

The last winter was exceptionally severe, and the cold following the heavy rains of last autumn caused the potatoes which were stored in pits to rot to some extent; some families lost all their seed potatoes. Fortunately, the prompt assistance afforded by the Department in sending seed potatoes enabled the Indians to plant a fair quantity; and if the season is favorable it is hoped that the yield will support the Indians during the coming winter. Only one Indian who was in want of seed failed, on account of sickness, to come for his share of that supplied by the Department.

When I heard in March last of the rebellion in the North-West Territories, I sent word to the Indians belonging to my district not to join the rebels should they be called to assist them. Soon after messengers from the different bands came, telling me that they had no intention of doing so, as they were contented with the treatment they received from the Great Mother the Queen and her councillors. They did not forget the last words that were spoken at the close of the treaty, to live friendly as long as the sun ruled the day and the streams of water ran.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. McPHERSON,
Indian Agent.

See further on in Part I of this Report for the first part of Agent McPherson's report.

SAVANNE AGENCY—TREATY No. 3, 19th August, 1885.

The Right Honorable
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit the following report and tabular statement in connection with the Indians of this agency, for the year ended 30th June, 1885.

Lac des Mille Lacs Band.

I visited this band on the 28th of May and distributed the garden seeds, and found only three families on the reserve; the remainder had not returned from their hunting grounds. They lost their seed potatoes from frost during the winter; furnished them with nine bushels for seed. Again visited the reserve on the 8th of July, paid them their annuity and distributed the provisions and supplies furnished by the Hudson Bay Company. The band elected two new councillors in place of Wiskaskanini and Magigisik, viz., John Pierre and Wasagisik, as they were neglecting their duty and absent from the reserve continually. The gardens are pretty well cultivated, but the crop is not so large as that of last year. They have one new house finished, and one partly completed, since last year. They have a barn and stable nearly completed, and are entitled yet to three cows. They wish for two oxen, in place of two of the cows. I furnished them with three scythes. They expect to have hay enough to be ready for the cattle in January. The chief thanked the Government for the clothing, and was well satisfied with the quantity and quality of the provisions furnished. There were two deaths and four births during the year.

Sturgeon Lake Band.

I visited this band on the 31st of May, and distributed their garden seeds. I found only three families on the reserve. Arrived here again on the 12th of July, and found no one on the reserve. The whole band were camped down the lake six miles, making canoes. They returned when I sent for them. I called a council and talked to them pretty strongly for neglecting their duties on the reserve, and having made no improvements for the last ten years. I paid them their annuities and distributed the supplies to the band and clothing to the chief and councillors on the 13th. They expressed themselves satisfied. They have no houses finished. There were no deaths or births during the year.

I have made arrangements with them, as well as with the Lac des Mille Lacs band, to send to Savanne, in the spring, for their seed, thus doing away with the expense of the spring trip.

Wabegon and Eagle Lake Band.

I paid this band their annuity, distributed the provisions and supplies, and the clothing for the chief and councillors on the 18th of July. They expressed themselves entirely satisfied. I inspected the gardens on the reserve, which were in poor condition, except as regards the potatoes. They have six houses in poor repair, three new houses partly built, and two cow stables, at Wabegon. The cattle are in splendid condition; last year's bull calf is to be given to Eagle Lake band, as theirs was accidentally drowned. The chief, and his son (a councillor), promised Mr. Inspector McColl to build a school house, but when the chief proposed it to the band they all opposed it. This band are self-sustaining; they catch plenty of fish and enjoy good hunting. There were two deaths and four births during the year.

Lac Seul Band.

I visited this band on 8th January, driving with us two cows for the band, which were handed over in good condition; the weather was extremely cold during the trip. I again visited this band, paid their annuity at Lac Seul on 22nd and 23rd July, distributed their provisions and supplies, also the chiefs' and councillors' clothing, with all which they were well pleased. I examined the gardens at Frenchman's Head and found them in excellent condition. They will have splendid crops of potatoes this year. Noikeejikwabe's band along with Kutechewanini's band wish to receive their annuity and provisions at their reserve at Frenchman's Head in future, instead of Lac Seul; the latter band wish a reserve for themselves outside of Frenchman's Head reserve. I inspected the school at Frenchman's Head, under Mr. Spence, of Selkirk, and found the pupils have made remarkable progress considering the school only opened on 1st June last; the daily average attendance is sixteen. The school house is a new substantial log building, 25 feet by 16 feet. Also inspected the school at Lac Seul, under Rev. James Irvine, His Lordship the Bishop of Rupert's Land being present; found twenty-eight names on the roll, with an average daily attendance of twenty; the several classes in reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic were fair.

I received three applications for commutation of their annuities from the wives of non-treaty persons with the sanction of the band, viz.: Young's wife, Magna; McIvor's wife, Hanna; and Kirkness' wife.

There were twenty-four births and sixteen deaths during the year.

I made arrangements with the chief to send to the railway line at Wabegon Tank in the spring for their seed.

There are some destitute Indians in this band (two blind and five infirm); they ask that a small supply of medicine and provisions be given them through Mr. McKenzie, the Hudson's Bay Company's agent at Lac Seul.

Mattawan and English River Band.

I paid this band their annuity, distributed the provisions and supplies and the clothing for the chief and councillors on 27th July. The Chief Sacketchway was on hand this year. He and about thirty others were absent last year. I found him very intelligent, though unable to speak English.

They received one ox and one cow in January last, sent *vid* Rat Portage; one ox died during the winter from some unknown cause (being fat when found dead). The chief and his followers wish a school established at their reserve at Pichowaykang, the teacher to be Church of England. They will build the school house and have it ready by time of payment next year, when they expect to receive the furniture.

On the 29th July I visited the other part of their reserve at Grasse Narrows, under Papahsay; found their gardens, consisting chiefly of potatoes, in good condition. At this place there are twelve houses built which are very poor; four new ones partly constructed are better; I found the school house locked and Mr. O'Keefe, the

teacher, gone. Otcheeke opened the door. I found the books and slates in good order, the writing in copy books creditable; there were First Readers, Second Readers, grammars, books of history and geography; no furniture of any account except an old stove. The building is a very poor one. Father Marcoux, wishes to take charge of this school and repair it, so that they may receive the grant for schools.

Thirty-two persons were paid arrears, they being absent last year. There were nine births and one death during the year.

"Mackinack" No. 13, a destitute Indian, asks for a small supply of medicine and provisions to be given him through Mr. Matheson, Hudson Bay Company's agent at Rat Portage.

At the payment of each band I took special pains to get the census and statistics from each family to ensure the preparation of a correct tabular statement.

Respectfully presenting the above report,

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN McINTYRE,

Indian Agent.

See further on in Part I of this Report for the first part of Agent McIntyre's report.

BIRTYLE AGENCY—TREATY No. 4, 24th July, 1885.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,

Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose the tabular statement and inventories of my agency for the past year, and in connection therewith beg to make the following remarks:—

A great deal of misery would have ensued among the Indians if the Department had not rendered considerable assistance during the past winter.

It was found necessary to purchase a large portion of the seed wheat and barley, and in the northern reserves at Fort Pelly potatoes had to be freighted in at very great expense and risk, this perishable seed having to be moved in March, so as to get it to its destination before the roads broke up.

It is pleasing to report that the Indians prepared a great deal of their land last fall, and thus in many instances were enabled to get their crops in early this spring. So great was the enthusiasm to sow that it was found judicious to provide a very large quantity of seed beyond that allowed by the Department. The result has been that all the working Indians have good large crops, which having been planted early generally look well, and the encouragement given them has resulted in many instances in a large quantity of new land having been broken, and for the first time in Indian farming in my agency considerable summer fallowing is now being done, and I feel assured that the advantages of this practice having been once clearly proved by the Indians themselves, will be followed by the disappearance of the greatest drawback to Indians' success as agriculturists—late sowing.

It has been the custom, in former years, to give each family requiring seed a very limited quantity of potatoes, and consequently, on most reserves, there were never enough raised to last over the winter and furnish seed in the spring. This year the Department having sanctioned the arrangement I recommended, every family planted a sufficient quantity of potatoes, and I supplied them with the requisite seed, which is to be returned after harvest in an equivalent of wheat, which will be ground for the destitute. I have taken care that these potatoes should be well hoed, and the promise of a bountiful potato crop is almost assured.

The outbreak of the rebellion naturally greatly excited my Indians, and some of the more timid ones fled to the hills, leaving their gardens unplanted, and have made their living by hunting, which they propose to follow this winter, returning next spring to farm.

I am happy to report, however, that I had no difficulty during that trying time in managing my Indians, and greater exertions than ever were made by them towards self-support; and generally the Indians conducted themselves as if they had no sympathies with the rebellion.

Instructor Lawford having replaced the former instructor among the Assiniboines at Moose Mountain, a great impetus was given to the work, and both Pheasant Rump's and Red Ears' bands have done their best. Unfortunately, they have suffered terribly from consumption and scrofula, the death rate during the cold weather and early spring having been enormous. Dr. Redmond, late fleet surgeon, R. N., having been taken out to visit these bands, after carefully examining all the Indians showing any symptoms of disease, reported that the above diseases were the main causes of the numerous deaths, the secondary causes being dirt and ill-ventilated houses. To these might be added, I think, the sudden change from fresh meat on the prairies to flour and bacon in comparative confinement. But in spite of this calamity, as remarked before, both bands have done all that they possibly could with the means at their disposal, and have cheerfully followed all the instructions given by Mr. Lawford. Each family has planted plenty of potatoes, and the wheat promises to be an excellent crop. Both these bands have taken good care of their cattle, and have broken a quantity of new land, as it will be necessary to summer fallow a good deal of the old next year. A school house is under construction for these reserves, and I hope to see it opened before next winter.

The Cree reserve, under White Bear, at the east end of Moose Mountain, also has had the assistance of a good instructor, Mr. A. Campbell having been employed since 1st April, and, as a result, they have made great progress this year, all their crops, when I saw them, in June, promising well, while the bands at that time were busily breaking new land. This band has not suffered from consumption nearly as much as the western bands, for they are better hunters, and get a good deal of fresh meat in consequence.

