

ments, the Commission may, with the consent of the Governor in Council, expropriate land and borrow money on debentures issued against the security of the real and other property of the harbour. For the harbours of Quebec, Montreal and Vancouver, the Dominion Government has advanced the Commissioners large sums against such debentures. All the Commissions are under the direct inspection of an official of the Marine Department and are subject to the jurisdiction of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries in all matters.

The following harbours are administered by a Commission, the date of the Act under which each Commission received its present constitution and powers being given:—Montreal, 1894; Quebec, 1899; Three Rivers, 1882 (amended 1923); Toronto, 1911; Hamilton, 1912; Belleville, 1889; Winnipeg and St. Boniface, 1912; Vancouver, 1913; New Westminster, 1913; North Fraser, 1913. The harbours of North Sydney and Pictou, Nova Scotia, were formerly under the Commission form of administration, but the legislation providing for Commissions in these harbours was repealed and all property and rights held by the Commissioners were re-vested in His Majesty by legislation passed in the years 1914 and 1920 respectively, repeal in each case being effective from the 1st of Jan. following.

V.—THE INDIANS OF CANADA.¹

The Indians of Canada number about 109,000, their numbers varying but slightly from year to year. A small yearly increase is evident, however, and the popular notion that the race is disappearing is not in accordance with facts. Before they were subjected to the degenerating effects of eastern civilization and the devastating results of the many colonial wars, the numbers of both the Indians and Eskimos were undoubtedly larger, but any reliable information as to the aboriginal population during either the French or the early British *régime* is non-existent, and there is no adequate basis for a comparison between the past and present aboriginal populations.

Administration.—Indians are minors under the law, and their affairs are administered by the Department of Indian Affairs under the authority of the Indian Act. This Department is the oldest governmental organization in the Dominion, dating back to the time of the Conquest. It was originally under the military authorities, and did not become a part of the civil administrative machinery until 1845. 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.

The system of reserves, whereby particular areas of land have been set apart solely for the use of Indians, has been established in Canada from the earliest times. It was designed in order to protect the Indians from encroachment, and to provide a sort of sanctuary where they could develop unmolested until advancing civilization had made possible their absorption into the general body of the citizens.

¹ The letter-press under this heading is taken in the main from the article contributed by the Department of Indian Affairs to the 1921 edition. Paragraphs on the linguistic stock and tribal origin of the Indian population, their industries and occupations, their health, sanitation and dwellings, appearing on pages 786-789 of the 1921 edition, are not reprinted.