

Their richest returns, however, are derived from their fishing and hunting grounds. Tourists take advantage of their skill as boatmen to employ them, and from that branch of work they also obtain remunerative wages.

The erection of good houses of improved design, and the adoption of other modes of civilized life indicate growth in a desire for the comforts of life, as well as increased prosperity.

The health of these Indians has been fairly good, and though the increase in the population is limited to one soul it is satisfactory, at least, to know that they are not decreasing in number.

Five schools are conducted with more or less success on the seven reserves, and the orphanage at Fort William Reserve affords instruction intellectually and industrially to its inmates.

Applications have been received for the establishment of two additional schools. For one of these, that at Long Lake, if established, Mr. De LaRonde, a retired officer of the Hudson Bay Company, has offered to erect a building at his own expense, to be worth \$600, and to pay one half of the teacher's salary.

The Churches of England and Rome engage in mission work among these Indians.

The Agent makes the following statement regarding the character of the Lake Superior Indians:—

“The Indians generally along the frontier are comparatively temperate in their habits; and especially so considering the bad example of the whites around them, and I can safely say that among the same number of whites there is more drinking and a lower morality to be found than among the same number of Indians.”

That such a satisfactory condition of matters does not as yet exist among their brethren in the district lying west of Lake Nipigon and in the Rainy Lake and Lake of the Woods districts is not to be wondered at, those Indians having been for so comparatively short a period under civilizing influences; in fact, the large majority of them are still heathens. They, however, resemble the Lake Superior Indians in this respect, that they are self-supporting, and if they have not so great a desire as the former possess to secure educational advantages for their children it is attributable to the cause already mentioned.

The general health of these Indians has greatly improved since the appointment of a regular medical attendant upon them. Diseases of a syphilitic and pulmonary character have been got under control. The Indian population of these districts numbers 2,796, being three in excess of that of 1887-88.

Nine schools are conducted on as many reserves, and two other bands have promised to erect school houses, and another band has recently completed one.

Three of their chiefs died during the year 1888-89—one of whom, Maw-in-too-pi-nesse, claimed the head chiefship of all the Indians interested in Treaty No. 3.

Most disastrous results attended the overflowage, in the season of 1888, of the lakes and rivers in the Rainy Lake and Lake of the Woods districts. The Indians' crops were destroyed, the most important being that of wild rice, upon which the Indians of these regions mainly depend for farinaceous diet, that crop was totally ruined, and the quantity of hay obtainable was also reduced to a minimum. Fortunately, game was abundant, fur hunting successful, and as the autumn of 1888 was