At Gambler's reserve, at the mouth of Silver Creek, those farming have done well, and the good crops and neat fences speak for themselves; but many of the workers in this reserve fled to the Duck Mountain at the outbreak of the rebellion, and have not since returned. Considerable breaking has been done, and some old land summer fallowed, and good use has been made of all the animals and tools at their disposal. A very much better feeling exists among this band than formerly, and from being one of the most troublesome to control, they are now very easily managed.

Of the Lizard Point or Way-way-sa-ca-po band I can say but little; during the trying times they behaved wonderfully well, although I was prepared for serious trouble, but they sowed very little grain, their oxen being, as usual, very poor; they have, however, planted a lot of potatoes, which have been all well attended to. This band have, from the commencement, received more help than any other in my agency, and every device has been adopted to make workers of them, but without success; gambling is very prevalent among them, and interrupts their work at the most important times.

Riding Mountain and Rolling River reserves having been out of my control for a year, were returned to me this spring. Both the bands are about in the same condition as usual. The former are excellent hunters, and are well dressed and contented, and while all plant a few potatoes only a few pretend to farm. This year these have planted considerable and have broken a quantity of new land, proposing to summer fallow most of their old fields next season. They have cost the Department little, and were well behaved during the excitement. A school under Presbyterian supervision is still in operation on this reserve, but owing to the nomadic habits of the majority of the band the attendance is small.

At Rolling River there is a farm instructor, Pierre Contoise, and a very nice crop has been put in, which looks well. But the Indians prefer working and loafing around Minnedosa to settling permanently on the reserve. They are little expense to the

Department, and they will become more settled in time, when they see the advantages to be gained.

At Fort Pelly the potatoes, by careful attention and keeping them scrupulously weeded, with a moderately open fall, will result in a fair crop. Many of these Indians are now summer following the wheat and barley land, and are ready to try again next spring. All the freighting possible has been given to the Indians themselves.

At the Keys reserve a school is now running under Church of England auspices, and promises well.

The Kee-see-konse band possess the most successful Indian school I have yet seen. It is conducted by the Roman Catholics, and I have just received a very good letter in English from a pupil of only eighteen months' attendance.

The Cotà band, at Crow Stand, south of Pelly, under Joseph Cotà, son of the old chief, lately deceased, are taking great care of their cattle, of which, departmental and private, they have now over one hundred head.

All the bands behaved well during the troubles, and never caused the slightest uneasiness.

The Sioux bands under my control have made great strides during the last year, and have now three hundred head of cattle. Many of them have large fields, one having sown sixty bushels of wheat, besides other grain, and at one reserve (Oak River) nearly one thousand bushels of potatoes have been planted. They gave no trouble, and indeed offered their services as scouts during the troubles. There has been a great deal of consumption among these bands, and during the last year over fifty have died. At Oak River eleven men have died out of eighty-eight heads of families, and seventeen children under three years old. This is very distressing, and is hard to account for—the change of diet, owing to the failure of hunting, and scrofula, being probably the main cause. Still, several deaths have resulted from whiskey, in spite of the strenuous exertions adopted to put down the sale of this deadly Indian poison.

Only two Indians have been punished for crimes in my district during the year.

The constant cry is for more agricultural implements, and many reapers, mowers and waggons are being acquired whenever an opportunity offers.

The now certain construction of railroads in this district will give a better market for Indian products, and enable the various bands to get means to promote a more rapid advance.

The prospect of a bountiful harvest, if fulfilled, together with a ready cash sale for the grain, will do more to advance agriculture among the Indians than all the agents and farm instructors that can be employed.

In conclusion, I may say that all the employés in my agency have performed their duties faithfully and energetically, and have greatly tended to the generally contented feeling among the Indians.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

L. W. HERCHMER,
Indian Agent.

TREATY No 4, N. W. T.,
INDIAN HEAD AGENCY, 4th October, 1885.

The Right Honorable
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa,

SIR,—I have the honor to forward my annual report with tabular statement, and a return of all Departmental property in my care, with the value of the same.

The cattle in several instances were not as well wintered as in former years, on account of the loss of hay from prairie fires. The greatest sufferers were the File Hill bands.

A school was opened on Little Black Bear's reserve, File Hills, during the fall, it proved, however, a failure, owing to the little interest evinced by the parents of the children, and their final withdrawal previous to the trouble in the spring, caused it to be closed.

The children on Gordon's reserve attended school regularly, until the teacher was incapacitated by a serious illness. The school was kept in one of the mission buildings; during the winter logs for the construction of a school house were cut and drawn to a site where the building is to be erected.

A school house has been commenced on Little Child's reserve, and school houses completed and ready for use on Pasqua's and the Assiniboine reserves.

During the winter I accompanied the Rev. Father Hugonnard, Principal of the Industrial School, to the reserves, and in a short time got nearly the number of scholars allowed that institution. The parents, as a rule, were pleased to have their children educated, and in no instance were any taken without the full consent of the parent and the willingness of the child.

From want of proper clothing a good deal of suffering was experienced during the winter. Through the instrumentality of the Rev. Mr. McKay the Crooked Lakes Indians proved an exception, as a quantity of clothing sent by a society of ladies in Toronto, presided over by a Mrs. Murray, and of the value of two thousand dollars, was distributed among them.

Sickness was not as general as during the previous winter, and deaths were very much less frequent. The former, I think, may be attributed to the issue of fresh fish twice or three times a week.

A fair area of new land was broken during the fall, and when spring set in every exertion was made to get the Indians to sow wheat as soon as the frost was sufficiently out of the ground to permit harrowing.

A very liberal supply of seeds of all kinds was distributed throughout the reserves, and owing to the troubles then existing in Treaty No. 6, every effort was made to keep the Indians constantly at work.

Immediately after the fight at Duck Lake messengers were sent by the rebel leaders to my Indians, with exaggerated reports of their victory over the police, and calling upon them to seize the provisions and ammunition, and go and join them. They were also told if our troops were successful in the north they would receive the same fate from the hands of our men on their return east. We can judge how unsettled the ignorant Indians must have been. For a time they fully expected to be punished, whether they took up arms against the Government or not.

The greatest trouble I had to overcome was to make them believe that the troops going north would only fight if forced by the half-breeds and Indians to do so; those who remained on their reserves, and took no part whatever would be considered loyal, and would receive protection from our hands.

During these anxious times, I was greatly assisted by a few intelligent Indians, who co-operated with me, and whose influence I brought to bear on the rest; their names have already been forwarded in a special report. I again wish to bring them favorably before your notice, for I think they deserve some substantial recognition for the faithful manner in which they stood by me.

Although, with all the false reports retailed to these Indians, and the excitement throughout the district even among the white population, I am pleased to be able to report that they managed to put 1,590 acres under crop, and (with few exceptions) in good shape, and I expect many will show fair returns.

I am sorry to be obliged to report that several raids were committed on settlers' houses, and private property was destroyed by the File Hill Indians. They kept me constantly on the alert during the spring, owing to their unsettled state, at times leaving their reserves in a body; it made the settlers in the vicinity of these reserves uneasy. More extensive raids would, in my opinion, have been made had the settlers left their homesteads, for it would have been to the Indian as an invitation to help himself.

Raids were also made in the York colony on settlers' houses, and valuable cattle were killed. As soon as time permitted, I called on the settlers who had reported their

losses, and from the description given of the Indians who were implicated in the raids, I am glad to say I discovered the guilty parties, who are now serving terms of imprisonment in the penitentiary.

Until matters in the west had a successful issue, I considered it injudicious to cause any excitement whatever in Treaty No. 4 by making arrests. The conciliatory policy I pursued I considered the wisest.

Since then I have been exerting every effort to discover the parties implicated in the File Hill raids, and I hope soon to accomplish their arrest.

The Indians are gradually commencing to look upon their reserves as their homes, and during the past year kept on them more closely.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

A. McDONALD,
Indian Agent.

PAS AGENCY—TREATY No. 5,
CUMBERLAND, 2nd July, 1885.

The Right Honorable
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—In accordance with your instructions, dated Ottawa, 8th April, 1885, I beg to submit my annual report on Indian affairs in this agency, together with the accompanying tabular statement and list of Government property, including office furniture, for the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1885.

On the 21st of July last I left my office *en route* to Winnipeg for the annuity money, arriving there on the 30th. A few days were spent in town, during which time I received from the Department a number of letters, and wrote some besides.

On the 4th of August, accompanied by Mr. L. J. Arthur Leveque, as assistant, I left Winnipeg to make the payments at Grand Rapids and up the river. On the 30th of August the Grand Rapid Indians received their annuities. After the payment I examined the gardens, where but a poor prospect of supplies for the winter presented itself, the summer frosts having cut off most of the garden seeds and many of the potatoes. From Grand Rapids we proceeded to Chemawawin, where the payment was made on the 20th of August. On this reserve there is but little land under cultivation; but after I passed down on my way to Winnipeg, these Indians broke some fair patches.

From Chemawawin we proceeded to Moose Lake, and were compelled to travel all night on the lake, in order to make the payment on the reserve at the appointed date. Moose Lake is a poor place for farming, but an excellent lake for fish. If these Indians have sufficient nets they need never starve. The gardens were examined, but the crops appeared very poor.

On the 25th of August we left Moose Lake, arriving at the Pas on the 27th. On the same day the supplies were delivered to the chief and councillors, and the day following the Indians received their annuities.

The Pas is a large reserve, and the gardens are scattered over a large tract of land. I examined every garden I possibly could, and found a good amount of new land broken, but the crops seemed a failure.

From the Pas to Birch River and Cumberland and back to the Pas again it rained almost every day. The payments, therefore, on these reserves, were made under difficulties. At Birch River the payment took place on the 5th of September. Running from the Saskatchewan River through part of this reserve there is a portage of three miles' length to the Indian settlement. I went across the same day and examined the gardens. Here, too, I found more new land broken and a general desire to cultivate the soil, and some of the houses presented a better appearance. But there is

altogether too little land under cultivation on this reserve to supply the Birch River Indians with sufficient food for the winter. The crops here probably suffered from summer frosts more than any other reserve in this agency last season.

