

The local administration of the Indian bands on the reserves scattered throughout the Dominion is conducted through the Department's agencies, of which there are in all 116. The number of bands included in an agency varies from one to more than 30. The staff of an agency usually includes various officers in addition to the agent, such as medical officer, clerk, farm instructor, field matron, constable, stockman, etc., according to the special requirements of the agency in question. The work of the agencies is supervised by the Department's inspectors, each inspector having charge of a certain number of agencies. Expenditures upon destitute Indians are made by the Dominion Government, either from public funds or from tribal funds of the Indians themselves.

The Indian Act provides for the enfranchisement of Indians. When an Indian is enfranchised he ceases to be an Indian under the law and acquires the full status of citizenship. In the older provinces, where the Indians have been longer in contact with civilization, many are becoming enfranchised. Great discretion, however, is exercised by the Government in dealing with this problem, as Indians who become enfranchised lose the special protection attached to their wardship, so that it is necessary to guard against premature enfranchisement.

Treaties.—In the older eastern provinces, the history of the Indians has been one of slow development with that of the community. In western Ontario, the Prairie Provinces, and the Territories the situation has been different. There, the rapid spread of civilization made it necessary to take prompt and effective measures to protect the moral claims of the Indians, which are recognized by the Government. Accordingly, treaties were entered into with the Indians, whereby the latter ceded to the Crown their aboriginal title and interest in the country. In consideration of such cession the Crown agreed to set aside adequate reserves, make cash grants, provide per capita annuities, give assistance in agriculture, stock-raising, hunting, trapping, etc., as particular circumstances might require, provide education for the Indian children, and otherwise safeguard the Indians' interests. These treaties have been made from time to time as occasion arose and as new territories were opened up. No treaty has been made with the Indians of British Columbia, except in the Peace River Block, but their welfare has received no less attention from the Government on that account.

Government Expenditure.—On Mar. 31, 1936, the capital of the Indian Trust Fund, which a year earlier had amounted to \$13,810,673, had increased to \$13,877,863. The amounts expended from the Consolidated Revenue Fund were as follows: voted by Parliament for the purposes of the Department, \$4,628,503, Public Works Construction, \$292,900; and annuities by statute, \$240,105.

Statistics.—Statistical tables of population, school attendance, income and agricultural activities of the Indians in Canada follow. In Table 5 the populations for 1871-1931 are compiled from reports of the various censuses since Confederation, while the statistics and other information in the remaining tables are taken from the last Annual Report of the late Department of Indian Affairs. The Department takes a quinquennial census of Indians under its control, whereas census figures include all persons of Indian origin. The quinquennial census taken by the Department in 1934 showed a total of 112,510 as compared with 108,012 in 1929 and 104,894 in 1924, an increase of 7.3 p.c. in ten years. The details of the Census of 1934 are given in the Annual Report of the Department for that year. The figures of the decennial census include some thousands of persons of Indian race who are living off the reserves as ordinary citizens of Canada.