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# THE AURORA.

Monthly Magazine, printed and published at the  
Rupert's Land Industrial School, as a Monthly  
Record of our Work, and of Indian  
Education and Progress.

TERMS: - 25 CENTS A YEAR.

EDITOR:

THE PRINCIPAL, Middle Church, Man., to whom all  
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VOL. I. NOVEMBER, 1894. No. 23

## CANADIAN INDIANS.

By Rev. Dr. Maclean.

### THE SARCEES.

The Sarcees are a branch of the Beaver or Castor tribe of Indians of the great Athapascan stock, which extends over the north of British America in scattered bands, through Oregon and California into Northern Mexico, and includes the Umpuans, Apaches, and other tribes. At some period beyond the recollection of the oldest members of the Sarcee tribe, it came under the protection of the Blackfoot confederacy, and was united with it. The Beaver Indians still live in the district of Athabasca, where are found the Chippewyan, Slave, Dog Rib, and other Indian tribes.

#### SARCEE ISOLATION.

Only in the traditions of the people can we learn anything of this strange isolation of the Sarcees from their kindred in the far northern country. Tradition says that in the distant past a young Beaver chief shot his arrow through a dog of one of his fellow braves, who was deeply enraged and vowed vengeance. His friends rallied to his assistance, and eighty men fell dead as the result of the quarrel. Great was the sorrow in the camp and a temporary truce was arranged, but sixty people who were friends of the chief who had killed the dog agreed to separate from the tribe and seek a home in another part of the land. They journeyed southward by the shores of the Lesser Slave Lake until they reached the plains and valleys of the Great Saskatchewan.

#### LOST FOR A HUNDRED YEARS.

More than a century passed by, and no tidings were ever received from this exiled band. A young Beaver Indian accompanied a white fur hunter southward, and on their journey they camped at one of the forts in the valley of the Saskatchewan, where strange Indians were seen loitering about the palisades. There were members of the great Blackfoot confederacy. Among them were some braves who spoke a language different from the Blackfoot tongue, and as the Beaver Indian listened he recognized his own language, for in these men he found the descendants of the long lost band of the Beaver tribe. These are the Sarcee Indians of the present day.

#### CENSUS OF THE TRIBE.

In the summer of 1880, when the writer reached Fort Macleod, he found the Sarcee Indians

camped upon the Ok along with  
some Blackfoot and B where they  
were being supplied w the Gov-  
ernment—the buffalo ha ains and  
gone south to the plain of the  
Missouri and Yellowstone majority  
of the Bloods and Blackfee ntana  
hunting the buffalo, and did te in  
the fall of that year. Some of ren  
attended the day school taught y  
wife, along with Bloods, Blacktee  
children. It was then estimated t  
numbered about seven hundred,  
Government agent thought that th  
more than three or four hundred.

#### HOW THEY HAVE DWINDLED AW

Sir John Franklin's estimate in 1820  
there were 150 lodges, with an average  
persons to each lodge, or a total of 1,200 pe  
Rowand, an old trader, in 1843 counted fort  
lodges, or 350 persons. Sir George Sim  
reckoned fifty lodges and 350 persons in the v  
1841. An old friend of the writer, who has liv  
for 50 years in the country, told him that during  
the year of the small-pox he had counted at the  
Maria's River not less than 100 "dead lodges," in  
which there was an average of ten bodies. It is,  
therefore, difficult to make a correct estimate of  
this tribe with such conflicting testimony, but  
there is no doubt that the population must have  
been quite numerous, lessened at times through  
the depopulating ravages of war. They were said  
to be "the oldest of all the tribes that inhabit  
the plains," and those who have come in contact with  
them in these later years can add to this  
testimony, that they are the most saucy, inde-  
pendent and impudent tribe of Indians that dwell  
in northwestern Canada. They have ever been  
friends and allies of the Blackfeet, and enemies of  
the Crees. At times they have protected solitary  
Crees against the evil intentions of the Piegans  
and Blackfeet.