On Saturday, the 6th September, I left Birch River, arriving at Cumberland in the evening. The payment was made on this reserve the following Monday and Tuesday. Here, too, owing to the long drought and summer frosts, the crops were almost a failure.

At Cumberland I stayed several days writing, while Mr. Lèveque completed the pay sheets.

On the evening of the 12th September I left Cumberland House, reaching the office on the 15th, having been somewhat hindered by the rain.

The vaccine matter with which I was supplied by the Department I delivered in portions to the respective Hudson Bay officers in this district, except at the Pas, for which I reserved a certain amount. Later on I went down to the Pas reserve and vaccinated about sixty children.

During the fall I visited Moose Lake and Chemawawin, in order to ascertain the number of sick and destitute Indians, and to arrange for the completion of the Chemawawin school house.

The winter set in very early indeed, so that the Indians were not prepared either with potatoes or fish.

Since I arrived at Grand Rapids, on the 26th ultimo, I have received statistics which show nearly two and a-half bushels of potatoes per head gathered. The Indians need not starve at any time if they have sufficient twine, as it is an excellent place for fish.

At Grand Rapids in the fall some of the Indians kill large numbers of whitefish, from which they make oil, most of which, however, they sell; they dry part of the flesh, but throw the rest away.

At Chemawawin and Moose Lake the fish are also numerous in the fall, but the Indians do not possess adequate means for laying up a proper store for the winter.

At the Pas and Cumberland, and in fact everywhere in this agency, except at Birch River and the Pas Mountain, large numbers of fish can be caught in the fall. But the very early setting in of the winter last season rendered the fall fishing unsuccessful.

The musk rat, upon which many of these Indians in the spring and fall have chiefly lived, was almost extinct. From beginning to end it was, therefore, a very exceptional winter in this district, and there is every reason to believe that but for the aid rendered by the Department not a few would have undoubtedly succumbed to the effects of privation.

During the winter I visited the Pas reserve a number of times, and witnessed the actual condition of the Indians. Providentially, the rabbits were numerous the former part of the winter, but for three months—January to March—many of those in the Pas, Birch River and the Pas Mountain suffered keenly. It was impossible to supply food as it was actually needed, for there was not sufficient in the district. Undoubtedly, the amount of relief given last winter, though unprecedentedly large, has been the means of preserving numbers of these Indians alive. The ex-chief, John Bell, at the Pas, asked me, a short time ago, to convey his gratitude to the great mother for the relief thus given.

As the winter advanced, and seeing the condition the Pas Indians were in, I persuaded them as far as they could to scatter and hunt rabbits, and angle for trout far away, giving them, on behalf of the Department, some twine and hooks.

In the early part of the winter I examined the two schools on the Pas reserve. At the Pas proper there has been a school for many years; but the children at present do not make such progress as might be expected. The Eddy school was opened last October by Mr. Louis Abenakew—an educated Indian from Assissippi mission in the Saskatchewan. Under his tuition the children are learning fast. Mr. Abenakew also teaches his pupils to translate the English books into Cree.

About the same time an Indian came from the Pas Mountain, telling me of the privation from which the band were suffering, and asking for relief. I sent a small amount, and promised to visit their reserve.

In the month of December I visited Birch River, the Pas Mountain and Cumberland reserve. The Birch River Indians were still killing some rabbits, but the Mountain Indians were suffering from want. At Red Earth most of the men were away trying to catch a few diminutive jack-fish they had discovered in a certain creek. I immediately persuaded five men to go Cumberland with horses and dogs for provisions to relieve those in distress.

While at Cumberland I examined the school; but the attendance was not very large, owing to some of the parents having taken their children away for the winter. Those who do attend regularly are progressing fairly. The teacher, Mr. W. E. Boddome, has good ground to work upon, owing to the admirable way in which the former teacher, the Reverend J. W. Davis, conducted the school.

In February I visited the reserves down the river, viz., Moose Lake, about seventy miles from my office, Chemawawin, some thirty miles from Moose Lake, and Grand Rapids, about forty-three miles from Chemawawin.

At Moose Lake the school was kept last winter by Mr. J. R. Settee, of the Church Missionary Society, in his dwelling house. The children were making but very poor progress indeed, and it appeared very inconvenient to teach in such close quarters. The Government school house is partly built, and the Indians intended sawing boards before spring. They were, however, considerably hindered from accomplishing their purpose by having to search twice for a missing Indian, whom they ultimately found dead.

The school at Chemawawin, from its commencement last August, till this summer, was kept in a house belonging to Councillor James Lathlin. The teacher, Mr. Chas. Lindsay, appears to try his best to bring on his simple-minded scholars, and considering the disadvantages under which he labors, fair progress is being made. On my way down the river last week I examined the Government school house which the Indians have endeavored to finish. It is not altogether completed, but is already in use.

At Grand Rapids, during my winter visit, there was not much to be done but to arrange for the completion of the school house, and to hear of the quarrels of these Indians, one with another. One was accused of having beaten his wife, and on being tried, pleaded guilty. He was told the state of the law, and warned that on a second offence he would be punished.

The day I left Grand Rapids on my return journey I believe the thermometer registered fifty degrees below zero, with a strong head wind. The snow was deep throughout the district.

In the month of April there was an election of a new chief for the Pas Band, and one councillor for the Pas Mountain, held at the Pas. Deputations came from the Pas Mountain and Birch River. On the 8th of April the Indians made their election in a very quiet, peaceable manner. Antoine Constant, jun., was elected chief for the whole band, and Baptiste Young as councillor for the Pas Mountain. After the election I delivered a lecture in Cree, endeavoring to point out to the Indians their actual condition, and the means of rising out of it, the subject of the lecture being, "The Indian as he is, and as he might be, in winter, spring, summer and fall."

Early in May the news of the rebellion reached us. But from that date to this I have seen no signs of disloyalty among these bands. This I believe to be chiefly owing to the benefits of religion which, for many years, they have learned to appreciate. Even the heathen Indians in this district appear to be influenced to a certain extent by christianity; for it is now over forty years since the Church Missionary Society sent missionaries into this part. Some Pas Mountain Indians who, I believe, had been living at or near Fort à la Corne, fled back to the mountain, not wishing to join the rebellion.

Later on, in May, I went down to the Pas, to enquire about seed for the Indians, but found that only garden seeds had arrived. I taught the Indians how to sow these, and sowed some for them. As no seed grain had arrived, I told them I considered the reason was, that nothing could be freighted by way of Prince Albert, owing to the rebellion. A telegram afterwards came, saying that potatoes were to be given to the various bands in this agency. Both at Cumberland and at the Pas the number of bushels mentioned could not be supplied, so that on almost every reserve there is land broken, but not utilised this year. This is especially the case at the Pas and Birch River, the gardens of which reserves I examined a few days before I left the office, on the 22nd ult. The garden seeds in many cases, and also some potatoes, are already frozen, or, as regards the former, destroyed by grubs. It seems, therefore, probable, that the Indians of this agency will not be in a position next winter to support themselves from the produce of their gardens.

The new chief at the Pas appears to be interested in the welfare of his Indians, and is trying to persuade them to occupy the reserve; for hitherto they have lived in too close proximity to each other, and they themselves have thus been the main cause of sickness and starvation in the winter.

After my visit to the Pas, Birch River and Cumberland, I left the office on the twenty-second ultimo to go into Winnipeg for the annuity money, and came here on the twenty-sixth, where I am still waiting for the lake steamer.

The Indians at Grand Rapids have professedly finished the Government school house; and although not executed in the best style, it at least does them credit. They are now waiting for a teacher to occupy the building.

During the spring my time was partly occupied in preparing an office and store-house separate from the dwelling house.

The office work comprises interviews with Indians, reading, registering, and filing letters received, and writing letters, journals, reports and other documents, examining other accounts, and making out my own. Since I wrote my last annual report about one hundred and seventy letters have been received, registered and filed; and three hundred and sixty have been written and copied, some of which have been written in duplicate.

During the winter Indians would come to me saying they could not kill fish, and pleaded for relief. Numbers called in hungry on their way to and fro on the portage leading to Clear Water Lake. It was impossible to do otherwise than relieve such cases.

In conclusion I beg to be allowed respectfully to remark that as regards the morality of the Indians of this agency it will compare favorably with that of the same number of any other Indians I have known, or even with whites. They are, for the most part, professedly christians, do observe the Lord's day, and delight to hear the word of God. Some of them can read the Scriptures in their own language, and not a few have family prayers. They are particularly fond of music, and scarcely ever pray without first singing. They visit each other in sickness; and when any one dies much sympathy is manifested, by a number of men taking part in making the coffin, by others (men and women) visiting the bereaved, and many following to the grave.

There are comparatively but few heathens in this agency, but these, though apparently perfectly harmless, are somewhat tenacious in endeavoring to preserve the remnants of their forefathers' superstition.

But while thus setting forth the good qualities of these Indians, it is only right to report on their improvident and other bad habits, in order that their actual condition may be known by the Department.

It is with regret that I have to report that during the past year there have been three cases of immoral conduct, two at the Pas and one at Grand Rapids. Besides these, two cases, at least, of wife-beating, have been brought to my notice.

The improvident, wasteful and idle habits of many are too palpable to be passed unnoticed. The first is common among all Indians I have ever known, with some few exceptions. It appears to me that, owing to the extremities to which they are

reduced in winter, when even women have to leave their children to fetch wood from a distance, and to catch a few fish, if possible, in order to live, after the long winter is over and when the fish are numerous and but little wood is required, a feeling of irresistible relaxation creeps stealthily over them; so that in the midst of plenty they forget the hardships of winter. Men and boys loaf around the various forts playing at chess or cards; not because they do not like to work for the Hudson Bay Company or for any one else, but because there is not sufficient work for all, and they prefer seeing wages for their work, which they practically think they do not while working for themselves, although a good stock of dried fish and floating wood would be of more permanent use to them than many dollars. Many of these Indians are often very idle in summer, and will give almost anything for tea and other luxuries. During the course of a year a considerable portion of their earnings is, I believe, spent in tobacco, which appears to me to be undermining their very constitution. In the absence of tobacco, some will smoke a certain weed, which appears to be still more injurious.

