

I did not have more than half the trouble in keeping them in much better order than in previous years. The Indian population of this agency is on the increase. The increase is rather slow among the different bands from New Westminster to Yale. From the mouth of Harrison River to Pemberton Meadows the increase is pretty good, and from Barrard Inlet to Bute Inlet it is very rapid, especially at the Squamish mission, Barrard Inlet, Shamman, Clahoose, and Javer's Inlet. I am glad there has been very little sickness among them last winter or this spring and but very few deaths. The Indians of Douglas district, on the Harrison River, are not so comfortably situated as other Indians of this agency; their land from Douglas Lake to Pemberton Meadows is of very poor quality; little of it can be cultivated; they are obliged to go the long journey over a difficult trail and bad canoe travel, to plant their potatoes and other vegetables at Pemberton Meadows, and convey the produce of such back to their villages in the fall and winter. Last May the Semalco band of that district had gone to Pemberton for the purpose of putting in their crops. During their absence a fire occurred which destroyed the entire village, twelve dwellings with the whole contents, two stables, two barns, a church, shanties, fences, and everything about the place. I regret the circumstances very much, as the poor creatures felt exceedingly bad and discouraged over their great loss. I advised them to go up and live with their friends at Pemberton Meadows the coming winter, and in the meantime to make all preparations possible for rebuilding their houses, or part of them, next spring. They agreed to do so. The Shechelt Indians, near Javer's Inlet, are anxious about some land they have been living on and cultivating for many years. They are increasing in population very rapidly; many of their young men and women get married each year. Consequently, their desire that the land they have occupied so long should be added to the reserves already set apart for them, so as their young people will be enabled to get a portion to settle upon. The agricultural implements and oxen purchased last fall for the Hope Indians, from the proceeds of timber cut by Mr. Onderdonk on their reserve, has been used by them to good advantage in clearing and cultivating their land. The \$200 worth of lumber purchased for the chief's house has been well used; he has built a very good house, which has cost \$750, doing all the carpenter work and labor himself. The Texas Lake Indians have likewise done well, with the ploughs, harrows, waggons and harness purchased for them; they have done more improvements on their land this year than they have done all together in ten years previous.

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

P. McTIERNAN,
Indian Agent.

WILLIAMS' LAKE AGENCY,
LITTLE DOG CREEK, 1st September, 1885.

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

SIR,—I have the honor to submit for your information the following annual report upon Indian affairs in this agency.

During the past year the births and deaths in the various reserves have, with the exception of the Fountain, about balanced each other.

That tribe, during the past winter, suffered from an epidemic which proved fatal to many.

In May last I visited those parts of the agency which I had not seen last year, viz., Seaton and Anderson Lakes, and two reserves on the west side of Fraser River, belonging to the Bridge River and Pavillion tribes.

The land cultivated on the shores of these lakes consists of small patches of the poorest kind of soil, with very little water for irrigation, so that the crops raised scarcely repay the labor of tillage.

The supply of fish caught in the lakes is small, not enough to supply sufficient food during all the winter.

There is a species of wild goat inhabiting the mountains, which helps to furnish these Indians with food; but the labor of hunting among the steep rocks frequented by these animals is so great that only the young and robust are able to undertake it.

On the portage, between Anderson and Seaton Lakes, there is some good land belonging to Mr. A. Smith, of Lillooet, which would make a good farm for these Indians. Mr. Smith offered to sell this property for the small sum of \$100, and I tried to persuade the tribe to subscribe among themselves and buy it.

They assured me that they would willingly do so if they had the means, but that as there are no whites to work for, and no gold digging in the neighborhood, they had no means of procuring the money.

At the head of Anderson Lake the tribe has some good land on their reserve, which, by clearing off the bush, will make a good farm. I found that with little work water could be taken from the river to irrigate this land, and I marked the line for a ditch.

All these Indians are industrious and well conducted; and, as there is no whiskey to be had, are sober.

I passed two days at the mission on Seaton Lake, where the Rev. Father Chiroux was conducting a week's religious exercises for these Indians and those of Lillooet, Cayoosh and Bridge River, who were there assembled.

Without attending such a meeting, no one would have an idea of the patience and untiring energy exercised by these missionary fathers in trying to improve the moral state of the Indians. The good effects of such labor are to be seen in the general good conduct of all those tribes who follow the advice and obey the authority of the priests in all that regards morals.

I next visited the Bridge River reserve, which extends from the mouth of and up that river on both sides for a distance of twelve miles.

Every little spot which could be irrigated has been fenced and cultivated. These patches range in size from half an acre up to five acres each, and comprise in all about fifty acres. They extend the whole length of the reserve, on both sides of the river.

About ten miles above the mouth of Bridge River, on the west side of Fraser River, is a reserve belonging to this tribe. Here is a flat of about twenty acres of fairly good land, and four of the tribe are constructing a ditch from a neighboring creek to irrigate the land.

There is no labor which these Indians will not undertake in order to obtain water for irrigation. Oftentimes the land is not worth one-tenth of the labor expended on the ditch.

As an example: At Cayoosh reserve the Indians completed, last spring, a ditch upwards of two miles long, over very rocky ground, of which nine hundred feet is flumed. This work was done in order to obtain water to irrigate about twenty acres of sandy and stony land, almost worthless for agriculture.

I visited also a reserve, not seen last year, on the west side of Fraser River, belonging to the Pavillion reserve.

I there found four families who are farming about ten acres each; and it was evident to me that, with that quantity of land to each family, all these Indians would be enabled to maintain themselves in comfort.