#### APPEARANCE OF THE SARCEES.

The Sarcees are of medium height, very few tall  
men being among them; the women, especially,  
being small. During the old buffalo days they  
exhibited their pride in beautiful dresses and fine  
buffalo skin lodges, but the departure of the buffalo  
reduced them to poverty, the lodges were used for  
moccasins, and many of their horses were sold to  
obtain food and clothing. The traders and the  
"old timers" in the country were ever suspicious  
of these people, believing them to be deceitful, and  
consequently were ever on their guard again t  
treachery. Like the other plain tribes, they we e  
good hunters, delighting in hunting the buffalo,  
and when they had secured an abundance of foo  
spending their days and nights feasting and  
gambling.

#### THEIR ANCIENT HISTORY.

Alexander Henry's journal says of the peopie  
"The Sarcees are a distinct nation, and have an  
entirely different language from any other nation  
of the plains, and very difficult to acquire from the  
many guttural sounds it contains. Their land was  
formerly on the north side of the Saskatchewan,  
but they have now removed to the south side, and  
dwell commonly on the southward of the Beaver  
hills, near the Slave Indians (Blackfoot con-  
federacy), with whom they are at peace. They  
have the name of being a brave and warlike

people, whom the neighboring nations always appear desirous of being on amicable terms with. Their customs and manners seem to be nearly the same as the Crees, and their dress is the same. Their language bears a great resemblance to that of the Chippewayans; many words are exactly the same, from which their apparent emigration from the northward gives every cause to suppose them of that nation. They affect to despise the brave Indians for their brutish and dastardly manners, and although comparatively few in numbers, frequently set them at defiance. They had ninety tents containing about 150 men bearing arms."

THEY ARE TREATY INDIANS.

According to Henry's estimate, there would be more than seven hundred Sarcees in the year 1801-06. In the year 1877 these Indians were included in treaty number seven, which embraced Blackfeet, Bloods, Piegangs, Stonies and Sarcees, which was arranged by Lieut.-Governor Laird and Lieut.-Col. J. F. Macleod at the Blackfoot Crossing of Bow River. The Blackfeet, Bloods and Sarcees were allowed a reservation along the north and south sides of the Bow and South Saskatchewan Rivers, part of which was for ten years only, and the rest in perpetuity. Annuities of money and ammunition were agreed upon, clothing for the chiefs once in three years, a certain number of cattle and farming implements to be supplied, and teachers sent to teach their children. The head chief of the Sarcees, Bull's Head, on behalf of his tribe, signed the treaty.

THEIR PRESENT HABITATION.

The Blackfeet settled gradually upon their reservation, but the Bloods and Sarcees became dissatisfied and would not locate at Blackfoot crossing. Finally the Bloods located on a reservation which was allotted them on Belly River, south of the Blackfoot. A few months after our arrival at Blackfoot the Sarcees were sent to Blackfoot crossing under the charge of "Piscan" Munro, but they remained dissatisfied, as they alleged that the Blackfeet were domineering and looked upon them as intruders. They were removed to Fish Creek Indian Farm, where they remained for about a year, and at last they were located on their present reservation, about eight miles south of Calgary. In 1889 the Sarcee population numbered 1,000 and the outlook is dark indeed, owing to their forward extinction; although the Government is aiding them materially, striving by means of a game agent, farm instructor, and rations to enable them to become self-supporting.

WESTERN ONTARIO INDIANS.

Thomas Hanson, M.D., medical officer to the Indian Department at Rat Portage, was in Winnipeg recently for a few days visit. Dr. Hanson's district is bounded by the Winnipeg River on the north and Rainy river on the south. It stretches to Lake of the Woods on the southwest, and on the east to Savanne. Compared with other years, Dr. Hanson found the Indians in a more favorable state of health as a general community.

Be what you are. This is the first step toward becoming better than you are.

THEN AND NOW.

Tune—"God bless the Prince of Wales."—Adapted

In days of old our fathers, bold  
In arts of war and chase—  
To bend a bow, or scalp a foe—  
Gave strength the highest place.

CHORUS.

Then let us praise the peaceful days  
Of that Queen mother's rule,  
Whose kindly laws must give us cause  
To love our Indian school.