For their wastefulness, there is no excuse whatever; for the winter is too long and hard to admit of even a jack-fish being thrown away in the summer.

Their domestic habits are very reprehensible. Although most of them have cast off their old heathen customs and have embraced christianity, they still retain habits of uncleanness and untidiness. These, together with (in the majority of cases) their small and miserable houses (well nigh full of occupants), are productive of disease, and probably in some instances lead to premature death. All these matters, and others besides, I put before the Pas Indians in the form of a lecture this last spring, and would fain hope it has not been in vain.

Owing to their uncleanly habits and the suffering which they endure in the winter is probably due the fact that for the last seven years their numbers have been somewhat fluctuating. Their increase is comparatively very small, and any epidemic that comes amongst them makes great havoc, especially among the children.

Finally, I beg to bear testimony to the fact that, besides what is given by the Department, the Church Missionary Society and the Hudson Bay Company render to these Indians material assistance in the winter, the former by freely distributing clothing among the poorest, and the latter by liberally relieving many cases of starvation. Both the society and the company have shown great kindness to me in my travels among the various bands, wherever each or both are represented.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. READER,

Indian Agent.

See further on, in Part I. of this Report, for the first part of Agent Reader's report.

BEREN'S RIVER AGENCY—TREATY No. 5, 16th August, 1885.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit my report on Indian affairs in this agency for the fiscal year ended the 30th June, 1885.

On the 1st October last, after having finished the annuity payments of 1884-85, I forwarded the first part of this my annual report for the months of July, August and September, 1884;* therefore, I will now confine my remarks to matters which came under my notice subsequent to that date.

Owing to good fall fisheries, an abundance of rabbits and deer plentiful, together with good winter fishing near almost every reserve under my supervision, the Indians did not suffer for want of food during the winter, excepting, perhaps, a few who were sick, old or too improvident and lazy to secure food when it could be got with but little exertion or trouble.

* See further on, in Part I. of this Report, for the first part of Agent McKay's report.

On the 29th November last I made enquiries of the Department, by letter, asking whether it was required of me to visit the different reserves during the winter time, and, if so, what number of men and dog trains would be allowed me for conveyance from one reserve to another. To this enquiry I received no answer; therefore, I was unable to visit the Indian schools during the winter. On the 21st March I received a letter from the Department, instructing me, if in my opinion the season was not too far advanced, to visit the different bands of Indians within my agency; but on account of not having received instructions in time as to manner of transport, the spring having already set in and the ice getting bad in some places, I was unable to visit the different reserves, excepting those of Poplar River, Norway House and Beren's River.

I believe that during last spring the Indians in this part of Treaty 5 were again supplied with seed potatoes, together with a variety of garden seeds. The Indians, with but very few exceptions, make no effort to put seed in the ground in proper time, neither do they, as a rule, attend to their gardens as they should during summer; therefore, the yearly failure of their gardens.

On my visit to the Norway House reserve last spring, I ascertained that they, as well as the Cross Lake band, had succeeded very well in their fur hunt during the winter and spring, the season's hunt about doubling that of previous years.

The majority of the Indians of Fisher River, Loon Straits, Hollow Water and Black River reserves, gain their livelihood during winter by working at the different saw mills in their neighborhood, and by selling fish to traders for the Manitoba and some United States markets.

The Loon Straits and Jack Head bands are much disappointed at not getting school teachers. They ask that they be supplied as soon as possible. Mr. Timothy Bear, an Indian from Fisher River band, had been allowed to temporarily teach at Poplar River, but his work was very unsatisfactory; he was, therefore, allowed to vacate his position as temporary teacher on the 30th June last. The Cross Lake school, temporarily under the management of Mr. G. Garrioch, is doing fairly well. At Norway House reserve the Methodist Missionary Society still keep up their school. Last year it was under the management of Miss Parkinson, and is now ably conducted by Rev. J. Simmens, while he is about the reserve, and when his mission duties call him away for a short time he employs some one to keep it open until he returns. This, I am sorry to say, is a drawback to the school, which is, however, getting along very well. The Government school on the Norway River, under the management of Mr. A. A. Macdonald, is, I am sorry to say, very poorly and irregularly attended by the pupils. Mr. Macdonald's qualification as a teacher cannot be disputed; but the Indians do not take that interest which they should in sending their children to school; consequently, very few are benefited by it.

So far, the Methodist mission school at Beren's River reserve, under the management of Miss Gussie Parkinson, has been a complete failure. It was opened against the wishes of the great majority of the band, about the 20th of November last, and was the cause of a great deal of disturbance and ill-feeling among the Indians; consequently, only very few children went to school, and those who did go attended very irregularly.

As I was unable to visit the Jack Head, Fisher River, Blood Vein, Loon Straits, Hollow Water and Black River reserves, for the reasons already given, I am not just now in a position to give a correct report, from personal observation or otherwise, either on schools or other matters.

On the 19th June I left Beren's River Indian agency in a York boat, in order to get the money to make annuity payments to the several bands of Indians under my supervision in Treaty No. 5. After considerable delay, caused by contrary winds, I arrived at Winnipeg on Saturday, the 27th June, when my time was fully taken up, until the end of the month, with work in connection with the annuity payments.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. MACKAY,
Indian Agent.

BATTLEFORD AGENCY—TREATY No. 6,
BATTLEFORD, 20th July, 1885.

The Right Honorable
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—During summer a good deal of new land was broken, new fences put up, and a large quantity of hay cut.

The payments went off quietly, and, owing to competition goods were sold at a remarkably low figure, which enabled the Indians to clothe themselves and their families better than usual.

Rabbits were plentiful during winter, and this helped them greatly in their food supply, and all seemed happy and contented with their lot till about January, when messengers began to come and go from all sections of the country, and I saw there was uneasiness among them. In February the Indians cut 300 cords of wood for the contractor who supplied the industrial school, and 500 cords for the Mounted Police. This enabled them to procure clothing and other necessaries, and all appeared contented. Then I found that messengers were being sent from Riel to them, and I visited the reserves frequently, trying to quiet their fears, for amongst other things they were told that soldiers were on their way, either to make them (the Indians) soldiers, or kill them. From confidential men whom I had amongst them I found that all were very uneasy and unsettled. On the 24th March I started to visit the reserves, going first to Sweet Grass' reserve, then to Poundmaker's and Little Pine's. Knowing the temper of the Indians, I took out presents of tea and tobacco for each band. On my arrival at these reserves I found the Indians very sulky, though they had nothing to complain of, nor did they make any demands. I gave each band the tea and tobacco I had brought out for them, but even this did not seem to cheer them. On Saturday, the 28th, I visited the Stonies, and gave them also tea and tobacco. They seemed glad to get it, and had no complaints to make. Their instructor (Payne) said: "I believe the Crees are up to mischief, and in case you need assistance the Stonies will fight for the whites; they told me so." Poor, fellow! his confidence in them was misplaced, for on the following Monday he was murdered by them in cold blood.

On Sunday morning I was astonished at getting word that the Indians from the various reserves (excepting Moosomin's and Thunder Child's) were within eight miles of Battleford, and all armed and in their war paint, and, later in the day, that they had already raided the houses of settlers *en route*. On Monday they raided the stores and houses in the town south of Battle River, reports of which you have already had. Horses and waggons were taken from farmers coming in with their families, and they were glad to escape with their lives.

The bands of Moosomin and Thunder Child, hearing what was about to take place, moved north of the Saskatchewan before the insurrection took place, taking with them their oxen and supplies, or at least as much as they could, but the river was breaking up and the crossing was most dangerous. All the other bands joined in the rebellion. There is one man, Baptiste, brother to Chief Red Pheasant, who deserves equal credit with Moosomin and Thunder Child, as he saved Instructor Applegarth's life by helping him to get away from the reserve; as it was, Applegarth had to leave all his goods behind, and they were being taken by Indians before his eyes while he was getting the horses and waggon ready to make a start.

The Indians, in their madness, destroyed everything in their way. Seed grain was emptied out and mixed with flour and bacon. Cattle were killed by the dozen. Mowers and reapers were smashed, and wheels of sulky rakes cut to pieces. Tools and implements were wantonly destroyed. The scene after the surrender is almost indescribable, and the loss to the Government in cattle, implements, seed grain and provisions, is tremendous. Of the latter, there were enough on the reserves to last till the end of June.

After the surrender it was too late to put in much of a crop, but some barley, potatoes and turnips were got in on each reserve. Since then most of the Indians

have got back to their reserves and are working fairly well, and are busy summer fallowing all the land not in crop. Owing to the late experience, I only send out enough provisions for one week at a time, and though this occasions frequent trips, I deem it the safest plan.

Owing to so much being destroyed, the expenditure for next season will be very heavy, as, if the Indians are to continue farming, cattle and implements will have to be replaced and seed grain brought in for next season, as there has been very little of anything sown this season. Besides the many statements, returns and books kept, 2,800 letters have been despatched from this office during the past year.

Annexed please find tabular statement.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

J. M. RAE,
Indian Agent.

EDMONTON, N.W.T.—TREATY No. 6, 26th August, 1885.

The Right Honorable
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit my annual report for the year ended 30th June, 1885, together with the tabular statement.

During the first part of the year I found all the Indians in this district quiet and orderly, showing a disposition to cultivate the soil and make a living at agriculture, and they made fair progress.

In October I made the annuity payments to all the bands in the district, excepting that portion between Victoria and Lac la Biche, which was attended to by the agency clerk, Mr. Mitchell, acting under my instructions, and all payments were made without trouble or disturbance. Although the season was very late, the weather was fine the greater portion of the time, an unusual occurrence at that late time.

During the payments the Indian Commissioner made a tour of inspection, and pleased the Indians very much by promising the various bands more working oxen, of which they stood in great need. Acting under his instructions, I purchased a fine lot of animals, which were duly distributed.

