

Department of the Interior.

On the 1st July, 1873, a new Department was established under whose management was placed the N. West Territories of the Dominion, Indian Affairs, Ordnance and Admiralty Lands, Crown Lands in Manitoba, &c., and Geological Survey. The report of the Minister of the Department ends with the Fiscal Year of 1872-73, but some of the appended reports are carried to the close of 1874. In four of these departments the business is constantly increasing in importance. In the Ordnance Lands Branch from the very nature of the affairs to be transacted there cannot be any very great increase.

NORTH WEST TERRITORIES.

New questions of more than ordinary gravity are likely for a good while to arise in the administration of the affairs of these territories as population pours in. The acts prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors and the establishment of the Mounted Police force in the territories with powers to carry out the provisions of that Act have already done much to suppress that traffic. Fines having been taken beforehand to inform the Indians of the object for which the force was sent, they were everywhere welcomed by them. A few ordinary magistrates have been appointed in the territories, but they have not been able to accomplish much, and the N. W. Council strongly recommended the appointment of Stipendiary Magistrates, at important points, a recommendation which has been acted upon. The work of the N. Am. Boundary Commission has been completed and the Boundary Line located from Lake of the Woods to the Rocky Mountains. With the exception of 19 miles at the Western end the whole line has been cleared of trees. Along the Province of Manitoba, iron pillars have been placed two miles apart. West of the Province stone cairns about 8 miles apart indicate the line. Iron pillars will be placed from the boundary of Manitoba to the Lake of the Woods in such places as can from the swampy nature of the ground be availed of. The completion of this line cannot but be a source of satisfaction to both the Imperial and Dominion Governments as difficulties and disputes, leading to danger of international complications, were frequently arising.

By a treaty concluded on the 15th of Sept, 1874, with the Cree, Saulteaux and other Indians, a large tract of land was ceded to the Dominion of Canada on similar conditions to those obtained the preceding year.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

ONTARIO.

The Six Nations and the Mississaguas occupy about 52,000 acres of land in this province. They number 3,207, having increased by 17 since last year. Their real and personal property is valued at \$1,400,000. About a quarter of their reserves is under cultivation, the farm production being in fair quantity, and they own a considerable number of horses, cows, &c., and all the

usual agricultural implements, including machinery. 2,017 cords of fire wood were cut and sold during the year, and the means and comforts of both tribes is year by year increasing. There are 13 schools, with 571 pupils and 8 of the teachers are Indians. There is also an "Institute" at Brantford. This and 9 schools are maintained by the New England Co., London, Eng., two schools are supported by the Wesleyans and two by the Indians themselves. At the "Institute," besides the ordinary education, the boys are taught arming and the girls household work. There is a flourishing agricultural society among the Six Nations and several Temperance Societies—about 800 of them are still Heathens, but the larger portion belong to the Church of England. The Mississaguas are all Wesleyans. During the past two years the Six Nations have expended besides the usual statutory labour, over \$3,000 on roads and bridges.

The Chippewas, Munsees and Oneida Indians of the Thames, number 1,167, occupying a reserve of 20,383 acres. They are slowly but surely advancing in civilization for intemperance is decreasing, and their moral condition is hopeful. There are 2 schools taught by native teachers under the supervision of the Missionaries.

The Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte number 761. They have a reserve of 27 square miles, 2,500 acres are under cultivation and 4,500 in pasture. Their property is valued at \$505,090. There are 3 schools attended by 110 children, one of the teachers being an Indian woman. They are steadily increasing in number and advancing in civilization.

The Mississaguas of Alnwick, Rice Lake, Mud Lake, and Scugog number 503, having a reserve of 7,300 acres, of which 13 are under cultivation, value of property \$172,500. There are 3 schools with 125 scholars. The Indians of Rice and Mud Lake are in a flourishing condition in a fair state of civilization, those at Alnwick are more backward but are beginning to improve. The few at Scugog are in a very wretched and destitute condition, and the agent advises their removal to Mud Lake, where they would be under better influences.

The Chippewas of Snake Island, Rama, Beansoleil Island, Nawash, and Saugeen, number 1,67, and occupy 23,548 acres exclusive of the two Islands, 3,456 of which are cultivated. Their property is valued at nearly \$20,010. They manufactured last year, boats, baskets, &c., to the value of \$15,775. They are all steadily improving in morality and civilization. There is no want among them, and except among the Saugeens there is an increase in the lumberers.

INDIANS OF MANITOBA ISLAND AND NORTH SHORE ON LAKE HURON.

The unceded portion of this Island is occupied by Ottawas, with a few Chippewas and Potawatamies. The village of Wilkewikong contains a population of 712 souls, all Roman Catholics, 150 children attend the schools. Excellent crops are raised.