

the Civil Service of Canada is the Department of Indian Affairs. It is presided over by the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, who is at present the Minister of the Interior.

The Indian Agents are a vital part of the Department's system. They generally reside on a central reserve of one of the bands committed to their care. They possess magisterial powers and can try offences connected with the wards of the Government, the most common of which is giving or selling intoxicating liquor to Indians, for which there is a heavy penalty. They also oversee the agricultural and stock raising operations of the bands and direct the farm instructors in their work. They pay annuity and interest moneys and regulate the distribution of rations to the destitute. There are 107 of such agents in the service, and upon their fidelity to duty in a great measure depends the material advancement of the Indians.

The Indians of Ontario, whose reserves are surrounded by old settlements of European origin have, as should be expected, made the greatest attainment in civilization and self-support. Last year they raised 1,517,000 bushels of grain and roots. But the tribes of the new Province of Saskatchewan, who a third of a century ago were untutored savages, have made more rapid pro-



ENJOYING THEMSELVES—TWO HAPPY OLD OJIBWAS.

gress. In the same year, though less in number than those of Ontario, they raised 345,972 bushels of grain and roots. The latter also own live stock to the value of \$640,064. The Indians of Alberta who were still more backward thirty years ago raised last year 103,911 bushels of grain and roots, and own live stock to the value of \$601,054.

The total value of lands held in reserves by the Indians of Canada is \$30,890,854, and of real and personal property \$43,054,634. They have likewise \$7,030,426 bearing interest in the hands of the Government, called the "Indian Trust Fund." This fund increased \$432,437 during the past year. The earnings of the Indians for the same period from farm products, cattle raising, wages from outside employers, from fishing, trapping and other industries, were \$5,692,269, showing an average income of \$325 per family of five persons. Therefore, though not a few of the Indians are receiving assistance from the Government, it appears that the very great majority are self-supporting.

The principal and most efficient means employed by the Government to promote the material, intellectual and moral advancement of the Indians is education. Nearly half of the \$1,750,000 voted by Parliament for Indians last year was used for this purpose.



CHIPPEWA CHIEF IN CEREMONIAL DRESS.