The Commissioner made a change in the district, being of the opinion that it was too large to receive proper attention from one agent, dividing it into three, the southern portion being placed in charge of Mr. S. B. Lucas, and including the bands of Samson, Ermine Skin, Bobtail and Sharphead, the eastern or Victoria portion being in charge of Mr. J. A. Mitchell, and including the bands of Muskgiwatic and Blue Quill, at Saddle Lake, and James Seenum, Pecycasis and Keganum and Antoine, further north, thus leaving me the middle and western portion, including the bands of Enoch, Pass-pass-chase, Alexander, Alexis and Michel, and the St. Albert mission, orphans and stragglers.

Mr. Mitchell was placed in charge of the Victoria district in May.

During the rebellion all the bands in the district were in an unsettled condition, owing to the presence of messengers from Riel, Big Bear and others, who told them to be in readiness to take up arms and raid the Government and Hudson Bay Company's stores. They at once put on war paint, even to the small boys, armed themselves and held dances, at which they became very much excited and boastful.

I removed all the stores to the Hudson Bay Company fort, which was strongly fortified and garrisoned by a company of volunteers. All the available arms in the country were brought to the fort and at once distributed amongst the volunteers and the outlying settlers who had sought refuge therein. These preparations kept the Indians from open revolt.

Pass-pass-chase, the chief of the Two Hills band, deserves much credit for the stand he maintained throughout the troubles. He used all his influence to discourage the dances and keep down the excitement, and was successful with the majority of his band. Some restless spirits did not behave well, but committed no overt acts. They were in such a state that it only required the presence of a small party of the rebels to cause open revolt. The arrival of Gen. Strange and the news of Gen. Middleton's successes intimidated them, causing an immediate settling down to work and many professions of loyalty.

I wish to state that Farming Instructor O'Donnell, and his assistant, Mr. Ridgdale, of Rivière Qui Barr, deserve the highest credit for their action during the above excitement. They remained at their posts at much personal risk, and although their stock was run off several times, they immediately gave chase and recovered it. The Indians fired the bridge and tried to burn the farm buildings, but the instructor saved all. An old medicine man named Peetokohan, tried to induce Alexander's band to kill their cattle, but Mr. O'Donnell was successful in preventing it. He also kept Alexis' band in proper bounds and managed to get them to put in a fair crop. In this he was ably seconded by Michel and his band, who remained perfectly quiet and loyal throughout.

In spite of all obstacles, there has been a good crop put in, and it promises an abundant yield.

In June the half-breed commission arrived and issued scrip. I gave 202 discharges to treaty half-breeds who took scrip.

In connection with the bands in the Victoria portion of the district, I have but little to report. On account of their close proximity to the disturbed district, nothing was done towards putting in a crop, runners from the rebels constantly arriving and trying to induce them to join.

James Seenum, chief of the Whitefish Lake Indians, the largest band in the district, was loyal all the time, although every inducement was held out to him to take part with the rebels. At last a party came up from Pitt and endeavored to seize some goods belonging to the Hudson Bay Company at Whitefish Lake. This the chief would not allow, and in the dispute which followed one man was killed. Seenum being short of arms and ammunition, and feeling confident a large party would come from Pitt intent on revenge, took to the woods with his band, and there he remained until the trouble was over. In consequence of this no crop was put in.

The Saddle Lake band, which formerly put large crops in, also abandoned their reserve, the loyal ones joining Seenum, the others taking part with the rebels. No crop was put in by them either. I have already reported that a portion of this band raided the farm, sixteen stores, and the instructor had to leave to save his life. Job Lapatac deserves much credit for the part he took in the above affair, as he stood by the instructor and his assistant, and was, I believe, the means of saving their lives.

I also reported about the Lac la Biche Indians joining a war party of Big Bear's and raiding the Hudson Bay Company's stores at that place.

With the exception of the Wabatsnow Indians, no crops have been put in in the Victoria district, and I would here say that were it not for the stand taken by James Seenum, many serious consequences would have ensued in the district and the trouble would have been prolonged. He is a leading man, with much influence.

Blue Quill, of Egg Lake, was loyal, but most of his band joined in the raiding.

I am sorry to state that the Bear's Hills Indians behaved very badly during the rebellion, but as Mr. Acting Agent Lucas will report thereon, I will forbear treating of the subject.

Some of the bands are wishing to get schools on their reserves, Enoch's band having already erected a building for that purpose, but have not as yet secured a teacher. Pass-pass-chase's band also propose erecting a school house this fall.

The general health of the Indians during the first part of the present year was good, but this summer a low fever has caused much sickness and a few deaths.

Fortunately, with the exception of the damage inflicted on the Rivière Qui Barr bridge, none of the Indians in this portion of the district committed any serious offences.

The season has been a very favorable one for crops, and had the rebellion not disturbed the Indians so much, a large return of produce would have been shown this year; but taking everything into consideration, I think the Government is to be congratulated on the progress made.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

W. ANDERSON,
Indian Agent.

BLOOD RESERVE—TREATY NO. 7,
MACLEOD, N. W. T., 8th August, 1885.

The Right Honorable
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit my third annual report on the Indians in Treaty 7.

During the first three months of the fiscal year I visited the northern division as frequently as possible, and found the Indians doing well under Mr. Beggs' supervision.

In October the treaty was divided into two agencies, being a step for which I was in every way thankful. It was next to impossible for the agent stationed at Macleod to keep thoroughly informed as to matters in the north, and necessitating his absence from headquarters for weeks at a time. Fortunately, owing to the valuable services of Mr. J. B. Lash, as clerk, I was enabled to do this.

Mr. Agent Begg will doubtless report fully on his division, so that it will not be necessary for me to enter into detail.

During the summer and autumn the Bloods worked well, looking after their fields and remaining on the reserve.

The potato crops were excellent. We harvested seven thousand bushels potatoes, one thousand bushels turnips, fifty bushels carrots. Of the above, fifteen hundred bushels potatoes were turned into our root houses for seed.

Permits were given for the sale of two thousand five hundred bushels potatoes, which realized from half a cent per pound to one cent per pound. The low price was caused by the supply being greater than the demand.

In the early part of the winter two Indians were punished for horse stealing, which had a salutary effect upon the others, as scarcely a single case was brought to my notice during the remainder of the winter, in fact, I may say there was much less than in former years.

The spring of 1885 opened up much earlier than usual. Ploughing was begun on the 18th March, continuing with scarcely any hindrance until the work was finished. I resided on the reserve the greater part of my time, going from field to field, camping among the Indians and assisting them in their work, to the best of my ability, from early morning until night.

I must admit the Bloods surprise me in the manner in which they took to work. I set a number cutting posts and rails for wire fencing, and after running the lines for them the Indians put up the posts and riders, in instances stretching the wire, making, in every case, a fence that would do credit to a white man.

Many of those owning horses fit to plough did their own work; among them were the following, viz.:—

Striped Dog (minor chief) ploughed, sowed and harrowed four acres of oats without assistance, besides helping others who did not have horses.

Good Young Man, Running Wolfe, (minor chief) Bull Young Man, Many Pas, Many White Horses, Three Bulls, Running Crane, Bear's Child, Never-goes-out, Three Persons, Eagle Shoe, (minor chief) Heavy Gun, Bull Shield, (minor chief) Day

Chief, Calf Child, and High Sun, these not only did their own ploughing, but put in their crops, under my supervision. Taking them all through, it is gratifying to say they worked well and willingly, notwithstanding reports to the contrary.

Later on, when news arrived of the rebellion, there was a good deal of excitement, but it was after a day or two confined to the young men, who wanted to take this opportunity to start on the war-path and steal horses; still, after the first excitement the spring work progressed until its completion; then one small party left on the war-path for Montana, U.S. These were followed by others; in fact, small parties were coming and going for a long time. Red Crow and some of the minor chiefs endeavoured to stop them, but they managed to steal away in the night. I can safely say that nothing approaching the numbers reported by outside sources were away, as on more than one occasion I personally, with our interpreter, visited the different camps at night, invariably succeeded in getting the names of the absentees.

This year the crops consist of twelve acres peas, twenty-one acres oats, one hundred and thirty-seven acres potatoes, eight acres turnips, ten acres carrots, and seven acres gardens. In addition to this we have on the home farm one acre barley, one acre peas for seed, one acre turnips and one acre potatoes, together with six acres wheat and forty-one acres oats, on the Cochrane Ranche.

As we had no home farm; I made arrangements in the spring with Blackfoot Old Woman and Heavy Gun, they to let me have land to sow twenty-one acres with oats, and I, after threshing, to pay them one cent per pound for the oats raised.

I was much pleased to receive instructions to take over Mr. Cochrane's ranche, as this place has been the bone of contention with the Indians for a long time. Getting Mr. Cochrane off the reserve and starting a second issue place there was the means of removing one source of complaint which, had it not been accomplished, would have resulted in serious trouble.

I have not been able to look after the Piegans so much as I should have liked, owing to my time being so fully occupied with the Bloods, and office work.

Their crop last year consisted of one hundred bushels of wheat, fifty bushels oats, two hundred and eighty bushels turnips and six thousand seven hundred bushels potatoes. Of this, one thousand bushels potatoes were turned in for seed, and permits were issued for the sale of two thousand bushels potatoes, twenty bushels oats, seventeen bushels turnips and thirteen bushels wheat.

The Piegans remained quietly on their reserve all winter. I have no report of any horses being stolen by them.

These Indians got to work early in the spring, but did not use so many of their own horses as in former years. I think this may be accounted for by the severity of the winter. Their horses were in poor condition for working.

The fences on this reserve are not so good as I could wish, but as we have now wire, I hope to have every field with a permanent fence before the winter sets in.

This year the crops consist of six acres wheat, twelve acres peas, forty-eight acres potatoes, eight acres turnips, and twelve acres gardens. This does not include the home farm of two acres peas, one acre barley for seed, twenty acres oats, three-quarters of an acre of potatoes, three-quarters of an acre garden, all of which were doing well when I last visited there.

On this reserve, as also on the Bloods, there is some land uncultivated. I advised the Indians to put in more potatoes. They remarked, "What is the use, as we have lots in our cellars that we cannot sell, and more than we can eat." Something should be done in regard to the surplus crop this year, as the supply will (as last year) be greater than the demand. It is very discouraging to the Indians to find that they have potatoes on hand, and no market for them. I have endeavored to procure purchasers, but without success.