The Chilcotin tribes have, for the last two summers, been expecting that their reserves would be marked out for them, and they express great disappointment at the prospect of having to wait another year before they can claim any land as their own.

These Indians have been well conducted during the past year, and no cattle stealing, as formerly, has occurred among them during that time.

At the Alexandria reserve I examined the line of ditch surveyed by Capt. Jemmett, on the east side of Fraser River. The ditch would be about four miles long, and presents no difficulty; but about three-quarters of a mile would have to be flumed. The first right of water from the creek, however, is recorded in favor of a neighboring white settler, Mr. Cason, who might at any time repair his ditch (now broken) and take the water for his own farm. This would deprive the Indians of their supply of water, as during the dry months, when irrigation is most required, the creek does not carry more than enough water for Mr. Cason's farm. I therefore consider the undertaking as inadvisable.

On that part of this reserve situate on the west side of Fraser River the Indians have done a surprising amount of work since last year. About one hundred acres have been well fenced, of which about seventy have been ploughed and seeded. Fortunately, a great deal of rain fell during this summer, and the crops were looking well. They expressed their determination to fence and break up still more land next year.

Some supplies were furnished by my orders, last winter, to the sick and destitute of this tribe, but very much less than what was required during the winter of 1883-84.

As there has been an abundant supply of both salmon and berries this summer, there will be no scarcity of food among the various tribes of this agency during the coming winter.

In the reserves south of Williams' Lake there has been very little drunkenness during the past year, but I am sorry to be unable to say the same with respect to some of the reserves further north.

A temporary check has, I hope, been put to such proceedings, by the conviction and punishment of several offenders, who were tried before the stipendiary magistrate, his Honor Judge Harrison, at Soda Creek, in August last.

Five offenders were fined for supplying liquor to Indians, and several Indians were also fined for having liquor in their possession, and for being drunk and disorderly.

At Alexandria the liquor license of one of the two houses was cancelled by the county court judges.

The general health of the various tribes has improved since my last yearly report.

In conclusion, I may say that the general conduct of the Indians in my agency is good.

No serious crimes have been committed by them during the past year.

No disputes or troubles of any consequence have occurred between them and the whites.

Had each reserve a few acres of agricultural land for each family of the tribe, these Indians would be happy and contented.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

WM. LAING MEASON,

Indian Agent.

KAMLOOPS AGENCY,

KAMLOOPS, B.C., 15th August, 1885.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,

Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit for your information my report for the year ended 30th June, 1885, on the affairs of the Indians connected with this agency, as follows:—

The Nkha-Kapm-uh Tribe.

The lowest reserve on the Fraser belonging to this Tribe, that on the right bank proper, seven miles above the town of Yale, is used by the Spuzzum band as a fishing station. There is no permanent settlement thereon. Excepting about three acres, the land is useless for farming purposes, being covered with huge masses of rock, the debris from the mountain behind.

Spuzzum.—The Spuzzum Indians are improving. Their houses, although small, are substantially built, lighted by glass windows, and in some instances warmed by stoves. The whole reserve was originally under timber. This is being gradually cleared away, and the arable portions are being cultivated. Most of this reserve is rocky, gravelly and unfit for tillage. Water is required for irrigation, and the Indians are making strenuous efforts to bring in a supply. They are industrious, and earn good wages as wood cutters and section men on the Canadian Pacific Railway. They seem to be in good circumstances. They have a neat little church on their reserve.

Ke-ha-toos.—The Indians on this reserve have very little improvable land, and, owing to the uncertainty of their land tenure, they do not cultivate the little they have. Most of the land allotted to them is on a claim held by their neighbor, Mr. W. L. Alexander, who, I understand, promised to convey a portion of his grounds to these Indians, but has not as yet done so. These Indians are mostly employed on the railroad works, and earn good wages.

Sku-cha.—This is a good salmon fishing station. The small band of Indians who occupy it have very little land fit for tillage. They are improving what they have, and make enough, by working on the railroad, to support themselves comfortably.

Chat-aney.—The adult Indians belonging to this reserve have nearly all died during the last four years, mainly from the effects of intemperance and profligacy. A remnant of the young people, who were taken to Tqua-ya-um by their mothers, and are now old enough to support themselves, will, accompanied by the few old men who are left, return to their grounds next winter and spring.

Shuzzy.—This is a vigorous little band. The young men work on the railroad and earn from \$1.50 to \$1.75 per day. They have built for themselves a neat little chapel, where they attend regularly to their devotions, according to the instructions which they have received from the Roman Catholic Fathers, O.M.I. They have most of their available land under cultivation, and some of the young men have asked me to help them to buy some land outside of their reserve from the Government. The land which they want is included within the railway belt.

T-qua-ya-um.—The Indians of this reserve are very much in want of water for irrigation. They are somewhat discouraged thereat. As they are comparatively numerous, they might, by united action, overcome the difficulties attending the construction of a flume and ditch from the Anderson River to their reserve. A large number of their young men remain most of their time on the Quin-sha-atin reserve, Nicola district, attending the horses belonging to the band. These Indians earn money as common carriers. They secure large quantities of salmon, which they exchange with the Indians of the Nicola valley for other kinds of food. They seem to be in good circumstances.

Ka-pa-tse-tsan.—On this reserve there is a small band of industrious Indians, who earn good wages by working on the railroad. They have not had time to cultivate much ground this year. I have ejected two Chinamen off this reserve. The chief's son is taught at the Anglican mission school, St. Paul's mission. The chief pays for his board and tuition.

