

superintended, and the children have fewer inducements to wander, as they now do, with their parents.

In parts of the country, as about Port Sarnia, white labour is so scarce, that the Indians can readily find employment at the saw mills and at other work, at one dollar a day and their board, throughout the year. At particular seasons, such as harvest time, they can earn much more. If a man has a team he can make about 12 s. 6 d. a day.

Demand for labour influences the position of the Indian.

The immediate remuneration of their services under this system has an irresistible charm for the thriftless Indian, when contrasted with the patient drudgery required in farm work, and the interval which must elapse between seed time and harvest.

This, without doubt, is one of the external causes which have militated against the extension of their clearings; and I have little doubt that the apparent retrogression in the agricultural condition of some of the Indians, may be partly accounted for in this way.

The loyal spirit by which the Indians have always been actuated, and which was so strikingly evinced by their unsolicited contributions to the Patriotic Fund, remains unchilled. The Six Nations have shown their readiness to be enrolled as a militia corps, to aid in the defence of the province, an example which would, I doubt not, be followed by the tribes in the other parts of the country if their services were required.

Militia corps.

I have thought it unadvisable, pending the decision of the Commissioners, to suggest any important change in the matter of education.

Normal schools.

The two normal schools are open; that at Mount Elgin has been enlarged by the addition of a wing containing a new dormitory, a dining-room, and other offices.

There were in attendance at my visit, 25 boys and 26 girls; a larger number than can, I fear, be maintained with a due regard to their health, as the dormitories are very much crowded, and the arrangements for ventilation are bad.

The children seemed well and contented, and their progress in learning was satisfactory. Upon the whole I was much pleased by what I saw, but parts of the house were not so clean as they should be, and some repairs are wanting to the building.

The Reverend Mr. Musgrove, resident missionary in charge, is anxious to introduce handicraft trades as a means of eventually reducing the current expenses of the establishment, and of giving employment to the boys, in addition to their work upon the farm.

The school at Alnwick, which was closed last year on account of fever breaking out in the house, has been re-opened under the charge of the Reverend Mr. Hurlburt, with 49 scholars. I have not visited this establishment, but the account given to me by Mr. Talfourd and Mr. Worthington lead me to form strong hopes of the success of the school under its present management.

The arrangement by which these institutions were made subject to the control of the Methodist Conference has expired, and it will therefore be a good opportunity for considering whether any modification of such arrangement can be agreed upon, which will lessen the expenditure now incurred.

The average amount learned by the children at these schools is, I apprehend, small; but there are some who become qualified to take their places among the white population.

One of the youths educated at Mount Elgin, is now giving great satisfaction, both to his own people and the resident missionary, as schoolmaster at Walpole Island.

The general prosperity of the country has not been without its advantage to the Indians. The rise in the value of landed property has extended itself to the sales of their lands in every part of the country, but nowhere in a more marked manner than in the territory lately ceded by the Chippewas of Saugeen and Owen's Sound.

Indian sales.

The first sale of the Indian lands in the Saugeen Peninsula took place this autumn, after a delay of nearly 12 months, caused principally by the dilatoriness of the person entrusted with the preliminary survey.

Saugeen auction.

The two southern townships, comprising about 144,000 acres, were put up to auction, and nearly all disposed of at very high prices: it may not be amiss to exhibit, in a brief form, the run of prices obtained at this sale.

The bids varied for farm lots, from 84½ dollars an acre to 105, the last being the upset price for some of the inferior land.

For park lots (i. e. those of upwards of one acre in the immediate vicinity of the town plots), sums varying from 98 l. currency=£392 per acre, to 5 l. were offered; while for the town lots, purchasers were found who were willing to give 150 l. or £600 for half an acre, being at the rate of 300 l.=£1,200 per acre.

The result of the sale may be summed up as follows:—

					Estimated Value.	Sum realized.
					£.	£.
Acres put up to auction	-	-	-	144,000	78,476	—
Acres unsold, not being bid for	-	-	-	35,000	16,397	—
Acres, sold	-	-	-	109,000	62,079	119,332

From this latter sum must be deducted about 4,000 l., which has not been paid up by those to whom the lots were knocked down, and we must expect that there will be some further