Last winter I had to stop the issue of permits, as I was informed that Indians were selling a sack of potatoes (about eighty pounds weight) for twenty-five cents, and in several cases two sacks for that sum, rather than take them home again.

I succeeded in obtaining the Mounted Police contract here for twenty thousand pounds at one cent per pound, delivering them in half a day.

So soon as the crops were gathered I reduced the issue of flour to a quarter of a pound. This was continued until spring work began.

In January, while visiting the Piegan reserve, I received a letter from Lieut.-Col. Macleod, C. M. G., that seventy-five Stoneys, out on a hunt, were on Pincher Creek in a starving condition. I started for their camp at once, and found them in reality starving, except for assistance given them by Col. Macleod and other residents. I arranged with James Dixon (their chief) to give them provisions for their present requirements, and to enable them to proceed to their hunting grounds through the Crow's Nest Pass. It reflects great credit upon these Indians to find that although they were suffering from hunger, and had been several days without food, not a single complaint was made of any cattle having been killed.

Too much praise cannot be given Red Crow for his staunch loyalty during the rebellion, as from the first I was not in the least anxious about him and his followers. The same must be said of the Piegans. It is a positive fact that Red Crow had tobacco sent him more than once, urging him to rise, but in every instance he sent the tobacco back, and would not listen to the accompanying messages.

Of course, no end of reports were circulated that the Bloods were impudent and made extravagant demands. I can only say that I did not hear any impudence, nor was there a single demand made of me during the trouble or since. I think no one was in so good a position as I was to know—moving among them every day, and living under canvas.

There were a good many war parties going and coming, many returning empty handed, some with horses, which were recovered by the Mounted Police, invariably assisted by Calf Shirt.

The sun dance passed over quietly and quickly, this year only lasting three days. It was a very miserable affair. I think, judging by the spectacle, if left alone, the sun dance will soon have ceased to be the great festival of the year.

I regret to report that these Indians have contracted the habit of visiting the town of Macleod much too often for their good, and remaining for days at a time. As far as possible, we stop the rations of any Indian off the reserve.

The annuity payments passed over quietly. My thanks are due Superintendent Cotton, commanding Mounted Police at this post, for escorts during that time, and to the non-commissioned officers and men for the willing way in which they filled any duties assigned them. I wish specially to thank Sergt. Speirs for services rendered at the Blood payments.

On the whole, though I cannot report any great amount of progress made, the conduct of the Indians has been good. There are a good many individual instances of Indians wishing to better their positions; these are doing well.

During the year there have been registered twenty-seven births and thirty-two deaths on the Blood reserve, and three deaths and twenty-five births on the Piegan reserve. The Medical Officer has attended a large number of Indians during the year, prescribing for them. He reports the health of Indians on both reserves as good.

There are two schools on the Blood reserve, but as they have not been kept regularly throughout the year, I cannot say that much progress has been made.

I enclose, with report, tabular statement.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

WM. POCKLINGTON,

Indian Agent.

BLACKFOOT AGENCY, N.W.T.—TREATY NO. 7, 28th July, 1885.

The Right Honorable,
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit with my annual report the accompanying tabular statement and inventory of Government property under my charge, in northern division of Treaty 7, for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1885.

Since my last annual report Treaty 7 has been divided into two divisions, north and south, Mr. Agent Pocklington being in charge of the southern division, comprising the Blood and Piegan tribes, I having charge of the northern division, comprising the Blackfoot, Sarcee and Stoney tribes.

Since my last report we have passed through a critical time, and I am happy to state that the Indians under my charge have remained loyal to the Government, which reflects great credit on them, as they are naturally warlike in their habits, but promises made by Crowfoot and other chiefs to the Hon. the Indian Commissioner this spring were faithfully carried out.

Last summer the Stoney were not as fortunate as usual in their hunting, as the low lands where they were in the habit of trapping were all flooded; at the same season, the dwelling and storehouses on Blackfoot reserve were also flooded, and the same occurred this year, but I understand it is the intention of the Department to erect new buildings on higher ground as soon as possible.

The same difficulty remains of keeping Indians on their reserves as last year. The people of Calgary complain of them, but still they continue to employ them cutting wood, &c., giving them money, tea, &c.; whereas, if they would give them no employment, they would only visit for the purpose of trade.

The crop on the Blackfoot reserve was very good; the root crop on Stoney reserve was also good. The Blackfeet supplied the North-West Mounted Police with potatoes, and the industrial school, at High River, with potatoes and turnips, having still a sufficient quantity on hand for seed and for food, they being issued only one-quarter pound flour while they had potatoes and turnips. This spring the rations were raised while they were putting in crops.

In September the payments of treaty money took place, which passed off quietly the assistance rendered by the North-West Mounted Police being of great service.

After the payments were over we had a general round up of Stoney cattle, and branded eighty-six head of calves; we also branded about ninety-five head last June, and now the Stonies have about four hundred head; a few of them are milch cows, broken by themselves; the necessary churns will be furnished. The Stonies have also been supplied with considerable ammunition in lieu of provisions; those not able to hunt have been rationed.

In October last Assistant Commissioner Reed and Father LaCombe visited the reserves to get children for the industrial school at High River. On a visit I afterwards made there were twenty-three children there, and everything possible was being done to make them comfortable and improve them; but during the excitement this spring the Indians took their children away, saying they did not consider them safe there in case a war party of Crees should come that way.

Last fall Bishop McLean visited the north Blackfoot camp and inspected the school there. The children showed good progress under Rev. W. Tims and sang hymns very nicely.

The children are very far advanced at Morley, they having attended more regularly on account of the orphanage, and the Indians being more civilized better appreciate the value of education.

In November the different buildings used for dwellings and storehouses on the reserve were roofed with lumber, which was a great improvement on the old mud roofs.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company's engines caused a good deal of damage to the grass on the Stoney and Blackfoot reserves by fire, the fires having run over a large part of both reserves.

In February it was necessary to shoot three of the horses on Farm 20 A, they having glanders, since which time we have had no other case of the disease amongst the horses.

During the month of April there was considerable sickness on the Stoney reserve, and it was thought advisable to issue beef, which was done, and with satisfactory results.

This spring the Indians have put in large quantities of roots, as it has been found that grain is not a paying crop, there being no grist mill in the vicinity. In cultivating, well-broken oxen are found to be much better for Indians than horses. The three yoke of cattle at the Sarcee reserve are worked regularly by the Indians there, and I think the Blackfeet will appreciate cattle, as their horses are small and not strong. The fields present a much neater appearance than formerly, on account of the barbed wire, and horses have done no damage this year to crops.

Interpreter L. Hereux is at present occupied in taking a census of the Indians, to be prepared for the next payment. The Indians held their usual "sun dance" this year, but on account of the wet weather, and lack of candidates for the torture act, I do not think it was a success from an Indian point of view, and I should be glad if they were disgusted as it is an unmitigated nuisance, always occurring at the time they should be working at the crops.

I am continually trying to get them to do away with it, and also the habit of carrying rifles, as they both interfere with their work.

In this division we have a good class of instructors, and it is not their fault if the Indians do not improve as fast as we should like.

During this year the births about counterbalance the deaths, a record having been kept of each.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

MAGNUS BEGG,
Indian Agent.

ST. JOSEPH'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,
NEAR CALGARY, N.W.T., 13th July, 1885.

The Right Honorable,
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit to you my report respecting the working and management of this institution, as requested in your letter, No. 58460, of the 14th of April last.

In the first place, I am sorry to state that, notwithstanding our earnest and continuous efforts, we have not succeeded in retaining the boys at this school, and I may say they have nearly all deserted.

Most of the boys were compelled to leave the school by their parents or guardians, while a few of the older ones, by making themselves so extremely unmanageable and rebellious, forced us to send them away.

I must confess the great difficulty arose from having received boys into the school who were too old.

Of course, as we were not able to procure young children in the beginning, it became a necessity to take those we could get, even though their age should exceed that pointed out by the Department.

Since the opening of this school, October, 1884, we have had an average of between fifteen and twenty-three pupils, as will be seen from our monthly returns. You are aware, it is a most difficult task (under the past and present circumstances) to recruit eligible pupils for this school.

We have to deal and contend, not only with the parents and guardians, but, I may say, with the whole reserve.

At the commencement we could only get a few orphans; the rest were boys, of fifteen to eighteen years of age.

The latter, being their own masters, came here without the consent of parents or guardians—merely, I suspect, because they considered it a very comfortable way of getting through the winter months—and this suspicion, I am sorry to say, we proved by experience to be too true.

I consider it impossible to get children of an eligible age if the Department does not employ other means than merely persuading parents and guardians to send their children to this school. They seem determined not to give up their younger children, unless compelled to do so.

When we did succeed in getting a few of the right age the squaws—their mothers—came here a month or so afterwards, and demanded their children, pretending they were taken away without their consent.

Undoubtedly, if we had power to make these children remain here and compel them to observe some kind of order and daily routine, most certainly we should succeed, because we have found, by experience, that when these boys apply themselves ever so little they make wonderful progress in their lessons and seem to have a special aptitude for the trades.

We have found, by experience, that it is very bad to have old and young pupils in the same rooms. If we are to have a mixed school, then it is absolutely necessary to have the older boys separated from the young ones; and to have trade instructors, who will keep them employed during recreation hours.

Moreover, we have found by past experience that it is impossible to control and manage these Indian boys by mere advice and kind reprimand.

If we have not some system of coercion to enforce order, and at least a little school discipline, then I assure you it will be very hard to conduct the school with that measure of success which, it was hoped, would attend its establishment.

In conclusion, I am happy to state that during the whole of the time we have been here the general state of health has been very good, not having had a single case of serious sickness or accident among the pupils.

I have no hesitation in saying that if the Department will only accept my proposals, and carry out my suggestions already sent to the Indian Commissioner, Regina, and of which I enclose a copy, the institution will soon be filled with pupils; we shall be able to retain them; order will, in some degree, at least, be observed, and success is inevitable.

