not wish any house to be built to have it sold." Again: "Shall anyone insist on bringing it where we are I should break the treaty." Again: "If it was in my midst the fire-water would have spoiled my happiness, and I wish it to be left far away from where I am." At the time of making the Blackfeet Treaty of 1877, after the prohibitory law had been for several years in force, one of the chiefs said to Governor Laird: "The great mother sent Stamixotokon (Col. McLeod) and the police to put an end to the traffic in fire-water. I can sleep now safely. Before the arrival of the police, when I laid my head down at night, every sound frightened me; my sleep was broken; now I can sleep sound and am not afraid." The experience of Indian and white since has been immensely in favor of this law. The construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway through the Prohibitory Liquor Territory gave as severe a test to the law as it could have had. It has been the universal testimony that no