M. Pak-tam.—This reserve, situate on a high plateau, does not contain much arable land. What is improvable is very good, and the Indians are trying to do their best with it. They are few in numbers, and have not much to complain of.

Cho-mok.—The area of improvable land on this reserve is about twelve (12) acres. The Cho-mok Indians collect some gold by mining at low water. Good crops of potatoes are grown here by them. I lately ejected nine Chinamen from this reserve.

Ha-im.—The Indians of this reserve are mostly employed on the railroad. There is comparatively little good land on their reserve. They collect some gold by mining.

Ka-mus.—The Indians belonging to this reserve have very little arable land. They seem to be making the best of what they have. They earn their livelihood as common carriers and railroad hands, and appear to be in good circumstances.

Su-uk.—These Indians have some good land, but do not cultivate so much as they should. There are no complaints of poverty amongst them.

N. Ka-tsam.—On this reserve is one of the most progressive bands of Indians belonging to the N-hla-kapm-uh tribe. There are here some forty to fifty acres of good land, and the Indians are steadily extending their improvements over it. They have brought an abundant supply of water thereon, by means of a ditch and fluming. They are building substantial houses, and seem competent to meet their moderate wants. They are anxious to have a school established amongst them. A school established at Su-uk would meet the educational wants of this, the Su-uk, Ka-mus, Ha-im, and Cho-mok reserves.

Skappa.—This band occupies three small reserves. Although very much reduced in numbers, they are not discouraged, and are endeavoring to eke out an independent existence by cultivating the few acres of arable land included within the limits of their grounds. They are improving, and seem to possess all the means necessary to meet their immediate wants.

Hluk-hluk a-tan.—The Indians here are farming all the ground they have fit for tillage. They earn good wages by working on the railroad. A few of them get employment as farm hands. They seem to be prospering.

Sis-ka.—The Sis-ka Indians have about twenty acres of improvable land. They can do no good with this unless it be well irrigated; and they cannot get water on this ground without much hard labor and at a heavy cost for lumber and fluming. Though they are far from being destitute, they are not improving their condition.

Na-la-ha.—There is a small patch of good land on this reserve. The Indians who have it are working vigorously to bring it under cultivation. These Indians are increasing their means and comforts.

Kit-ta-wat.—The boundaries of this reserve have not as yet been defined. The Indians living thereon, being in a state of uncertainty, are afraid to make any improvements on the land.

N-ky-a.—On this reserve is a small but improving community of Indians. They have water convenient for irrigation, and are extending their improvements as fast as their limited means will permit. They have only a small extent of arable land.

H-kum-tcheen (Lytton).—There was at one time a large and powerful band of Indians at this place. Their numbers are now very much reduced. Several reserves have been allotted to them, most of which are at present useless for farming purposes, owing to the want of water. They earn good wages on the railroad. They have numbers of horses employed in the carrying trade, and they make a large proportion of their winter's food by supplying the town of Lytton with firewood. At present there is very little destitution amongst them. They are putting up a building for a place of public worship, under the auspices of the Anglican Church, and are doing their work in a very creditable manner. They are anxious to have a school on or near their reserve. They collect, by mining, a considerable quantity of gold every season.

Spa-pi-am, N-who-meen, N-gua-kin, Strynne Na-ka-ih, Ye-ut, N-pu-i-cheen, S'na-haim, Ska-ap, Nes-i-keep.—The Indians belonging to these reserves cultivate their grounds in summer, but spend the greater part of their winters at Lytton, where they are most likely to find employment. There is no great extent of good land on these reserves. They are well watered and may be made to produce abundance of root crops. I evicted five Chinamen last autumn from the Ska-ap reserve. At Spa-pi-am a Chinese farmer is encroaching on the reserve. The reserve surveyor will shortly define the boundaries of this reservation, and thus set this matter right.

Ni-cau-min.—The Ni-cau-min Indians have comfortable houses and are extending their improvements on their lands. They have a very limited area of good land. Most of the young men have been steadily employed on the railroad for the last three years, and some of them are in good circumstances. They do a little gold mining.

N-kum-cheen.—The Indians of this reserve have diminished very much in numbers. There are still some useful men left amongst them. They are cultivating some land, but owing to the want of water they are prevented from extending their farming operations. They have a decent little church and are gradually awakening to a sense of the evil effects of continued drunkenness and debauchery. They have considerable property in horses, saddles and other equipments for the carrying trade, and are expert horsemen and packers.

Piminos and Pak-a-ist.—There is very little cultivable land on these reserves. The Indians are industrious, and manage to make independent livings. They have a grievance, respecting an old graveyard, which was desecrated in the course of railroad construction. They have another grievance, respecting a meadow situate on the high plateau, fourteen miles back from their village. They claim that this meadow was allotted to them by Mr. Reserve Commissioner Sprout. It has lately been encroached on by settlers, until very little of it is left unoccupied. It lies within the Canadian Pacific Railway belt. These Indians have built for themselves a neat little church.

Spaptsin.—The Spaptsin Indians are not farming much, as they have only a very small patch fit for cultivation. They claim that the good land allotted to them has been appropriated by their neighbor, an enterprising but unscrupulous Chinese farmer. The reserve surveyor will be on the grounds shortly, and will define the limits of this reserve according to the Reserve Commissioner's minutes of decision.

Ne-pa.—There is a small area of good land on this reserve, but the Indians cannot do much with it, owing to the want of water, and their farming operations are nearly at a standstill. They make their living by working for the farmers and on the railroad.

