

Department of Indian Affairs

REPORT

OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

FOR THE YEAR

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1898.

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

OTTAWA, 31st December, 1898.

The Honourable  
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the report of the Department of Indian Affairs for the year ended 30th June, 1898, being the first which treats of matters with regard to which any responsibility attaches to myself because, as I had occasion to point out in the one presented by me last year, I had only entered upon the duties pertaining to my present office, towards the close of the period therein reviewed.

The acquaintance with Indian Affairs gained during the year, has served to greatly increase my interest in matters immediately affecting the aboriginal section of the inhabitants of the Dominion, and has moreover enhanced my sense of their importance and of the difficulties in connection with proper administration.

This has been peculiarly the case with respect to that part of the work, which in the younger Provinces, is concerned with the more elementary stages in the civilization of the Indian tribes.

It cannot be expected that any marked change either in the higher or more rudimentary phases of civilization will become perceptible in the course of any single year, but as, more especially in the earlier stages, any halt in the onward march is the immediate precursor of retrogression, some progressive tendency must be jealously watched for.

Happily, the result of such scrutiny of the past year is far from disappointing, as will become apparent upon careful consideration of the reports and tabular statements furnished by the various officials and Agents of the Department. To these I beg to refer you for details which must necessarily be passed over or at most briefly summarized when reviewing Indian matters throughout the whole Dominion.

The fact to which I have already alluded, viz. :—that I now for the first time report regarding matters with the conduct of which I have been actively concerned, not unnaturally enhances the pleasure of being able to point to some general progress, together with a reasonable measure of prosperity throughout.