

## INDIAN AFFAIRS.

**Department of Indian Affairs.**—By section 5 of the British North America Act, 1867, the Indians of Canada and the lands reserved for them came under the control of the Dominion Government, and in 1873 an Act of the Canadian Parliament (R.S., c. 81) provided that the Minister of the Interior should be Superintendent General of Indian Affairs and as such have the control and management of the lands and property of the Indians in Canada. The aim of the Department of Indian Affairs is the advancement of the Indians in the arts of civilization, and Agents have been appointed to encourage the Indians under their charge to settle on the reserves and to engage in industrial pursuits.

Tables 12-19, compiled from the Reports of the Department, give for the years named particulars respecting population, religion, education, agriculture and financial status. Table 19 shows that during the year 1917 crops to the value of \$2,351,807 were raised by the Indians; the corresponding value in 1916 was \$2,246,507. Educational advantages are provided for the Indians in day, boarding and industrial schools, and for educational purposes appropriations were made by Parliament for the year 1917-18 amounting to \$734,115. Several bands of Indians assist, and during the fiscal year 1916-17 the sum of \$35,832 was available from this source. As shown in Table 15, the total number of Indian children enrolled as attending school during the fiscal year 1917 was 12,178, and the average attendance was 8,285.

The total parliamentary appropriation of the Indian Department for the year 1917-18 is \$1,741,960. On March 31, 1917, the Indians had to the credit of their trust funds \$8,559,574, derived from sales of lands and timber and from rentals of grazing and other lands. The amount named represents an increase of \$115,507 over that of the preceding year.

## 12.—Indian Population in Canada by Provinces, 1911-1917.

| Provinces.                    | 1911.          | 1912.          | 1913.          | 1914.          | 1915.          | 1916.          | 1917.          |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Prince Edward Island.....     | 292            | 300            | 292            | 288            | 288            | 302            | 292            |
| Nova Scotia.....              | 2,026          | 1,969          | 2,018          | 2,050          | 2,042          | 2,119          | 2,031          |
| New Brunswick.....            | 1,802          | 1,903          | 1,920          | 1,906          | 1,862          | 1,874          | 1,846          |
| Quebec.....                   | 11,462         | 12,817         | 12,842         | 12,935         | 13,174         | 13,348         | 13,366         |
| Ontario.....                  | 22,496         | 26,393         | 26,077         | 26,419         | 26,162         | 26,305         | 26,411         |
| Manitoba.....                 | 6,104          | 10,373         | 10,822         | 10,290         | 10,798         | 11,935         | 11,583         |
| Saskatchewan.....             | 9,439          | 9,545          | 9,699          | 9,779          | 9,775          | 9,962          | 10,646         |
| Alberta.....                  | 8,038          | 8,113          | 8,229          | 8,281          | 8,500          | 8,682          | 8,837          |
| British Columbia.....         | 24,581         | 24,781         | 25,172         | 25,370         | 25,399         | 25,737         | 25,694         |
| Yukon.....                    | 3,500          | 3,500          | 1,389          | 1,528          | 1,528          | 1,528          | 1,528          |
| Northwest Territories.....    | 13,871         | 5,262          | 8,030          | 4,928          | 4,003          | 3,769          | 3,764          |
| <b>Indians in Canada.....</b> | <b>103,661</b> | <b>104,956</b> | <b>106,490</b> | <b>103,774</b> | <b>103,531</b> | <b>105,561</b> | <b>105,998</b> |
| Eskimos.....                  | 4,600          | 4,600          | 3,447          | 3,447          | 3,447          | 3,296          | 3,296          |