

tude in respect of their welfare and of preserving absolute good faith with them. The loyalty of the Indians to Canada and Great Britain was best attested by their conduct in the late war, when, exempted as they are from military service, large numbers enlisted and fought nobly at the Front. In one instance, at least, all the males of military age joined up, leaving only old men, women and children on the reservation. Moreover, after all, the unrest is confined to comparatively few tribes, and has taken rather the form of constitutional agitation than any form of menace. When the Indians of the Northwest took up arms during the Riel rebellion of 1885, it was not the result of any grievances on their part. It was because they were misled by Riel and his associates, and also because in some measure the fighting blood of ancestors, near and remote, was still in their veins and the warwhoop was still a familiar and welcome sound to their ears. In a somewhat similar sense the unrest of to-day as to supposed rights to which they think themselves deprived, has been fostered by certain persons, who, if not to be termed agitators are not wholly disinterested in creating grievances for them. I have in mind the ancient Society for the Protection of the Aborigines—or some such title as that—whose meddlesomeness with perfectly pious intentions often did more harm than good. It may be, too, that the more civilized of the tribes have become infected with the virus of general unrest, which next to victory itself seems to have been the most conspicuous product of the war. It is to be regretted that at this time, the worries and responsibilities of the Government and Parliament in respect of after the war problems should have superimposed an agitation on behalf of the Indians. However, as I have already stated, the discontented element has proceeded in a perfectly constitutional way and this is perhaps the best evidence of their

advancing civilization. Among the Indians, especially in the Six Nations tribes, there are men of high intelligence and considerable education, worthy in these respects of their greatest representative in history, Joseph Brant, who was not only educated in an academical way, but was of high renown as warrior, orator and statesman, and he had been preceded by sachems of his nation whose gifts of eloquence and leadership would have been remarkable even in white men. For this very reason, such men whose viewpoint and logic are not altogether those of the white man, have given the Indian Department a great deal of trouble in the way of correspondence, delegations, etc., and Mr. Duncan C. Scott, who is the administrative head, does not in such circumstances lie on an official bed of roses. His worries on their account do not conduce to higher flights of poetry than those to which he has already reached. Hence a committee of the House of Commons to whom, as to a policeman, the Indians could tell their troubles. But in addition to that the Committee had an even more important purpose in hand and that was to consider the better education of Indian children and the enfranchisement of the Indians so that ultimately they shall cease to be wards of the State and stand as men upon their own feet.

I did not at first intend to deal at any length with the Six Nations or their contentions, except in so far as this may be regarded as constitutional issues of interest in themselves; but as we have in these Indians the most notable of the North American Aborigines, touching upon her own history, a few facts should be noted. Originally they were the Five Nations allied in stock and neighbours, to whom afterwards were added the Tuscaroras, who had fled to them after the war with "the people of Carolina", and became incorporated with them. We are told that the Five Nations encouraged the people of other na-