

The carpenters' shop was closed part of the year, the master being on sick leave. There are four apprentices. One boy is apprenticed to a blacksmith in Brantford, but boards at the Institution.

Condition of Past Pupils.

I consider the condition of the 121 pupils (see table) who have left the Institution during the last four years is encouraging, although it does not reach the high standard of our hopes and desires.

I would respectfully and earnestly request that you will be pleased to issue instructions to the managers of Indian Industrial Schools, to the effect that "Managers and Superintendents of Indian Institutions are on no account to admit into their respective schools pupils belonging to or who have been in other Indian Institutions without first obtaining the consent of the Superintendent of the school in which the pupil was first received."

The principle embodied in the above suggestion has been very seriously violated in the past. Pupils who have been dismissed for serious offences or who ran away from this Institution have been readily and without inquiry admitted into others. The effect will render any exercise of discipline as regards the pupils or their parents an utter impossibility, and will encourage both to play fast and loose with their privileges. Another evil to be prevented by enforcing the suggestion is the unwise interference of one institution with the work of another, by which past pupils are diverted from the course for which at great cost they have been prepared. For instance, A. S. was admitted here in 1874 when in his 16th year. He remained 5½ years, and learned the trade of a blacksmith. I obtained employment for him in one of the largest agricultural machine manufactories in the country. He told me last summer that he was then saving eleven dollars per week over and above his expenses. Now, when he certainly could help himself, he is, at 25 years of age admitted, like a little boy, into an Institution supported in part by the Government. After attending the school 3 or 4 months he successfully passed his examination, and becomes a school teacher, on \$250 per annum.

It is very evident that he was qualified to pass his examination before leaving here. However, he did not then wish to teach, so became a blacksmith. Now he expects to teach a year and then enter the ministry. He may, and I certainly hope and pray he will, become a good preacher—he was a good and very industrious blacksmith, and as "example is better than precept" it may be a question in which capacity he might be the better missionary to his brethren.

As a direct result of the case cited above, N. S., a brother of A. S., ran away from this Institution when within two months of completing a course of five years and passing his examination as a teacher. His father came a few days before he left and told him that his brother had entered the other institution and would be sent from there to college, to be prepared for the ministry. Further comment is unnecessary.

I will conclude by again urging the adoption of such regulations as will convince the Indians that in the efforts made for their advancement no room remains for unwholesome rivalry.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT ASHTON,

Superintendent.
