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THE INDIANS OF WESTERN CANADA.

From an article on "Our Indian Schools" which appeared in the editorial columns of the *Calgary Herald*, we learn something of the work now being done by the Dominion Government, among the Indians of Manitoba and the Northwest. Here a great change in the character and customs of a whole race of people is being wrought silently and steadily—so silently and steadily in fact that very very few of the white residents of the country who are not in immediate contact with them realize it.

As the *Herald* says "it is with the children of the Indians that the greatest improvement is taking place." The older ones are not so susceptible to civilizing influences and only with difficulty are persuaded to adopt any of the customs of the white man. They have yielded in some points, however, and are gradually becoming more tractable and abandoning their warlike habits.

But those who have been most concerned for the present and future welfare of the Indians long since arrived to the conclusion that only through the children could any change be brought about, in their manner of living which would at all place them on a level with the white population. The outcome of this belief is the Industrial Schools of the present day.

The list of these schools as given by the *Herald*, shows that there is one at High River, in the Calgary district, containing 72 children; one at Regina containing 62 children; one at Qu'Appelle containing 194 children; one at Battleford with 114 children; one at St. Boniface, in Manitoba, with 72 children; one at St. Paul's, Manitoba, with 80 children; and a number of boarding schools situated at different points containing from 10 to 30 children according to the locality.

These latter are not as fully equipped nor as able to give a thorough grounding in all branches of industry as the Industrial Schools but they are still a very important part of this educational system. All the schools, both great and small, are conducted under the auspices of some one of the churches, Catholic, Episcopalian, Presbyterian or Methodist.

Pupils of both sexes are taught the ordinary public school subjects, supplemented in the case of the boys by instruction in the various trades or in any single trade which they may choose, and in the case of the girls, by practice in the performance of household duties. The higher branches of study are by no means neglected, as is evidenced by the knowledge of music possessed by some of the children. Several of the larger schools have brass bands, composed of the pupils, and others not able to supply these instruments, have cheaper ways of cultivating the musical taste of the scholars.

When establishing these schools the Government very wisely decided to place them at some distance from the reserves in order that parents of children would not have too easy access to them. This was done not from a selfish desire to separate them, but to prevent the evils which they saw would arise from too much intercourse.

No difficulty is now found in persuading the parents to allow their children to attend the school, in fact, the majority of them are anxious to have their children admitted.

The boys and girls after they have left the schools are not by any means lost sight of, but are helped to position which their training in the school has fitted them for and carefully watched and looked after.

All this seems to indicate a gradually dawning civilization for which every true Canadian will be thankful.

THE IMMIGRATION OUTLOOK.

The attention of all Canada is at present fixed on the question of the settlement of the West. Politicians, tradesmen and farmers alike realize that no other thing is so vital to the general interests of Canada, and that now is the time when systematic work with a view to the accomplishment of this object will be most productive of good. The year 1891 marked the beginning of a new era in the history of the Dominion, and if we are to

see that era a prosperous one, energetic immigration work will have to be done.

Considerable has been said of both a favorable and unfavorable nature in regard to the past immigration policy of the Dominion Government. For one thing they do deserve credit; what has been done has been done thoroughly. Its agents are all good live men, fully awake to the importance of the work they are engaged in, and letting no opportunity to secure good settlers pass.

The Canadian Pacific, with its unrivalled facilities for reaching the desirable classes, is doing excellent service on both sides of the Atlantic. Their offices in London, England, are filled with samples of the products of Manitoba and the Territories, tastily arranged and accurately labeled, crowds daily pass through, some drawn by curiosity, others by genuine interest, and inspect these. The company keep a large van, laden with specimens of the Canadian products, constantly travelling through the rural districts, exhibiting wherever spectators can be found. It is their intention to have this van visit every county in England. In addition to such actual work, they are distributing large numbers of pamphlets, maps and other literature, wherever there is a likelihood of good being accomplished by them. In the eastern and maritime provinces of Canada, their agents are also actively at work spreading information about the west.

Besides these two great leading workers in the immigration field, there are a number of land-owning corporations and individuals engaged in advertising the country, some with a view to the disposal of their own holdings at a profit, and others from various motives, but all having the ultimate object of increasing our population.

In settling particular provinces or districts the Government of Manitoba is without doubt doing the most work. Its Department of Immigration, of which Mr. Greenway is head, has been putting forth every effort to secure for the province a liberal share of this year's immigration. The agencies in Ontario have been visited by Mr. Greenway, a plan of campaign decided upon, and a number of lectures delivered by him in various parts of that province. The offices in Liverpool, England, under Mr. McMillan, are daily the scene of great activity. An efficient staff is at work there, some devoting all their time to answering letters