

A large proportion of them are more fit for the franchise than many of the whites who enjoy it.

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Has known the Six Nation Indians for twenty-five years.

The half-breeds amongst them take to civilized ways more readily than the pure Indian, and are more enterprising, ambitious and intelligent. Cannot give the exact rule which prevails for the division of land, the new statute relating to location tickets and subdivision of lots has not been enforced. They strenuously object to it, and will reason as in some cases, much more land has been bought, paid for, fenced and occupied, and, in some cases improved, than would be allowed to any one man. The result would be to discourage the accumulation of property, and to deprive the most advanced and hard-working of what they had accumulated. It had, prior to the statute, been supposed that each young man was entitled to one hundred acres. It has not been decided whether they can lawfully sell or not, but they have been in the habit of selling proprietary rights among themselves. The law on this point is very imperfect, and leads to constant disputes, litigation, and sometimes to riot and bloodshed.

They are not allowed to cut and sell wood since Order in Council of twelfth February, 1873. They are now guided by that order. The order is too arbitrary and inflexible and admits of favoritism in its exercise by the chiefs in council and local superintendent. It is said that licenses are granted to the influential, and those who can bring influence to bear on officials. The order, too, is so framed as virtually to place the whole power in the hands of the Local Superintendent and one or two other officials, who can put what construction on the order they please to the Chiefs in Council, and they, being ignorant, accept its construction from them. Many licenses have been refused, I am informed on the supposition by the chiefs, that the order prevented their being granted, and great hardship has been the result. I am reliably informed, that from two hundred to three hundred families, who have been accustomed to help themselves over the winter by the sale of a few cords of wood at intervals during winter, have been reduced to beggary or starvation. The order came upon them suddenly, and it was so executed as to prevent the sale of wood entirely, and I am told by a number of Indians that it is believed on the Reserve and by the chiefs, and the belief has been enforced by the authorities, that licenses were not to be granted to cut for *sale at all*. It is further said by numbers that, owing to the pressure put upon the Council by the Superintendent and Mr. Johnson, the forest warden, that but few licenses have been granted and scores refused out and out. They should have been granted to cut to a limited extent or on a certain parcel or piece of land so as to enable those who have always relied largely on wood to get through the winter, and they should have been granted as of course in such form in all cases.

A few whites occupy Indian lands under agreements for rent or on shares, and generally to the advantage of the landlord. The Statute, Con. Stat. U. C., cap. eighty-one, sect. twenty-two, imposes a penalty of eight hundred dollars and imprisonment on a white man for buying or leasing; and proceedings in several instances have been in the past initiated under it. They do lease to one another occasionally, they should be permitted to lease to whites by consent of the County Judge or some other responsible official, other than the Local Superintendent.

It is doubtful whether the payment of these annuities has the effect of producing or encouraging indolence on the part of the Indians. The thorough Indians are not a working people, and it is only when they have mingled blood with whites that industrious habits are acquired.

If land was deeded to them, enfranchisement would be sought in some cases, but some provision should be made by which they could sell their improvements to each other