A lawless life, unrest and strife,  
Lone graves among the trees;  
But heart and brain find higher gain  
In nobler crafts than these.

Then let us praise the peaceful days, etc.

'Tis ours to learn the thoughts that burn  
In Christian hearts,—to train  
Both head and hands in heathen lauds  
From work true strength to gain.

Then let us praise the peaceful days, etc.

F. H. W.

A VENERABLE OLD INDIAN.

Tow-kum-ah, a klootchman squaw, of the Cowitchan Canadian Government Indian reserve, Vancouver, B. C., it is claimed, is the oldest living person on the continent of America. The Indians of her tribe say she is one hundred and sixteen years of age and they prove it by several old patriarchs of the tribe, who swear that Tow-kum-ah was an old woman when they were boys. Zapatist, who was known to the Hudson Bay people when they built their fort in Nanaimo in 1847, says that he was married and had children when Tow-kum-ah was an old woman. The venerable lady has been drying and withering for years, until she resembles nothing so much as an animated mummy. She has lost the use of her limbs, and crawls about on her hands and knees sans sight, sans hearing, sans everything but speech. She has been an inveterate smoker for seventy-five years, and her chief diet for over a hundred years has been clams, raw for breakfast, stewed for "lunch," and baked for dinner or supper. For a hundred years she has lived in the same locality, until the clam shells thrown behind the ancestral halls of the ancient dame have been transferred by time into a hard, compact mound, reaching for a great distance and averaging six feet in height. Several domestic articles of great interest have been unearthed from these mounds, and are carefully guarded in a British Columbia museum. Hucarlotsun, an uncle of the centenarian, who died last year, was another Indian of very advanced age. He saw seven generations of his descendants comfortably settled in life before he migrated to the great beyond.

SQUAMISH INDIAN MISSION.

The Governor-General and Countess Aberdeen visited the Squamish Indian Mission, opposite Vancouver, B.C., on the 10th inst. Addresses were presented by representatives of the several tribes. His Excellency was asked to use his influence with his Government to have certain grievances removed.

SCHOOL NOTES

The toboggan craze will shortly commence.

Furs and furnaces are now the order of the day.

Our stock is now comfortably housed for the cold season.

The river froze over on Nov. 8. Four days later the ice was safe for pedestrians.

Our boys are rejoicing in new overcoats and reasonable tuques of red and blue.

Our football team looks very smart in new parti-coloured stockings, made in the sewing-room.

The work of drawing home wood for winter consumption has kept our farmers busy these past weeks.

An issue of warm jackets and smart red woollen hoods has gladdened the hearts of our girls this month.

Mr. R. H. Halpin, of the Indian Department, Regina, has been transferred to the Moose Mountain Reserve.

Sawing and splitting wood in the warm shelter of our furnace-room is a highly popular amusement these wintry days.

The small boy hith him down to the ice these frosty mornings, and on one rusty skate executed figures fearful and wonderful to behold.

Mr. French, who, we regret to say, is leaving us at the end of this month, will give the children a farewell address on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 25.

Mr. S. P. Wadsworth, Inspector of Government Institutions, has been engaged recently in making an inspection of the Washakada Indian Home.

Nancy Stevenson has proved herself a "quick study" at the knitting machine. She is now beginning to turn out first-class mitts and socks.

The coal and wood shoots in the basement have been put into thorough repair, to keep out insidious draughts and stray cats on winter nights.

The first blizzard swooped down upon us on Nov. 7th. The storm raged with such severity that all communication with town was cut off for several hours.

Dr. Orton paid us a visit of medical inspection on Nov. 6. He found the pupils in excellent health. The one girl who was sick has completely recovered.

The skating season has commenced with great vigour. Those boys who took care of their skates during the summer are now reaping the benefit of their forethought.

Sunday Bible search work will commence shortly on the same lines as in previous years. We hope that our children will take the same painstaking interest as was manifested last winter.

Everything is being made snug and tight round the premises for the winter. Storm windows put into position, outer doors fixed, the laundry backed up with manure, and furnaces in running order again.

