

V. That for two years the individual in question should be on probation, and the patent for his land should not issue till the second year was ended, when he and his children after him should be deemed capable of exercising the rights and privileges, and to be liable to all the duties and all the charges incident to the rest of the Queen's subjects; all protection for debt contracted since his first entry on his land should cease.

I am quite conscious that the outline of the scheme above suggested is most imperfect, but his Excellency has directed me to state it even in this form, in the hope that it may lead to some information or suggestions being offered by yourself or other benevolent persons interested in the welfare and progress of the Indian race.

Rev. W. M'Murray, D. D.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) Bury, Supt. General.

106. The Rev. gentleman, as will be seen by a reference to the Appendix, in which his answer is quoted at length,* highly approved of the plan here shadowed forth, proposing at the same time some slight modifications of its details.

107. The greater part of your Excellency's scheme as interpreted and commented on in Mr. M'Murray's letter, appears to me very practicable, and the department might immediately begin to carry it out with great advantage; but there are one or two points on which I venture to submit some observations.

Language.

108. This scheme, though comprehensive and embracing all that concerns the object of which it immediately treats, is not, I think, capable of being carried out without strong efforts being made in another and parallel direction.

109. I would reiterate that the most civilized Indians are those who speak the English or French languages. Indeed no degree of improvement ever takes place in an Indian's condition and mode of life till he learns the language by which he is surrounded. I venture humbly to suggest to your Excellency that in any modification of our present system, a knowledge of the English language should have a more prominent place than it has at present.

110. All other plans directed towards another class of wants, teaching the Indian the habit of taking care of his own concerns, and giving him, like the white man, an individual interest, may, I think, go on at the same time, theoretically, but will be found practically only to succeed this primary want. I mean to say, that till an Indian has learned English or French, and so placed himself on an equality with the population by whom he is surrounded, he will not, in most cases, take advantage of the other. An Indian, ignorant of these tongues, labours under insuperable difficulties.

111. As an instance of its good effects, I may mention the Hurons of La Jeune Lorette. Their proximity to Quebec has forced them to learn French, and indeed has obliterated the Indian language; they, in consequence, though not possessed of a foot of land, or enjoying a farthing of annuity, treat on equal terms with their white neighbours, and have lost almost entirely the distinguishing characteristics of Indians.

Indian Protection
Act.

112. The next point to which I would humbly direct your Excellency's attention is Mr. M'Murray's answer to question V. It is there proposed, that "for two years the individuals in question should be on probation, and the patent for his lands should not issue till the second year was ended, when he and his children after him should be deemed capable of exercising the rights and privileges, and to be liable to all the charges incident to the rest of the Queen's subjects; all protection for debt contracted since his first entry on his land should cease."

113. Mr. M'Murray, in his answer says, that two years is too short a probation, and suggests four years probation. He then, passing to the consideration of the Indian after fulfilling his period of probation, proposes the abolition of the Indian Protection Act.

114. Two years certainly, as Mr. M'Murray says, appears to me too short a probation. But I do not think that even after the extended period he proposes, it would be well absolutely to put the fee of the land out of the hands of the Crown by an ordinary patent, at least for a few years, until it was proved by experience how the scheme is likely to work.

115. Perhaps the preferable plan would be to grant a license of occupation for 10 years, convertible into the grant of fee, either to the first occupant or his children, at the end of that period, provided the Crown were satisfied with his conduct during the interval.

116. Some such scheme as this appears to be in contemplation in the United States. I cut the following from the "Philadelphia North American" newspaper of August the 15th, as it appears to bear on the subject:

"But the latest development of our Indian relation is, perhaps, the most important as affecting the fate of their race. What we allude to may be inferred from the following facts; in the state of Michigan there are about 7,000 Indians, in various stages of civilization. With them the United States Government has lately made a treaty, which looks to their ultimately becoming citizens. This treaty provides; that each head of a family shall have a permanent