

1622. The following figures show that the Indians are becoming more and more sensible of the benefits of education :—

NUMBER OF PUPILS AT THE INDIAN SCHOOLS IN THE SEVERAL PROVINCES, IN THE YEARS 1892, 1893 AND 1894.

PROVINCES.	1892.	1893.	1894.
Ontario.....	2,273	2,310	2,341
Quebec.....	559	556	634
Nova Scotia.....	114	124	119
New Brunswick.....	104	108	102
Manitoba.....	1,500	1,488	1,454
British Columbia.....	687	786	843
Prince Edward Island.....	43	43	33
North-west Territories.....	2,295	2,284	2,610
Total	7,575	7,699	8,136

The increase in the general school attendance is not marked, being 437.

This, however, means more than is at first sight apparent, because the gradual introduction of the boarding schools to replace the day schools on the reserves necessitates a separation of children from parents, to which both are naturally strongly opposed, and Indian parents have to be educated up to the point at which they will exercise present self-denial, with a view to the ultimate benefit of their offspring.

1623. A very interesting feature in connection with the older industrial schools in the North-west Territories is the farming out of advanced pupils among the white population.

The success so far attained in this direction is encouraging, and while help, so greatly needed in new countries, is afforded the settlers, the Indians acquire the ideas and habits of the settlers, and their mutual sympathy increases.

1624. The Government's treatment of the Indians has always in view their ultimate conversion into useful citizens. This, as a rule, must be done by engaging them in agricultural pursuits. The great success attained with regard to those most recently taken in hand was amply attested by the display of products at the Chicago Exposition. Cattle, upon which the Indians will have in all districts to depend largely, and in some look to as their mainstay, are carefully herded, and the practice of supplying Indians with anything in the shape of harness, implements or utensils, which they can be taught to make themselves, is being discontinued.

The aptitude displayed by Indians up to the point where imitation ceases is very remarkable.

1625. Only those brought into personal contact with the Indians can understand the ignorance, superstition and inaptitude that have to be overcome before the Indian can be persuaded to persevere in the simplest farming operations; but that the efforts of the Government are meeting with some success is shown by the following table of Indian farming transactions in 1894 :—