Paska.—The Indians of this reserve are steadily succumbing to the effects of drunkenness. The males seem to be the readiest victims, as there are now only five of them left to eleven females. They are not doing much. They are not destitute.

Stahk-itsh (Ash Croft).—There is a thriving little band of Indians on this reserve. A large portion of their reserve is unavailable for tilling, owing to the want of water. Where water can be had they are working vigorously. They can earn money by working for neighboring farmers and stockmen. Their little church is an earnest of their good intentions.

Sh-ha ha-nih.—The rocky and mountainous nature of this reserve precludes the possibility of extensive farming operations being established thereon. There are some small patches of good land which the Indians are improving, with a fair show of success. This reserve being large, has still some unoccupied spots of good land. These are being gradually—with the consent of the Sh-ha-ha-nih Indians—occupied by individuals from the Nicaomin, Skappa and other N-hla-kapm-uh reserves, where they could not get cultivable lands. The Sh-ha-ha-nih Indians cultivate some land on the Klow-klow-ak reserve.

The N-hla-kapm-uh is fast decreasing in number, and this diminution appears likely to continue.

The numbers of married couples amongst them who have no offspring is truly remarkable. For instance, in the Tqua-ya-um band there are fifty-three married couples. Of these, fifteen couples have children, and thirty-eight couples are childless.

Some of the N-hla-kapm-uh profess to be members of the Roman Catholic Church. Some have adopted the teaching of the Anglican Church. In the Okanagan agency the Wesleyans have lately been making adherents to their religious forms and ceremonies from this tribe.

Religious teaching has, so far, been productive of a great deal of good amongst them; and it is to be regretted that there are not more Christian missionaries available for the teaching of these Indians.

The Su-shwap Tribe.

Tuk-ta-us (Bonaparte Valley).—The Bonaparte Indians cannot make much progress in improving their reserves, owing to the want of water for irrigating. I am trying to persuade them to join the *Ski-chis-tan* band at *Rivière Defunt*, where by the united means of the two bands, water from the river might be carried on to the higher benches; the result of which would be a sufficient extent of productive land to meet the wants of both the bands.

Ski-chis-tan.—This large reserve, through which flows the *Ski-chis-tan* (commonly known as the *Rivière Defunt*) has only a small area of land at present available for cultivation. The band living on it has not the means and force necessary to carry water to the higher benches, where there is a large surface of improvable land. These Indians are injuring themselves very much by drunkenness. They are active and industrious when sober, and may yet be reclaimed.

Kamloops.—The *Kamloops* band is the most numerous and progressive in this agency. These Indians continue to extend their improvements, and to increase the numbers of their live-stock. They are active and industrious, and many of them are skillful axemen. Last year, they sold their surplus hay and other produce at good prices. They still collect some valuable furs. Some of them are extremely fond of ardent spirits. There are, however, individuals amongst them who are sober and virtuous, and who have sufficient self respect to enable them to resist ordinary temptations. They are not decreasing in numbers. They have a well built little church, which is regularly attended. They are very anxious to have a school established amongst them.

Ha-la-ut.—Although the *Ha-la-ut* Indians are far behind their *confreres* at *Kamloops*, they are steadily advancing, and maintain themselves beyond the fear of want. The snow lies deep in this region. The Indians are, therefore, unable to keep many head of live stock.

Halt-kum.—The Indians of *Halt-kum* are more united, and are, therefore, more progressive than their neighbors of *Ha-laut*. They are increasing the extent of their fields, building good fences, and have built themselves a small church and a council house. They are in want of water for their fields. They attempted, last year, to bring in a ditch, but failed in doing so, from want of skill in running their grade. As soon as I can get a levelling instrument, I will stake off a line for the required ditch.

Ku-a-ut.—This reserve is mostly timbered. There is not much farming land thereon. The timber will be valuable in time. The Indians on this reserve are industrious. They raise good crops of potatoes and other roots, and some vegetables, also some wheat and oats. As, with the two last mentioned reserves, the snow falls to a depth of from two to three feet, these Indians are obliged to limit the number of the live stock they may winter, according to the means they are able to provide for that purpose.

S-kum-a-us.—This reserve has been sold by the Provincial Government of British Columbia. The Indians of the lakes continue, however, to resort to the place during the fishing season, and up to this time have not been molested.

Chuk chu-qualk-u.—This reserve is occupied by a band of hunters; the land is good, but subject to summer frosts. Summer rains are frequent; irrigation not required. The Indians living here are backward as farmers. The region they live in abounds in game, and they depend mainly on this for their livelihood. They collect a considerable quantity of furs, and sell some hay.

I find throughout the Indians of this agency a deplorable callousness respecting the rights of widows and orphans. As soon as an Indian dies his relatives and friends make a scramble for his effects, the males generally securing the lion's share, and unless,

as sometimes happens, the widow be a determined termagant, she and her offspring are left destitute. I have checked these irregularities by applying the provisions of the Indian Act. I find also that gambling is extremely prevalent amongst them.

My magisterial functions have been materially interfered with by the action of the Provincial Government of British Columbia in refusing me the use of provincial court houses, gaols and constables, unless I remit to the provincial treasury all fines imposed and collected by me under the Indian Act. As punishment for my past delinquencies in this respect, my commission as a justice of the peace for the Province of British Columbia has been cancelled. In remitting the fines in question to the Indian Department, I have simply obeyed orders, as in duty bound.

All the Sushwap Indians belonging to this agency being Roman Catholics, their religious wants are attended to by the O. M. I. Fathers belonging to the Roman Catholic mission of St. Louis, at Kamloops.

