



WHEN visitors to the Chicago Exposition learn that such of the Canadian Indian exhibits as evidence civilization, come from Indians in Manitoba and the North-west Territories, whose réclamation virtually commenced little more than a decade of years ago, and in some instances still more recently, they will naturally desire to learn something of the methods by which trites, who but a few years ago were roaming the prairies as savages, have made the degree of progress of which the evidences are on view.

It is to afford the information demanded by such intelligent interest, that the following brief outline of the policy adopted and pursued by the Canadian Government in the treatment of its Indians has been prepared.

In dealing with the aboriginal possessors of the country, a choice of three courses was open to the people who dispossessed them.

These were to leave them, after a more or less prolonged struggle, to perish before the advance of a civilization which their utmost efforts could but serve to retard; to maintain them in ignorance and idleness and consequent vice on reservations; or to endeavour to teach them to support themselves by industrious pursuits, and gradually transform them into happy and useful members of the commonwealth.

It would be a good thing if those (perhaps well meaning) critics who question our right to impose upon Indians and their children our civilization, would remember the only alternatives open to us. Surely none who possess the germ of charity can help rejoicing that the people of Canada, through their Government and the Churches, elected to bring to bear upon the Indian tribes the influences of a Christian civilization, nor fail to sympathize with our gratitude for and pardonable pride in the great measure of success already attained.