SUMMARY of remarks and suggestions made in my letter, No. 53, of the 12th ultimo, to the Hon. Indian Commissioner, Regina.

1. That the Department must well understand, that amongst the four tribes of Blackfeet, Bloods, Piegans and Sarcees, not one Indian is willing to part with his young children or allow them to remain here for any length of time.

Therefore, it is advisable and necessary to bring pressure in some way to bear upon those Indians who refuse their children, as by threatening to deprive them of their rations, &c.

2. Not to take any pupils older than eight years, on any account whatever.

3. That it is a great mistake (as we have found by experience) to have no kind of punishment in the institution. It is absurd to imagine that such an institution in any country could work properly without some kind of coercion to enforce order and obedience.

4. It is very injurious to allow the Indians to camp about the school, because their intercourse and bad influence demoralize the pupils very much. Of course, this difficulty could very easily be removed, by building a good high fence around the play-ground, so that the pupils would be entirely separated from any obnoxious visitors. In the past, the pupils, whenever in a capricious mood, would roam away from the school for miles, without any possibility on our part of being able to prevent them.

5. As the Government is the tutor and guardian of these Indians, particularly those who are the most miserable, it would be advisable and important to take to the school such as are orphans, willing or unwilling; to charge the Indian agents of the different reserves with the business of procuring and transporting the children here warning them to send none but children of proper age to the school.

6. To give some kind of reward to those parents and guardians who willingly surrender their children.

7. When the pupils desert the school, or are taken away by their relatives or friends, the Principal will inform the agent of the reserve to which the child belongs, and he shall send the deserter back, willing or unwilling, calling in the aid of the police if necessary.

8. Finally, if the Government desires this school to succeed and be of some use to the Indians of this district, they must insist in having the required number of eligible children, and give us the necessary power and help to retain them.

Moreover, as I have already proposed to the Indian Department, it would be a great help to have here (particularly during the first years of the school) a few white boys and half-breeds who could speak English; by this means the Indian boys would acquire a knowledge of English very rapidly. This expedient has proved very successful in other Indian schools. Of course, the white boys and half-breeds would pay for their board, &c.

Should the Government agree to my proposals, I am confident that in a short time we shall have the required number of pupils and that our labors will be more successful than hitherto.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. LACOMBE,
Principal.

BRITISH COLUMBIA,
COWICHAN AGENCY, QUAMICHAN, 7th August, 1885.

The Right Honorable
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit my annual report, together with tabular statement, and a list of Government property under my charge.

During the past year there has been no serious epidemic among the Indians of this agency, and the death rate has been less than for several years; still, pulmonary diseases continue to carry off many promising young men.

The harvest of last year was, as anticipated, very plentiful, and the influx of a large number of new settlers into the island gave a ready market to those Indians who had more potatoes and seed grain than they needed for themselves.

Owing to the extreme dryness of the season the crops will be very light this year; only those who succeeded in planting very early will get a fair return for their labor.

The construction of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway is not having a beneficial influence on the natives; this has been particularly the case at Chemainus, the headquarters of the contractors. Of course, in most of the gangs of workmen there are some too idle to work, if a living can be made more easily, no matter what the risk may be, and these went into the Indian liquor trade, and for some time the neighborhood of Chemainus required a good deal of attention.

During the past twelve months fifty-four cases have been heard under the liquor clauses of the Indian Act. Of these, forty-five were convicted; thirteen white men were sent to gaol for two months' hard labor each. These are only such cases as I have attended to alone, or with the aid of a provincial justice of the peace, and do

not include liquor cases heard by other justices, and I fear they only form a tithe of the cases which do occur of infractions of the Indian liquor law.

The action of the provincial authorities in refusing the Department the use of the Cowichan court house and lock-up has prevented action being taken in many cases of drunkenness among the Indians in that locality.

The craving for ardent spirits is as great as ever. In many cases I firmly believe this is only because it is forbidden them. At the same time, I may say that I do not know more than about half a dozen Indians who can refuse intoxicating liquor when it is offered to them, although many will take liquor in small quantities who would take care not to drink enough to become intoxicated.

I regret, also, to say that the morality of the Indians generally is not on the increase, and the influence of the missionaries often appears to be on the decline. This is very disheartening to men who have spent the best part of a life in trying to do them good, but such is the case.

All over the coast men leave their wives and take other women, and as there is no law to prevent this, I have compelled several who have deserted wife and children to pay a monthly amount towards their support, and in several cases it has had the effect of bringing the Indian back to his legal family.

A party of Tsimpsheean and Nasse Indians have been working steadily on the island railway works since their commencement. They are a steady, quiet set of men, speaking English well, and causing no trouble, but the women who accompany them are no credit to the boasted civilization of the north-west coast Indians, and whatever these women may be at home, on the railway works they are simply prostitutes. In this respect I may safely say that the women of the Cowichan bands compare favorably with their sisters of the north, and although they may not be so well educated, still it is always a boast of the Cowichan Indians that few, if any, of their women are ever found in the towns, for the purposes of prostitution, so that this is not the cause, in their case, of the gradual decrease of the natives.

Comox.

In November I spent a week with the Comox Indians, and succeeded in subdividing the river reserve between the families of the Pantledge and the Ailksun bands, promising the young men location tickets as soon as they have made decided improvements on the allotments.

I found the village on the Comox Bay in a sad state of depravity and filth. This was particularly the case in a part of the village occupied by Indians of the Euclataw tribe, and as they had no right to the Comox reserve, but were trespassing, merely for the sake of the facilities which the neighborhood supplied for debauchery, I selected the worst cases and removed them from the reserve at once, allowing the others to remain till milder weather, but giving the local constable authority to remove them from the reserve, should any further disturbance take place. The Comox Indians expressed themselves very well pleased with my action in the matter, though I fear several of them are little better than the Euclataws.

While entering the Comox Bay during a gale of wind our canoe was so much damaged that it was necessary to purchase a new one before venturing to return down the coast.

Qualicum.

At Qualicum we found the Indians busy drying salmon (with which all the rivers were teeming), and rendering down shark and dog-fish oil. One Indian at this place keeps a small store, which is quite an accommodation to travellers, as at present this is the only land route to the new settlement of Alberni, on the west coast; and "Qualicum Tom" is well known as an enterprising and accommodating Indian, giving refreshments to horse and man on reasonable terms, and being well spoken of by all.

Hellelt.

The Hellelt band of Chemainus Indians have just suffered a severe loss by bush fires, nearly all the fences and crops on the south side of the river having been burnt; most of the men were absent at the time, but had they been at home very little could have been saved. Much valuable maple timber was also entirely ruined, reducing the value of the reserve considerably. The compensation awarded to Indians of this band for damage to improvements caused by the Island Railway passing through their village, has been paid to them, and I have to report that they are satisfied with the same.

Kuper and Valdes Islands have neither of them escaped the bush fires which are doing so much damage on the coast; much fencing has been destroyed and crops consumed, and as the fires are still running, with no sign of rain, it is very probable that the winter feed for the cattle will be entirely destroyed.

On the southern end of Kuper Island the New England Society have a small farm, occupied by the Rev. R. J. Roberts, who has spent many years among the Indians of Eastern Canada.

When the Indians are at home Mrs. Roberts has a school which, during a portion of the year, is very well attended, the chief trouble being here, as elsewhere, that when the Indians leave for the canneries or hop fields the children leave also, and, in a few months of idleness, forget much of the knowledge they have acquired. This can never be prevented until orphanages or industrial schools are established, where a number of Indian children would be constantly under a course of education, and where any well-to-do Indian could place his children when leaving his reserve, on the payment of a fixed amount for their board.

On Valdes Island the fires have been prevented from consuming a quantity of sawlogs (which the chief has a provincial license to cut) by the strenuous exertions of the band, but all the southern portion of the island is swept clear of vegetation by the fires.

In February, cases of small-pox occurred in Nanaimo and in a railway camp near that town. It was for some time feared that the dreaded disease would spread among the Indian tribes, but owing, in a great measure, to the energy of the Nanaimo local authorities, this was happily prevented. With the aid of native assistants, I have successfully vaccinated several hundred Indians, both adults and children, but there are many more to do.

In Cowichan valley there has not been so much land cultivated this year as last, owing, in a great measure, to the large gathering held at Comeakin village, at the time when the spring work ought to have been done.

This gathering, which was estimated at about two thousand, continued for nearly a month, the chief, Lohar, and his band, feeding the guests. When the supply of provisions was nearly exhausted a large amount of property changed hands.

Chief Lohar and his family have long expressed themselves anxious to do away with the potlach, and the object of this gathering was to pay their debts, *i.e.*, blankets and other articles lent them at former potlaches.

Having been duly warned that the potlach was now illegal, few, if any, blankets were loaned on this occasion, so that although these gatherings may still be called potlaches the chief evil of the potlach has been done away with. Similar gatherings have since taken place at Nanaimo and on Discovery Island. At both of these I was present, and I have pleasure in reporting that they were conducted in a very orderly manner.

The excitement of these and kindred gatherings is the chief attraction to Indians of the present day, though of course many attend to buy or sell canoes, horses, skins, &c. The great majority care nothing about the potlach itself but the excitement of a large gathering, be it potlach or hop-picking is something which the Indian cannot resist. This is exemplified this year by the way in which some six thousand British Columbia Indians are now crowding to the hop-fields of Washington Territory, though all know that this year hops are scarcely saleable, and that

the amount they may earn will in no way equal what they might have earned at or nearer home.

All this points to the fact that if these Indians are to be successfully managed some more improving form of excitement must take the place of their present festivals. The Indian's old beliefs have been shaken, but he has not sufficient knowledge to make him appreciate properly the necessity of education if he is to hold his own. Here and there we meet with an Indian proud because he can sign his name or spell out a few lines of a newspaper, but none seem to comprehend what they read; and as a rule—"A little learning is a dangerous thing." In my opinion the chief cause of the failure of so many different missionary efforts for the advancement of the native races is the mistake which all seem to make, of judging and treating Indians by European standards, forgetting that though the Indian is a close reasoner, his character is a mixture of child-like suspicion, credulity and selfishness, but with a keen sense of humor.