I have given my report of the different bands belonging to this agency in detail, as I do not know how they were grouped by my predecessor.

Some of the old Indians still maintain that the lands over which they formerly roamed and hunted are theirs by right. I have to meet this claim by stating that as they have not fulfilled the divine command, "to subdue the earth," their pretensions to ownership, in this respect, are untenable.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. W. MACKAY,

Indian Agent.

OKANAGAN AGENCY,

KAMLOOPS, B.C., 22nd August, 1885.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit, for your information, my report on the condition of the Indians belonging to this agency, as follows:—

Spellumacheen.

These Indians lost their chief last year, and were very much divided as to who should be his successor. On enquiring, I ascertained that he had made an oral testament, appointing Oa-hu-la-uh, his nephew, his successor. I advised the Indians to accept the appointment, which they did. I told them that should they wish to arrange their affairs through the medium of an organized council, elected under the provisions of the Indian Act, I would remain with them, and help them to proceed with the election in proper form. They preferred, for the present, their own old way of managing their affairs. These Indians are making very favorable progress. They have very good land to work on.

N. Kum-ap-tix.

These Indians are in a state of chronic dissension as to who should be their chief. They hold themselves very much aloof, and do not like to be dictated to. The young men are largely employed as farm hands by the neighboring settlers, and are becoming very proficient and useful in that line. They are learning to take little heed of the differences of opinion which exercise the minds of their native leaders. The young men are too much addicted to drunkenness and gambling. They stake their property on the chances of cards, to the last article of clothing; and lying out drunk, when only half clad, they contract lung diseases, which quickly prove fatal. They are not so amenable, as they should be, to the teaching of the Roman Catholic fathers, whose faith they profess. They have large sections of their reserve under cultivation, and are increasing the number and improving the value of their live stock. They have built a church, and a picturesque covered stand for holding public meetings.

The Spahamin Indians have good pasture lands and raise considerable numbers of stock. They are enterprising and energetic, and find employment as stock herders, farm hands, and on the railroad. Like their relatives at N. Kum-ap-tix, they are evidently decreasing in numbers.

The mission Indians, forty miles down the Okanagan Lake, from N. Kum-ap-tix, have not as yet had a reserve allotted to them. They are cultivating some land on the west bank of the lake, opposite to the mission, and are increasing their herds. The few acres of cultivable land which they occupy are being gradually encroached on by settlers. They have also been deprived of their water rights. These events deter them from extending their improvements, and keep them in a state of great dissatisfaction.

The Pentiction Indians are enlarging their fields and increasing the number of their live stock. They supply themselves with abundance of milk, butter and eggs, and are advancing steadily towards a higher condition of civilization and comfort. They would like to have a school in their village.

The N. Kum-ip Indians have a large reserve, the greater portion of which is unimprovable rock and sand. Water is scarce on their ground. They are, however, learning to make good use of what they have. About three thousand acres of the lands which were allotted to them have been sold, under some previous understanding, by the Provincial Government. These lands included all the meadows they had along the course of the Okanagan. They are very much exercised about this, as they cannot raise horned cattle without hay for winter food, and at present they have no hay lands.

The Similkameen Indians are in a great state of uncertainty respecting their reserves. According to a tracing which I received from my predecessor, nine reserves, each of small extent, were allotted to these Indians. I find that they have now eighteen small settlements. There is not much good land in the lower portion of the Similkameen valley, and above Chu-chu-way-ha summer frosts are frequent. At Chu-chu-way-ha the Indians have built a small church.

The Zoelt Indians are few in numbers. They are mostly old, and comparatively useless. They have about one hundred acres of land, which would be improvable had they water thereon. To procure the water seems to be beyond their present means.

The N-sis-kat band is improving. These Indians, being surrounded by settlers, have occasional troubles about their water rights.

Quin-sha-atin.—This reserve is good grazing land, but is too high for farming; night frosts being frequent in summer. The Indians are extending their fences, and are striving to raise large quantities of forage. They winter hundreds of horses for their Frazer River countrymen, and seem to be thriving. They have a church, which they attend regularly. They are Roman Catholics.

The Na-a-ik Indians are progressing favorably. Their reserve is well adapted for pastoral purposes, and there is a sufficient extent of arable land along the Nicola River to raise all the grain and vegetables they may require. A lay missionary belonging to the Wesleyan Church has been teaching these Indians for some months back. He seems now in a fair way to succeed in establishing a school in their village.

The Quis-khan-aht reserve consists mainly of heaps of unimprovable mountains. There is, however, a sufficient extent of arable land, in small patches in the valleys, to meet the requirements of the small band of Indians residing thereon. These Indians are contented and comparatively prosperous. They cross over to the Frazer River for salmon, they secure game in the mountains, and raise a sufficiency of grain, potatoes and vegetables for their own consumption.

Excepting those of Na-a-ik, the Indians of this agency are all Roman Catholics.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. W. MACKAY,
Indian Agent.

NORTHERN SUPERINTENDENCY—DIVISION NO. 4,

PORT ARTHUR, ONT., 18th October, 1885.