Charlotte Robertson, a former pupil of ours, now living at Norway House, lately sent a very hand-

some pair of silk-worked gauntlets as a present to Mr. Williams. We are most grateful for this token of her remembrance.

The sewing-room has been doing great business in manufacturing winter stockings and mitts. Our girls have done wonderfully well, though, of course, we feel the loss of Jessie's trained hands at the knitting and sewing machines.

Mr. Hayter Reed highly commended Arthur Cochrane's drawing, and to accept a specimen thereof. This has been sent to Ottawa in a frame made by Angus Woodhouse, which gained a first prize at the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition.

We were very sorry to lose Jessie Scott, who left us for Battleford on Nov. 7. Jessie won the esteem and regard of all in this place. We hope to exchange letters regularly with her, and to hear that she continues well and happy in her other home.

The boys' football team has played two matches against the Winnipeg Bankers since our last issue. On the first occasion they were beaten 3 to 0. In the second instance they made a most creditable show, the game resulting in a very close finish—a tie of three goals each.

The Deputy-Superintendent-General paid an official visit to this school on Oct. 23. He thoroughly inspected the working of the institution and the industries connected therewith. In the afternoon he paid a visit to the class-rooms, and received an address of welcome written and delivered by Maurice Sanderson. In his reply, he referred to the present standing of Indian Industrial Schools, comparing past with present results. We trust that our children will remember the kindly words of encouragement he gave them in speaking of our own institution, and that they will show practical gratitude in the future for the interest he manifested in their welfare.

FOOTBALL.

BANKERS VS. INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

The Indian boys at St. Paul's Industrial School played a friendly match against the Bankers on Saturday afternoon, Nov. 10, in the Driving park, Winnipeg, which resulted in a draw. Although most of the school boys are young, they played a good game against their heavier opponents, and with some practice will soon be able to compete with any of the city clubs. The score in the game was three all, the teams being as follows:

ST. PAUL'S.		BANKERS.	
A. Cochrane.....	Goal.	.....	Straug
Thos. Hunt.....	Backs.	.....	Thomson
A. Woodhouse..		.....	Scott
R. Stevenson ..	Half-Backs.	.....	Parker
H. Henderson ..		.....	Johnson
I. Badger .....		.....	Kains
M. Sanderson....	Forwards.	.....	Verritt
T. Quoquat.....		.....	Graburn
R. Landon.....		.....	Duff
A. Sinclair .....		.....	Boultoe
Jos. Kent.....		.....	Dunford

Referee—P. Standley.

## OUR CHILDREN'S PAGE.

## COMPOSITION.

## MR. HAYTER REED'S VISIT.

On Tuesday afternoon, Mr. Hayter Reed visited our schoolroom. We began our classwork by writing copies. Mr. Williams showed Mr. Reed some of our books. He was very pleased to see Arthur Cochrane's drawing, and said it was done very nicely. After that, Mr. Williams told us to sing to him; Mrs. Ashby played the organ for us, the girls went up to the front, and we sang our school song; we did our very best to sing loud. Then we took our seats. Two little girls said a piece each; they spoke out very loud also. He was glad to hear them speaking out. Maurice Sanderson, one of our boys, read an address from the children. After he had finished, Mr. Reed went up and taking the address in his hand, spoke to us a long time about the different schools he had visited; he said this was not the only school in the province, there is one school where the boys used to run off soon after they came, because they had done what they liked at home, going out fishing and duck-shooting, and not knowing if they would have enough to eat to-morrow, but now they know it is better for them to stay in these schools. He said he wanted us to stay in this school a long time, to grow up and to learn the white people's ways. "Some of you children," he said, "ask to go home for a holiday and promise to come back, and you don't come; it is throwing money away. We give you clothing and build schools, meaning you to stay in them." He also said he would bring Mrs. Reed the next time he comes. After he finished, we sang "God Save the Queen," and we gave three cheers for Mrs. Reed and for himself. When he was going away, he said he would send candies down to us, and so he did. I think he went home very pleased with the school.

