

being apparently an increase over 1881 of 14,038, but a decrease as compared with 1888 of 2,004. It is not, however, claimed that any of these figures are quite correct, as there are still some places, particularly in British Columbia, where there are at present no resident agents, and the number of the Indians can only be estimated. The apparent decrease is due to the fact of agents having been appointed since the returns of 1888 in some new places in British Columbia, when the actual numbers were found to be below the estimate, and it is quite probable that the numbers will be still further reduced as agents are appointed in the more remote places. It is quite certain, however, that the number of Indians in Canada is now larger than in 1881, though the actual increase cannot be definitely ascertained; but the mere fact of an increase at all affords the strongest possible evidence of the wisdom of the policy pursued by the Government, and though the increase is at present mainly confined to the tribes in the eastern Provinces, these tribes have passed through experiences similar to those which the Indians of the North-West are now undergoing, and the time may be hopefully looked forward to when the latter, accustomed to domestic life, will increase in like manner.

85. It is satisfactory to note that the interest taken by the Indians in the education of their children is continually on the increase, and that the indisposition on the part of many to allow their children to enter any of the industrial schools has considerably diminished. This latter improvement was particularly noticeable among the Blackfeet, who, until within the last year, had practically refused to allow any of their children to enter any boarding or industrial institutions, but during the past year as many as 21 out of 49 children in residence at High River Industrial School were Blackfeet. The establishment of boarding schools at various points is of great importance, as these schools are calculated to have a much greater beneficial effect on the minds of the Indians than the day

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