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

SIR,—I have the honor to forward to you my annual report of the 4th Division, under the Northern Superintendency, Robinson Treaty, and have pleasure in stating that this year the bands under my supervision have done more towards improving in their agricultural pursuits than at any previous time, and have planted more than double the usual quantity of potatoes and other seeds. The Indian Boys' Schools at Fort William and Red Rock are attended somewhat irregularly by some of the children, who are taken away during the time for seeding, picking berries and fall fishings, to assist their parents. Too much cannot be said of the orphanage on the Fort William reserve, now under the charge of the ladies of St. Joseph. This institution has lately been completed at a cost of \$7,000; is a spacious building, heated with hot air, and other improvements; contains two class rooms, one for the advanced scholars, the other for the juniors, and is kept with perfect order and discipline. I may say also that the advancement and progress of the children of the boys' school is becoming very apparent.

Along the front of the Fort William mission village twelve bridges have been built this last summer, which they were much in need of for many years past. They were let out by tender and built by the Indians. The frames are all of cedar timber, planked over and well spiked down, and some with hand rails. They also dug 1,000 feet of ditching, which drains their back clearings.

The chief, with his councillors, at my request, appointed a pathmaster and pound-keeper, and regulated the legal heights for their fences. They put on their roads ninety-five days of statute labor; repaired and made the approaches to all their bridges in good order; cleaned out their ditches, and made several other general improvements. This is the first year that any such work has been done; it was agreeable to the more enterprising Indians; the lazy ones did not like the work but they found it was compulsory, i.e., if they refused, their place was supplied and the amount taken out of their annuity according to the Indian Act. Knowing this they did their two days' work each.

On the 3rd of August I received the annuity money for 1885. After giving due notice on the 10th, I paid the Fort William band and had many of them vaccinated.

On the 12th of August I went to Red Rock; the following day I met the Red Rock band in council to have them choose and elect a chief, for which purpose they had received several months' notice, I also required a chief to witness their annuity payment. About two-thirds of the band were present. They chose Pierre Duchamp, who was elected by acclamation no other being proposed. None of the band would be vaccinated having an ignorant impression that it would be dangerous. They had this year a better crop of potatoes than usual owing to having planted new seed.

On the 14th of August I left Red Rock and arrived at Pays Plat River the following day where I found the surveyor engaged by me laying out one mile square on Lake Superior coast with the river running through its centre, and farm lots being laid out fronting on both sides of the river, four hundred feet frontage by half a mile in length, giving each Indian family a good farm of about thirty acres, situated on the best river on the coast for fine trout and whitefish. I may mention that about a year ago two white men had this same one mile frontage surveyed. The Indians came to me stating that they were about to lose their homes where they had lived for the last thirty years. I immediately represented the case to the Crown Lands Department, Toronto, mentioning that the Indians had settled upon land at Michipicoton River, Pic River and Pays Plat River for upwards of thirty years, and as they had no protection asked for some way of securing them in their improvements and homes. I wrote to the Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs, enclosing the letter and received instructions to

have surveys made; this was done, much to the pleasure and comfort of these different bands, who now feel safe and encouraged to improve their own homes. I remained here three days and paid the Indians after they had chosen and elected their chief, Tom Eagle; had some of the band vaccinated, and proceeded with the surveyor and party to Pic River where we arrived on the night of the 18th. The following morning the surveyor commenced his survey of three miles up the Pic River—joining the Hudson Bay Company's land or post—and portioned the land into farms of about twenty-five acres to each family fronting on the Pic River. The chief and band expressed themselves very thankful for having had their land surveyed and homes secured to them. They have a church and good school house about the centre of their settlement and were much in want of a teacher. Last week a teacher was sent to them. Last fall the Department, at the request of the band, furnished them with a fine yoke of cattle, a chain and plough and I am pleased to report that the Indians furnished the oxen with plenty of feed, and kept them warmly in a good stable built for the purpose at their own expense. Last winter they drew out logs for several new houses, and supplied themselves with plenty of firewood. On the 23rd of August I engaged a sail boat and sent the surveyor and party on to Michipicoton River to survey land required to be secured for the Michipicoton band, and this has been done. On my return to Port Arthur I remained for two weeks, in order to allow sufficient notice to the inland Indians of the Nepigon and Long Lake bands to meet me and receive their annuities.

On the 10th of September I met a bark canoe crew at Red Rock and proceeded to the Nepigon House on Nepigon Lake where I arrived on the 13th and paid the Indians on the 14th and 15th and had a number vaccinated. They have several good log houses, a chapel and school house, but no school teacher. They number over 400. The most of these Indians are neat, cleanly in their dress, and industrious. Those living about the Hudson Bay Company's post have a good crop of potatoes and turnips. A great portion of this band live entirely by fur hunting, and only come in once a year to get their annuity and winter's supply from the Hudson Bay Company's post.

On the 16th of September I left Nepigon House and crossed Nepigon Lake 50 miles to Poplar Lodge and there took a bark canoe with two Indians and went to Long Lake up the Sturgeon or Lodge River to the height of land, and thence down stream by the same river to Long Lake where I arrived on the 24th. On the 25th I paid the Indians and had the band vaccinated, and left one hundred vaccine points to vaccinate any others who might require it. This band are all hunters, are in a thriving condition and number over 300. On the 26th I started for Port Arthur where I arrived on the 2nd of October.

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

J. P. DONNELLY,
Indian Agent.

HURON VILLAGE OF LORETTE, 15th October, 1885.

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

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit to you herewith my annual report, with a tabular statement thereto annexed.

You will observe by the tabular statement that trade is progressing among the Indians of Lorette, whilst agriculture is decreasing. That with the exception of five or six families, who are settled on the reserve of the "Quarante Arpents," one mile and a half from the village, all the others are following different industries.

The health of the Indians of this village has been good.