Rumors of the Metlakahla land troubles and of the North-West rebellion have been talked over at all their little feasts, and not often with credit to the white man. But at present trouble of this kind has not occurred here, the Indian title to the land never having been acknowledged, except that the Indian Reserve Commissioners seem to have promised that the rights of Indians to the reserves, as laid off by the Commissioners' surveyors, should be unalterable without the native consent, and that their sick and destitute should be attended to.

The actions of the Provincial Government appear at present to be very short-sighted. I have already reported to you one case where a portion of an Indian reserve has been sold by them to a white man, and their present actions seem to indicate a total disregard to Indian rights, which must sooner or later bring trouble on the Province. This is much to be regretted, when we remember that the Indian population of British Columbia is so much greater than that of the other Provinces, and that their labor might, by judicious management, be made to take the place of the Chinese, the employment of whom is at present being so much cried down.

At the present moment I would respectfully submit that Indian affairs require careful handling, as, although tribal feuds and jealousies have for long kept distant bands from uniting, still the present labor fields throw the different bands together, and they hear each others grievances, and although a feeling of discontent is not likely to make any uprising on the land question possible, still it is this feeling which encourages those murders of isolated miners and settlers which were so common a few years ago, and the authors of which it has always been next to impossible to discover.

With regard to the Indian liquor traffic, I would say that, with the exception of the single bottle business, the trade is now done away with in this agency, and that this can only be suppressed by the hearty support of the authorities, both provincial and municipal. I feel sure, however, that were all the liquor fines received by the Provincial Government taken into account, it would be found that they more than support all prisoners committed under the Act.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. LOMAS,
Indian Agent.

WEST COAST INDIAN AGENCY,
UCLUELET, B.C., 13th August, 1885.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit my report and tabular statement for the year ended 30th June last.

The prices of fur seal being still low, the catch small, and fish oil having declined 20 per cent. in value, the Indians in my agency have only made about half the money from these sources that they did last year; so most of them are away to the American side for the hop picking and other work, there being little work and low wages at the canneries in British Columbia.

On my trip this summer I more fully explained the reasons for the Department wishing to put a stop to potlaches, and the law passed prohibiting them. The chiefs and head men in all the tribes spoke in favor of the custom. Moquina, the chief of the Moo-à-chaht or Nootka tribe, who also claims headship over the Ehat-tisahts, brought out his mask and paraphernalia used at potlaches, and made a long speech, to the effect that the Indians had given up all their bad customs, such as fighting, slavery, stealing, tribal feuds, at the request of the white chiefs, but it was very hard to ask them to give up a custom which was intermixed with all their thoughts and feelings, an incentive to industry, a great help to the white man's trade in Victoria, which encouraged friendly relations with other tribes, being an occasion of amusement and rejoicing, and had been handed down to them by their ancestors; that he had lost his children, but when he gave a potlach he forgot his troubles; it was the same as if his son came back to him; it did his heart good to see everybody pleased and happy. To the same effect spoke most of the other chiefs or their spokesmen; one chief only, Nookamis of Oiaht, came to me privately and said he would give up the potlach.

The chief at Moo-à-chaht and his policemen having a bad Indian in camp they were afraid to arrest, gave two white men on board one of the sealing schooners \$10 each to put the handcuffs on him, the prisoner paying expenses before he was released. This chief also went after liquor, but it was sold; however, the Indian offender was obliged to give up all the blankets he had made by the transaction.

On my visit to Heshquiaht I found most of the young men had gone north sealing by schooner. I found all well at the mission, and was present at two marriages in church, this tribe having given up the heathen custom of buying their wives. The young married men are also building small houses in front of the old Indian rancheries, which they want to do away with.

The attendance at school here is very regular during the season.

At Kyukaht I found the Ah-housaht and Kelsemaht tribes on a visit, and my presence doubtless prevented trouble, as during one of their dances a Kyukaht, by mistake, let off a powder-loaded gun in the face of an Ah-housaht, slightly burning him, and I had some trouble to keep the peace, as they thought it was done as an insult. I found the Kyukahts, as a rule, well and decently clothed, and living in comfortable houses, but their journeys to the American side do not improve them in other respects, as they get a liking for whiskey and gambling, and care little for school or church. I left Actis with a fleet of fifty Kyukaht canoes, many with two large square sails, wing and wing, on their way to Seattle, W. T., a pretty sight with a fair wind.

At Alberni, several of the Opitchesahts have built small houses. Some of them paid a team for ploughing their land. They have been troubled by cattle in their crops, but it is difficult to get Indians to put up a really good fence, or work together for the common good. They have a team of horses I think good enough to plough with next year, and probably they can manage to get a plough and set of harness. Tom of the Tseshahts was at work on his house on the reserve. Another Indian was clearing a piece of land for an orchard, and a few of the young men have begun to build houses for themselves, instead of living in the rancheries with the old people. Alberni has some sixty white settlers now, and is likely to prove a good farming settlement.

At Oiaht some of the tribe have expressed a wish to take up allotments on the reserve at Numakamis. They have hitherto not tried to raise even a few potatoes. On their return to this place for the winter months I shall visit them and enquire fully into the matter.

Now I am settled at Ucluelet I see and hear much more of the Indians in my agency, as it is a general stopping place for all canoes up and down the coast, and though so isolated, is the best situation for the agent.

There has been no epidemic sickness among the Indians this year, and the population is still slightly on the increase.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

HARRY GUILLOD,
Indian Agent.

KWAWKEWLTH AGENCY,
BEAVER HARBOR, B.C., 10th July, 1885.

The Right Honorable
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward the annual report and tabular statement of this agency, for the year ended the 30th of June; also 'an inventory of Government property on hand on that date.

The census return, now enclosed, has been taken with the greatest care, and is every way reliable.

It is pleasing to note that, in the majority of the tribes, there has been a slight increase during the year in the population; and it is also a source of some satisfaction to be able to record that there does not prevail, at present, that desire for abandoning themselves to that southern life which has, hitherto, caused them so much misery.

That abandoned life fell heavily in its results on those that could be least spared, the young females.

There is, however, a healthy race of young children growing up, and it is to be hoped that the energetic measures to be adopted in the near future, by the Rev. Mr. Hall and his coadjutors, will secure the attendance at school of many of this youthful progeny.

The Alert Bay school, during Mr. Hall's visit to England, was attended only by the regular boarders of the mission, the ordinary day scholars considering that they were as much entitled to a holiday as their teacher, and preferring, by far, camp to school life, absented themselves entirely.

It has now been decided by Mr. Hall to reopen the school at Beaver Harbor, and establish a similar institution at the Laichkwiltach village, near Cape Mudge.

At a recent meeting of the tribes now assembled at Beaver Harbor the demeanor of the Indians was of a far less adverse character than hitherto displayed, in the matter of education for their children; consequently, there is a slight gleam of hope in the future of the schoolmaster.

The natives throughout the agency, with but one exception, have conducted themselves in a most orderly manner since my last annual report; and this exception, it is a matter of regret to state, was the murder of an Indian of the Salmon River tribe, Laich-kwil-tachs, by one of their own number, who was at the time under the influence of liquor.

The murderer had left the village a few days prior to my arrival, and, by subsequent accounts, had gone on to Nanaimo to deliver himself up to the authorities.

A full account of my proceeding in this matter was sent to the Indian Superintendent on the 17th April last.

A few trifling seizures of spirituous liquors have been made during the year, but the owner in each instance could not be discovered.

The usual annual visitations have been made, but as in some instances several bands were gathered together by invitation, for the purpose of feasting, it did not

consequently necessitate so much voyaging as in former years, and a saving in the outlay for transport has been effected.

The gifts to invalids and the destitute have been kept within due bounds, and the gratuitous issue of medicine entirely abolished, except to the very indigent.

The health of the tribes has been remarkably good, with the exception of the Nah-Kwook-toes, who are much subjected to scrofula, occasioned, in a great measure, apparently, by non-intermarriage with their neighbors, and an insufficiency of good food. Formerly, those Indians were good hunters, but since the great decline in the price of furs, they have become very indolent, and scarcely stir from their houses, unless pressed by hunger. They have decreased fifty during the past four years.

A number of the natives were vaccinated in the month of May, and the operations were all remarkably successful.

The Nim-Keesh band are now actively employed at the Alert Bay cannery, where they earn good wages; and it would be a source of great satisfaction to see other like industries established to furnish employment for others, since the occupation of hunting and trapping has now almost become a pursuit of the past.

With regard to the Act relating to the prohibition of the celebration of their two most heathenish customs, each tribe has been furnished with the fullest information, and of the penalty attached to its infringement. The tribes are now assembled at three several localities, and they have been notified that, on their dispersion, no future gatherings will be allowed, without incurring the full penalty of the law.

It is, however, evident from their deportment and conversation, that they are watching the course of events at the south, still hoping that the law against these two demoralizing customs will not be carried into effect.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

GEORGE BLENKINSOP,
Indian Agent.

LOWER FRASER AGENCY,
NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., 17th August, 1885.

The Right Honorable
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit my annual report and tabular statement for the year ended 30th June, 1885, and a list of Government property in my charge.

The Indians of this agency, with few exceptions, are industrious and happy. Many of them have comfortable and well-furnished houses. They are orderly, well-behaved and honest, and are making general progress on their reserves by adding several acres of new land to their cultivated patches. This year, as well as last, they have cleared and planted a good deal of very good land, and, notwithstanding the unusual dry season, they have splendid crops. The plentiful run of salmon this year, and good crops, will leave the Indians abundance of good food for the coming winter. This is fortunate for them, as they have been employed but little on railway work this spring or summer. The fisheries on the Fraser River gave very little employment this season; only six of the establishments had canned salmon, and they canned only about half the quantity of other years. There were not less than 3,000 Indians who had come seeking employment at the fisheries in this vicinity this season. They came almost from all parts of the Province. The change in their conduct (for the better) was very remarkable, compared with former years. Notwithstanding the large number of so many different tribes, who were camped all along both banks of the river, from New Westminster to the mouth of the Fraser, there had been but very little disturbance or drunkenness among them. With the assistance of four or five of my Indian constables, camped at different places