

The estimated Indian population of the whole Dominion is about 92,000, of which nearly 30,000 are in the older provinces, and the remainder in Manitoba, British Columbia and the Territories. But this estimate differs materially from that of the census returns, which, after very careful investigation, estimates the Indian population of the Dominion at 102,358—viz—23,358 for the older Provinces, and 79,000 in Manitoba and the North West and B. Columbia. It will be seen that the estimate of the Census for the older Provinces is considerably less than that of the Department, as also that of the British Columbia Indians, while that of the North West Indians is a great deal larger. In a wandering population, the fluctuation would naturally be great, and in the older Provinces the natural increase for four years, (and with the exception of P. E. Island, the native tribes of the older Provinces are steadily increasing in number) would account for a part of the difference. (See Article Census in this number of Year Book for abstract of Indian population of Dominion.) Of all Indian tribes, those of Ontario, numbering 15,305, are most civilized and prosperous; a more liberal policy seems to have been adopted towards them from the first than in any of the other Provinces. The value of the personal property of the Ontario Indians averages \$20.75 per capita, of their real estate \$385.93, and of invested capital \$210.00 giving an actual value per capita for every Indian in Ontario of \$616.68. About one-third of their number are children and of these, 1,689, about a third, were attending school. Of course the degree of prosperity and improvement differs much in different bands, and the value of real estate has been in Ontario very much enhanced by its proximity to towns, &c. In nearly all the Ontario divisions the superintendents report increase in numbers, growing habits of industry, less intemperance, and desire for improvement.

The Indians of Quebec are estimated at 10,800. The total value of their property of all kinds per head is \$165, and of the 1219 children 330 attend school. From three out of the seven agencies in this province no report was received, and those received are very brief. In the St. Regis agency, the Iroquois were said to have increased in numbers, some of them to be very good farmers, and the large majority sober and industrious, the general moral status of the tribe being good. The attendance at the school at Caughnawaga had largely increased; but both there and at Lake of Two Mountains there had been disorders from the Indians being able to procure drink.

The Indians of Nova Scotia number 1,849. Their property (real and personal estate) is rated at \$25.50 per capita. Out of 381 children, 80 were attending school. In two of the districts, the agents report marked improvement, and in others the Indians are said to be sober and industrious. The industry of the women is especially commended. They do not generally cultivate the ground. In some of the agencies the land is not favourable for this. Coopering and Fishing seem to be the principal employments.

The New Brunswick Indians are 1,561 in number, and the value of their property is

about \$217.50 per head. They have no schools, and employ themselves little with agriculture. There is some improvement noticed, but it is very slow.

The Prince Edward Island Indians have no reserve from the Crown, their lands being set apart through the benevolence of the Aborigines Protection Society and of private individuals. They number 302, holding real and personal estate to the value of about \$24 per capita. They are beginning to cultivate the soil, and a school house has been erected, but they are generally in a destitute condition.

The total value of the property held by the Indians of the older provinces is estimated at

Personal Property	... \$ 489,284
Real Estate	..... 7,633,708
Capital Invested	.... 2,884,972
Total	..... \$11,007,914

The Indians of Manitoba and those of the North West under Treaty number 13,944, besides 1,450 Sioux who have come in from the United States. The difficulties of which there seemed danger at the close of 1874 were satisfactorily settled the following year, and there is among all these Indians general satisfaction and contentment. They have begun to understand the necessity of devoting themselves to other pursuits, hunting and fishing no longer supplying their wants. Their reserves being generally in the vicinity of the settlements, they have become sufficiently familiar with the elements of agriculture to begin to practise it for themselves, and their education has at least been commenced. The hunt is no longer profitable except by travelling great distances, and the system of navigation inaugurated on the lakes and rivers throws out of employment a great number of Indian boatmen. During the year 1875, new arrangements were made with the Indians under Treaties 1 and 2, which proved satisfactory. The reserves under Treaty No. 4 were selected and the adhesion of the bands who had not been original parties to it secured. Treaties were negotiated with the Indians at Berens River, Norway House, the mouth of the Saskatchewan, and Wapaw. The area covered by these treaties was about 100,000 square miles, including the country east and west of Lake Winnipeg as far north as Split Lake. By these treaties each family of 5 persons was allowed 100 to 160 acres of land, and each person a gratuity of \$5.00. Arrangements were made with the Indians of the plains for negotiating treaties with them during the summer of 1876.

The Sioux Indians emigrating from the U. S. were, after careful consideration, allowed reserves of 80 acres to every five persons; and early in 1875 reserves were selected by them at Oak River on the Assiniboine, and still further west on Bird Tail Creek, near Fort Ellice. A number of families had already before the close of the year, erected houses and begun farming operations. They are said to be sober and industrious but troublesome to the white settlers from their depredations. It is estimated that from Peace River to the United States Boundary there are 10,000 Indians still untreated with, and over 5,000 in Rupert's Land.