

houses erected have no teachers at present. From the facts just mentioned the Indians where these vacancies are are not much more to be pitied than where there are teachers.

#### THE REMEDY

This state of things must not continue if the Indian School is to be anything else than a disgrace. To improve the class of teachers the first thing is to give them a salary on which they can live. The ordinary Indian school teacher in Ontario does not generally receive more than \$200 or \$300 a year, it is true. I have known many teachers in large country schools in Ontario receiving no more than that amount, but then they obtained board at \$1 or \$1.50 per week. Teachers in Manitoba public schools receive 50 per cent more than in the same class of schools in Ontario. And our teachers need it, paying as they must do \$3 or \$4 a week for board. What hope then of getting a respectable teacher for our Indian school at \$200 or \$300? Rather from the loneliness of the Indian reserve, from the disagreeable nature of the work, having to deal as the teacher does with the uncouth and the uncultivated, he should have a bonus. I should say no Indian teacher should receive less than \$400 per annum, and the school house should be so constructed as to give him a living room for himself, as accommodation is hard to get and I have known an Indian teacher compelled to walk four miles from the schoolhouse to find rest for the sole of his foot. I would say further that the minimum salary of \$400 should be given to the teacher of every Indian school, whether the school belong to the Mission or the Government directly. In this case, however, I would require that Indian teachers should pass a regular examination, like any other public school teachers. I would insist that no teacher should participate to the extent of \$1 in the Government grant unless he possesses the required certificate. If this were required of every teacher, then the mere matter of how he is appointed would be of no moment, his certificate being a Government certificate. That the educational condition of the Indians is very unsatisfactory is seen in the fact that last year only \$6,856 66 was spent for schools among the 34,520 Treaty Indians.

#### INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS.

One of the chief obstacles to the Indian's progress is his wandering habits.

That his character may be materially improved, he must have a permanent dwelling. Life in the wigwam is most destructive of regular habits. If the Indian can be induced to frequent his reserve, he will soon obtain a house; with a better house he will become more domestic: becoming less of a nomad he will incline to cultivate the soil—at least as a gardener, and by-and-by he may perhaps become a cattle raiser or agriculturist. Thus secured he can be wrought upon—or at least his children—by the missionary and the schoolmaster. He dearly loves a pow-wow, and this habit is easily transformed into a love for other public gatherings. Let me note shortly features of progress since the treaties were made.

#### MANITOBA AGENCY (TREATIES 1, 2, 3, 5).

The Indians of Treaty 3—i.e. those east of Lake of the Woods, have not made much progress in agriculture. I was told last summer that there is not a pound of butter made for sale within a hundred miles of Rat Portage. I am not able to dispute the statement. On the Rainy River, however, there is an agricultural country unsurpassed. The other means of support however are rather abundant. The chase affords a fair living to the Indian, for there are few settlers to destroy the game. The killing of sturgeon on Rainy River in spring is said to be a slaughter most terrible to witness. The thickwood supplies plenty of berries in July and August. In August and September the usual haunts of the Indians are deserted for the bountiful supply of wild rice upon the lakes. Farming thus being less necessary, is not likely to be extensively followed. Yet the Indians are generally on their Reserves, are annually paid upon them now, and encouraged to look upon them as their homes. The statistics show a considerable increase too in agricultural products. In the Manitoba agency there is less wheat grown by the Indians than six years ago. The following figures show this: 3,864 bushels in 1878; 3,142 bushels in 1881, 3,720 bushels in 1883. In potatoes there is a great increase, viz. 11,482 bushels in 1878; 37,322 bushels in 1881; and 41,292 bushels in 1883. There were 1,220 acres cultivated in 1881, and 1,501 in 1883. The progress is no doubt slow, but when I state that in this agency there were only 790 houses in 1878 and that there were 1,854 in 1883, an increase of 135 per cent in five years, it will be seen that the foundation for future progress is