The children have been punctual in their attendance at school, and they have made great progress, thanks to the unremitting energy of Miss Josephine Dubeau, who, without any regard for her own health, devoted herself entirely to her school. I fear that she will be compelled to discontinue teaching at the end of the year.

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

GUIL, GIROUX, Ptre.,
Missionary.

ANNAPOLIS AND SHELburne AGENCY,
ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, N.S., 30th September, 1885.

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

SIR,—In submitting my report and tabular statement for the year ended 30th June, 1885, I have the honor to state, for the information of the Department, that the condition of the Indians in this agency is gradually improving.

Owing to the exceedingly rough character of the lands set apart for the Indians, and the distance from market, it is, I regret to say, impossible to get them to attempt a settlement on the reservations.

I regret to have to report that the health of the elder Indians in my district has not been as good as formerly; the younger members, however, have been unusually well.

Fishing, furring and preparing fish oil, constitute very important branches of industry among the Indians of Annapolis County, but the prices of the two latter ruling lower than usual, may, before spring, be the cause of some inconvenience to those having large families to support.

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

GEO. WELLS,
Indian Agent, District No. 1 A.

Pictou, N.S., 24th October, 1885.

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

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit the following report for the year ended 30th June, 1885.

The remarks about the condition of the Indians can vary but little from those of the year preceding. There has been no school taught on the reserve since last fall. The teacher who has taught for some time past has resigned her position for another calling, and no one, as yet, can be found to take her place. The progress of the children at school was very slow on account of irregular attendance.

Little more interest than in other years is manifested in farming, and keeping their fields well fenced. As they keep no cattle there is a great drawback in the want of manure to enrich the soil. The crop consists principally of potatoes and wheat, and with these they are fairly successful. They attend to their other avocations, such as fishing, coopering, &c., very industriously; but although they earn a good deal of money, they have no facility in economizing.

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

RODERICK McDONALD,
Agent, District No. 8.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, 14th October, 1884.

E. McCOLL, Esq.,
Inspector of Indian Agencies,
Winnipeg.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit my special report in triplicate, together with tabular statement in duplicate, from the 30th June till the 1st instant. I may say that I have very little to report in addition to what I have already made in my annual report. On the Roseau River reserve the potato crop has been almost a failure, on account of the grubs having eaten them off several times. I got ten acres broken and backset on this reserve, which will be ready for crop in the spring. On the Long Plain the crops were more prosperous; the potatoes were pretty good and yielded a fair return. The Indians dug them in good time. The wheat was a fair crop, considering the chance it had. The yield will not be heavy; the sample is good; it may yield from fifteen to twenty bushels to the acre. The corn, in all cases, seems to be too late to ripen. I got sixteen acres of new land broken and backset on this reserve, and one of the Indians has broken about five acres more, making about twenty-one acres of new land, and the eighteen which was under wheat this year will make about twenty-nine acres altogether for wheat next spring, besides about six acres of potato ground, making on this reserve thirty-five acres which may be put under crop next year. The Swan Lake band, on this reserve, have fifteen acres of new land broken and backset for next year. The eight acres of wheat put in this year was a very light crop, owing to the dryness of the first part of the season, but I believe it will compare favorably with the crops in the neighborhood. Although the bulk of the potatoes in that part of the country was almost a total failure, the crop on the reserve was middling fair; the corn, being American, was of too late a variety to ripen. The few peas did very well, but as no Indians go near the reserve I do not know what to do with the crop, as I have to pay for everything that is done at the highest rate. I am of the opinion that it would be better to sell everything, as from present appearances none of the Indians will ever go there, unless they are compelled to. Their crops at their gardens near Hamilton's Crossing were very good; they have quite a quantity of potatoes and about forty bushels of corn. It being the small native variety, it ripened well. This band declare they will never go to the reserve at Swan Lake. They say they must get their reserve as it was first given them, on the south side of the river, and the same size, and nothing else will satisfy them.

The Sandy Bay band had a very fine appearance of potatoes, corn and turnips, but I fear that the American corn furnished them did not ripen. They cut a large quantity of hay. Their reserve is very much drier than for a long time. They are very anxious to get the cattle they are entitled to, as well as some of the tools. They have their school house, I understand, nearly ready for the inside furnishing, and as soon as I hear from them I will have the necessary fixings put in. I am afraid there will be considerable trouble with this school, as there seems to be quite a division amongst them on religious matters. They are nearly evenly divided, the pure Indian taking part with the Protestant portion.

The Rolling River band do not seem to have any desire to lay their minds to farming. They spend most of their time around the town of Minnedosa. The instructor has had hard work to get them to do anything. It was one of the finest fields of wheat I ever saw, but the ground being so very dry at the time it was sown that it did not come up until about the middle of June, and consequently it was impossible for it to ripen. The potatoes were a middling crop; they will have between six and seven hundred bushels. The turnips and garden stuff were not much, owing to the dryness of the first part of the season. Pierre Contois, the farm instructor, did very well, considering the Indians did not help him much. He was making a good root house to hold the potatoes and other roots, and had logs cut for a stable for the oxen, and had twenty-five acres broken and a portion of it backset when I was there on the 25th of September. I had to hire a man by the name of Duncan Cameron to cut and take off the wheat, to get it off the ground in order that it could be ploughed. Pierre

Contois cut and put up about thirty tons of hay. He cut it on a farm of mine adjacent to the Indian farm. There is no hay on their own farm.

