

The *British Columbia* Indians number about 31,500. The difficulties which attended the arrangements for the care of the Indians in this Province, have at last been satisfactorily arranged between the Dominion and Local Govts. The Indians of the interior are extensive owners of stock and possess considerable agricultural knowledge. Agricultural implements and seeds to a considerable amount have been distributed among them, and much improvement in the quantity and quality of their crops is already to be perceived. Owing to the unsettled state of the land question, no surveys were undertaken during 1875. The exports of fish, oil, furs and cranberries, nearly all contributed by Indians, amounted to \$549,364, an increase of nearly \$120,000 over those of 1874. Gold is mined by the *Shushwaps* Indians. The Indians on the West Coast of Vancouver are a hardy and industrious race, and the richest of any. It is not uncommon for one of them to realise five hundred to a thousand dollars a year from seals and fish alone. But they are inveterate gamblers, and the habit of holding donation feasts or "potlatches" at all seasons of the year is destructive to any settled industry. Their knowledge of agriculture is limited, but they are splendid seamen and expert canoemen. With the exception of the potatoes raised by the women their food is derived from the sea. Seals and sea otters are killed in large numbers, and sometimes whales.

There are now 10 schools established among the Indians in British Columbia. One new one was at opened Fort Simpson by the Wesleyan in 1875. A small pox hospital and quarantine ground was established near Victoria, and have been instrumental in preventing the spread of that disease along the coast. The agent is regularly supplied with vaccine virus from the Medical Department of the Privy Council in England. The liquor traffic has declined, but the British Columbia Indians still obtain it in large quantities at the various ports on Puget Sound. Indian affairs in Manitoba and B. Columbia were after the 1st. Feby., 1876, placed under the management of superintendents and agents in the same way as in the older provinces. There are two superintendencies in British Columbia, and one in N. W. Territory. It is proposed to have several resident agents in each superintendency, devoting themselves to the care and instruction of the Indians.

During the year 1874-75 the Indian Fund increased by land sales, &c., \$110,478, of which one-half was added to capital, and the other expended for the benefit of the Indians. The revenue of the Fund for the year was \$249,991, and the expenditure \$149,215.

ORDNANCE AND ADMIRALTY LANDS.

The sales of Ordnance Lands during the fiscal year 1874-75 amounted to \$35,739. These consisted of 4 Lots in Sorel, 3 in Nepean, 37 in Prescott, 87 in Kingston, 4 in Toronto, 6 in Tay, and 40½ in Ottawa. The amount received on account of this branch during the year was \$51,017. At the same date \$46,216 were due for arrears of rent, instalments on purchases, &c. The contingent expenses of the Branch were \$3,040. Since 1857, the total amount passed

to the Consolidated Fund on account of Ordnance Lands was \$888,158. Besides this there are outstanding instalments on sales not yet matured to the amount of \$3,500 dollars. Surveys were made at Amherstburg, O., and St. John's and Chambly, Q., with a view to sales, but were temporarily postponed owing to the depression in the money market. The land at Amherstburg was sold at the close of the year at the rate of \$743 per acre. A large number of properties in the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick have been transferred to this Branch from the Department of Militia. There are in all some 8,500 acres, lying mostly in the immediate vicinity of the cities, which are very valuable. The sales of the lands belonging to the late Bank of Upper Canada amounted up to 31st Decr., 1874, to \$123,561. After that date, no sales were effected for the same reason that the Ordnance Lands were kept back.

DOMINION LANDS.

The sale of these Lands was a good deal checked by the universal depression of business, and also by the ravages of the grasshoppers in Manitoba and the Territories. Thirty townships were subdivided, and block lines run and marked for 1020 miles. Twelve Indian Reserves were surveyed. The special survey of meridians and bases was checked by a serious accident to Mr. Lindsay Russell to whom this was intrusted. The new base-measuring apparatus invented by that gentleman was found better than any thing of the kind previously employed, giving sufficient accuracy and performing the work rapidly and economically. The reports of the surveys of the Townships in Manitoba and adjoining parts of N. W. Territory, describe those townships lying east of the principal meridian or south east of Lake of the Woods, 7 in number, as mostly unfit for cultivation without thorough drainage, all of it well wooded with poplar and in two of the townships much good soil. West of the meridian, 8 of the townships are only of medium quality, the other 14 excellent, and all are well watered and most of them have more or less timber. The Block Surveys were along the line of the Railway between Lake of the Woods and Fort Pelly, and east of the Lake of the Woods to Rainy Lake. These last were judged not favourable to agriculture, there being much rough rocky ground, and the level ground traversed, being wet spruce swamp, or light sandy soil. A good deal of spruce of large size and some red and white pine were noted. West of the Lake of the Woods, from the Qu'Appelle trail south, the soil is poor, but north of the Qu'Appelle for the seventy miles surveyed, the soil was good throughout, well supplied with wood for fuel and with good water. It is thought that there is here an area of 2,500 square miles of same character as about Portage la Prairie in Manitoba.

Town Plots were surveyed at "Selkirk," on the east side of Red River, at the crossing of the Pacific Railway, and at "Alberton" on the Rainy river near Fort Francis. Up to 31st. Octr. the homestead entries for the year were 503. 83480 acres of free grant were lands taken up, 61,553 acres at a dollar an acre and about 22,000 sold for cash or taken up as military bounty land making a total of 163,917 acres in the