NANCY STEVENSON, Stan. 5.

## CROSSING THE ATLANTIC.

If we were crossing the Atlantic Ocean, in a few hours we could not see any land, but sea only, with perhaps a few distant sails. The captain needs to know his work well. Sometimes we are in a fog, and we can hardly see the other end of the ship. The sailor has a compass to steer by, and a chart which tells him all the dangerous places in the ocean. A compass is an instrument which turns on a pivot, and always points quickly to the north if you turn the ship. In the distance sometimes we see a huge mass of ice called an iceberg; sometimes ships run against icebergs in a fog and are dashed to pieces.

ALBERT PRINCE, Stan. 5.

## THE LOST SHEEP.

A shepherd was one fine evening driving a flock of lambs to a farmer's house, and they all at once got frightened and ran three different ways. He presently lost sight of all his flock, and in his trouble told his dog to look for his lost sheep, and the dog started off looking for them; the shepherd went in another direction. It was getting dark; the shepherd was giving his last look, when presently he saw his dog with his lost sheep, guarding them in a valley, and he soon saw that there was not one missing. HARRIET FAVEL, Stan. 4.

## SCHOOL NOTES FROM OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

Samuel Stevenson shot a blackbird with a gun and killed it.—Bertie Sinclair, Stan. 5.

We feed the little pig the morning with the swill and barley.—Lena Thorning, Stan. 3.

Joseph Kent made 18 foot-scrappers this week for a man in Winnipeg.—Robert Landon, Stan. 5.

I am a morning washing girl with Agnes Cameron and Elizabeth Asham.—Harriet Favel, Stan. 4.

Isaiah Badger found a hay-fork in the prairie and brought it home last week.—Bertie Sinclair, Stan. 5.

We hope to play a football match against the bankers of Winnipeg shortly.—Arthur Cochrane, Stan. 5.

We were very glad to see Annie Asham and Clara Jane Hope on the 29th of October.—Harriet Favel, Stan. 4.

Joe Kent and Frank Spence have taken charge of the ferry since William Halero left.—Arthur Cochrane, Stan. 5.

Mr. McColl and his children visited the school last month, and his son played the violin.—Emma Jane Spence, Stan. 3.

The other day one of Mr. McColl's dogs bit Mrs. Wright, but it didn't do her any harm.—Agnes Asham, Stan. 5.

We always have a little football match every day after dinner, the first eleven against the rest.—Alfred Hunt, Stan. 5.

We have printed some Psalms and Prayers for Mayor Dagg, of Selkirk, for Sunday School use.—Robert Stevenson, Stan. 5.

We are all very sorry that Jessie Scott has left us. We all hope that she arrived home safely.—Nancy Stevenson, Stan. 5.

I am a dormitory girl these two weeks, and when I have finished the upstairs work, I trim the lamps.—Eva Hope, Stan. 3.

Nancy Stevenson is learning how to knit on the knitting machine; she can make a pair of socks already.—Agnes Cameron, Stan. 4.

I am a dormitory girl with Maria Jane Stevenson for two weeks, and also a sewing girl; I like it very much.—Tannis Stevenson, Stan. 4.

The little girls are all learning how to knit stockings and mitts for themselves; they are getting on very well.—Nancy Stevenson, Stan. 5.

We had a dance on All Hallow-see in our own schoolroom, and Mr. and Mrs. Ashby gave us apples and candies.—Emma J. Spence, Stan. 3.

I work in the garden every morning with Mr. Dixon. I was carrying manure to the rhubarb bed this morning.—William H. J. Parisien, Stan. 4.

Ten car-loads of wood have been brought to the school last month; we were all busily engaged for two days in piling it inside the first pasture.—Arthur Cochrane, Stan. 5.

I am a morning dining-room girl for two weeks, and I like my work very much. I sweep out the pantry, and Miss Applegarth tells me to bring the jugs and butter-dish into the pantry, and she tells me to dust the silver. When I am finished, she tells me to go downstairs to get ready for school.—Maggie Ann Favel, Stan. 3.