

102. According to the census of 1881 the Indian or native population of Canada was 108,547, and in 1891, according to the report of the Department of Indian Affairs, it was 121,638, being apparently an increase over 1881 of 13,091, but a decrease as compared with 1890 of 947. 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 last returns 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 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. The Indians, on 30th June, 1890 and 1891, respectively, were, according to the estimate of the Indian Department, distributed over the Dominion in the following numbers:—

	1890.	1891.
Ontario.....	17,776	17,915
Quebec.....	13,599	13,361
Nova Scotia.....	2,107	2,076
New Brunswick.....	1,569	1,521
Prince Edward Island.....	321	314
Manitoba and North-West Territories.....	25,743	25,195
Peace River district.....	2,038	2,038
Athabasca.....	8,000	8,000
Mackenzie.....	7,000	7,000
Eastern Ruperts' Land.....	4,016	4,016
Labrador, Canadian interior.....	1,000	1,000
Arctic coast.....	4,000	4,000
British Columbia.....	34,416	35,202
Total.....	<u>122,585</u>	<u>121,638</u>

103. 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 is particularly noticeable among the Blackfeet, who, until quite recently, had practically refused to allow any of their children to enter any boarding or industrial institution. The establishment of industrial and boarding schools at various points is of great importance, as these schools are calculated to have a much

Indian appreciation of education, on the increase.