

to notifying all the Indians that the jubilee was about to commence. This was done by two of the keepers of the faith visiting every house and making the announcement. On entering the house they secured silence and addressed the inmates, telling them that the Great Spirit commanded them to observe this ceremony. That they are to clear away the dirt from their houses, and drive out all wild animals; that they are to enjoy the coming ceremonies, and that those who have lost friends, are not to mourn during the lasting of the festival, but when it is over "we will all lament with you." This last injunction is a very singular one, it is strictly adhered to, the deceased relations and friends not showing their anguish in the slightest degree, which is another proof as evidencing the great mastery the Indians have over their feelings. The keepers of the faith made another visit in the afternoon, stating that the ceremonies had commenced, that their first duty would be to prepare wooden blades, to stir up the ashes on their neighbor's hearth, and that they must also return their individual thanks to the Great Spirit that the season had again arrived for this privilege. The stirring up of the ashes seems to be an invocation for the keeping away of evil spirits, that sickness may not enter the house during the coming year. I secured one of the blades. It resembles something the shape of an oar, is painted with Indian red, and has the totem of the turtle on it. It appears to be made of basswood and the ashes are still adhering. They call this blade "ga-gcr-we-sa." In ancient days the killing of the white dog took place on the first day of the ceremony, but they do not kill it now until the day of sacrifice, which is the fifth day of the festival. On the second day they visited each others houses, generally in groups, and stirred up the ashes, as they were ordered to do by the keepers of the faith, they in the meantime having made the proper blades to perform this duty with. They enter the house, salute the family and taking up a quantity of ashes sprinkle them upon the hearth and address the inmates as they are in the act of falling, saying that they thanked the Great Spirit for having spared their lives, as they could again be partakers in the New Years celebration and also thanked the Great Spirit for allowing them to be actors in the ceremony, that they did this to please the Great Spirit. On the third day they hold a general thanksgiving all together, going through various dances after which they indulged in a feast. In ancient days the proceedings were somewhat different, as the dances were generally small parties organized together, who visited from house to house and indulged in dancing. Originally they did not meet all together in the council-house to hold a general feast or dance until the fifth day of the proceedings, but now they dance every night or day, I think after the first day, sometimes keeping them up as late as four in the morning. On the fourth day, previously, the ceremonies were similar to the third, but now they select it as the entering of the new year, and offer thanksgiving to the Great Spirit for having presided over them the past year. In all other particulars the proceedings were the same as on the third day, and as their various dances had very little change in them a full description of them will be found under the sixth day's proceedings.

(To be Continued.)

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

The following is Mr. Gilkinson's report of the Six Nation Indians, as copied from the annual report of the Department of Indian Affairs:

Sir,—Under your instructions, I forward tabular statement for the year ended the 30th June last, and, in connection therewith, have the honor to report:—

In the course of the year the changes in population have been:—

In the Six Nations:—

Deaths.....	113	
Removals by marriage.....	4	
		117
Births.....	95	
Additions by marriage, and two Indians whose names had been removed from the list of members restored to membership.....	10	105

Decrease.....

In the Mississaguas:—

Births.....	7
Additions by marriage.....	4

Deaths.....

Increase.....

The Six Nations number..... 3,216

The Mississaguas "..... 226

Total..... 3,442

A decrease of six since the previous year; that in the Six Nations being unusual, in the present instance caused by the prevalence of whooping cough and scarlet fever among children; while in the small band of Mississaguas, such a natural increase is of rare occurrence.

It is worthy of a remark that a general impression prevails that the Indian race is dying out, when the fact is the opposite among the civilized tribes of the Dominion, the Six Nations alone having increased over 500 within the past twenty-two years. During the year several chiefs and others who are much missed, have died, and the Six Nations mourn for the lamented Archdeacon Nelles, who, for a lifetime, was their laborous missionary; and to evince their feelings for the loss of so faithful and kind a friend, the following minute of Council was recorded:—

"The chiefs of the Six Nations Indians in Council, 30th December, 1884, having meditated and conversed, the speaker of the Council, Chief John Buch, amidst solemn silence, said:

"By request of the Council he expressed their sorrow upon learning the death of their good and long-tryed friend, Archdeacon Nelles, and assure Mrs. Nelles and family of the deep sympathies of the people of the Six Nations in the great loss they have suffered. Several of the chiefs knew the late Archdeacon for fifty years or more, and well remember his unceasing labor for the happiness of their people, both spiritual and temporal."

The Minute of Council having been tastefully engrossed with an ornamental cover, was, in due form, presented to Mrs. Nelles, in Brantford, by a deputation of chiefs, accompanied by their Superintendent and the Interpreter.

With regard to education, the accompanying

report of the Honorary Secretary to the Six Nations School Board is satisfactory as regards the eight schools under its charge, while there are four other schools on the reserve.

Under your recent arrangements the County School Inspector, Dr. Kelly, made his first inspection of all the schools, and writes more favorably of those under the School Board. The doctor's reference to the Indian schools is historical and interesting, closing with the opinion "that the eight Board schools are under better management and doing better work than the others, and it would be well were all the schools under the Board."

The Mohawk Institute, a model industrial school, continues to flourish, with its 45 boys and 35 girls, under the superintendency of Rev. R. Ashton.

The extensive grounds in front of the Institute are much improved and beautified, rendering the place very pleasing, attractive, and a most comfortable home for its fortunate inmates. In addition to the Institute, the New England Company is building a brick residence for its Superintendent.

Recently, His Excellency the Governor General and His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor visited the Institute, and expressed their pleasure with what they saw.

It is gratifying to observe that the crops were so much better than those of the two previous years; that agriculture is improving in all respects, and more enterprise evinced in clearing, fencing, the erection of outbuildings and new dwellings.

The saw-mill has proved of much use in sawing quantities of lumber from fallen and decaying trees brought to the mill by the Indians, thus enabling those to build who have been prevented from doing so by the high prices of lumber.

The grist mill gives satisfaction, in the excellence of the flour it produces.

The 17th annual agricultural exhibition of the Six Nations was held rather late in October, in order to combine with it a celebration of the centenary of the deed of gift of their landed possessions by the British Government in place of those they abandoned in the valley of the Mohawk river, State of New York, after the Revolutionary War.

The show of farm produce, stock, &c., was excellent, pleasing the visitors, among whom were the Hon. J. B. Plumb, Senator, and Wm. Paterson, Esq., M. P.

Unfortunately, the weather proved so wintry and cold that the public meeting had to take place in the Council House instead of the Park.

Your Visiting Superintendent presided at the meeting, and in the course of his remarks read the deed from the Government, presented by His Excellency Governor Haldimand, dated 25th October, 1784.

Mr. Plumb, Mr. Paterson, other gentlemen and chiefs, having delivered addresses, the meeting closed, amidst loyal demonstrations.

The ploughing matches took place on the 11th November, when many competed for the fourteen useful prizes, Governor General's prize plough being won by Powless Obc, a young Mohawk.

The ploughing, on the whole, was exceptionally good, the judges having some difficulty in making the awards, so uniform was the work.