The Riding Mountain band are doing pretty well, but their crops were light this year, owing to drouth, but their grain was out of the way of the frost. They have their grain all threshed. One of them, George Bone, had three hundred and thirty-one bushels. Their potatoes were almost a failure. They have a number of cattle—twenty-six head in all; they are the increase from the cows and bull which were given them a few years ago by the Government. The cattle have been taken care of by the three brothers Bone. They do not want to take care of them any longer unless they get an interest in them. They say that they have had to provide for the cattle and take care of them ever since the the Government supplied them, and unless they get the increase they will not do so any longer.

Mr. Agent Herchmer recommended some time ago that they should get the increase, or that they should be allowed to give back to the Government the number they first received, and those returned ones given to some other member of the band, who should also pay back to the Government, in a few years, the number he obtained, and so on, until the whole band would be supplied. By this plan it would give every person receiving cattle an interest in them; but as it now is, no person will take an interest, and it is very difficult to get any one of them to provide for and take care of the cattle. It is the same on all the reserves where cattle have been supplied; it is only a few who take any interest in them. I would have had this report in by the 13th of this month, but just when I got fairly to work at it the Sandy Bay men came for the furnishings for their school house, and it took me quite a while to procure all the things they required.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

FRANCIS OGLETREE,

Indian Agent.

ST. PETER'S, BROKEN HEAD AND FORT ALEXANDER AGENCY,

CLANDEBOYE, 12th October, 1884.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,

Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit a special report, with tabular statement, as per instructions.

St. Peter's.

I am sorry to have to report that owing to the excessive and unprecedented rains during harvest (twelve inches fell) fully forty per cent. of the wheat, oats and barley were lost, and fully twenty-five per cent. of the potatoes rotted before they could be taken out of the ground. In fact, it has been a most discouraging year for all farmers in this section.

I discovered, after the payments here, that Ke-we-we-rauzie (No. 179) of this band, had been drawing for three children of his by a wife whom he threw away some eight years ago; while the mother, Patahweo-toh-mookw (No. 90), a Broken Head heathen woman, also drew for them.

Broken Head.

There is a first-class crop of potatoes at this reservation, all harvested in good order; wheat very poor; barley good; gardens fair.

Me-mnae-kow-ka-pow (No. 47), of this band, has been paid for ten of a family, viz., self, three wives and six boys. All the family he had with him at the time of the payment was himself, wife and two girls.

He has had two other wives besides the one he has at present, but they have not lived with him for years; one of them lives at Red Lake, and the other, I believe, at Rosseau—both married to other men.

As I had never been either at Fort Alexander or Broken Head River during harvest, and as I understood that this special report and tabular statement was to show fully the state of the crops for the present year, I therefore notified the Indians, at treaty time, that I would pay them a visit during the month of September.

I started from the agency on the 18th, and reached home again on the night of the 3rd October, having experienced very stormy and disagreeable weather.

I visited the farms and gardens, and found the people hard at work harvesting. At Fort Alexander potatoes are splendid; wheat, where it was put in in time, good; barley, good; corn, above the average, and garden stuffs, fair; with plenty of hay put up.

On my way from Fort Alexander to Broken Head River I noticed an extensive stake net, fully a mile and a-half long, and I am told that the owners take away boat loads of all kinds of fish, large and small. No one was there as I passed, so I could not ascertain the names of the parties.

From the appearance of this net I should say it is illegal, for, if it is not, it is only a question of a few years and our fish would be exterminated, as it is so easy to set stakes in our shallow western lakes.

Sawdust from the saw mills is still thrown into the rivers, which any one standing on the Broadway Bridge at Winnipeg and looking north can see.

The close season for whitefish, from the 20th October to the 1st November, is broken through in this way: a white man hires an Indian or two, who go and fish with him until the 20th October; then the white man lends his nets and boat to the Indians, who fish, but, strange to say, never bring any home no doubt having sold them to the owner of the boat.

The only excuse I can offer, in referring to the fisheries, is that the preservation of fish is of such vital importance to the Indians within my agency.

The annual payment this year was the most orderly and free from drunkenness of any since I have been agent. Four persons were brought before me for having intoxicating liquor at St. Peter's, and were punished according to law.

At Broken Head River there was no liquor at all. While I was at Fort Alexander there was no liquor. After I left, a man, who came from Whitemouth, gave and sold liquor to the Indians, and although I tried hard to find his name while out there last month, I could not do so.

I have vaccinated over three hundred persons, fifty of whom I did this year. The wandering Indians object to vaccination, and quote cases where some of them have died of cold taken after the operation.

There has been no epidemic amongst the Indians during the last year.

I was ably assisted at the payment of annuities by my very competent and experienced assistant, Mr. Leveque, who thoroughly understands the business.

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

A. M. MUCKLE,
Indian Agent and Farm Instructor.

MANITOBA HOUSE,
INDIAN AGENCY—TREATY No. 2, 1st October, 1884.

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

SIR,—In compliance with the instructions of Mr. Inspector E. McColl, dated Winnipeg, 2nd July, 1884, I have the honor to transmit my special report on the Indians of Treaty No. 2, and part of Treaty No. 4, and also my tabular statement.

Lake Manitoba Band.

Since my last report, in which I have already explained the condition of these reserves, for further particulars I have the honor to state that all the members of this band seem at last to realize the idea that the sooner they apply their time and energy to farming the better off they all will be. On that account they have been busy all summer attending more carefully to their small plots of land and gardens, and as a consequence they have a pretty fair crop this fall. Their houses, stables and cellars have had better attention than formerly; but I regret to say they are still contending over the site of the school house, but the chief has taken the matter into his own hand and is now building it in a central locality of the reserve, according to promise, and will have it completed at an early date. Their gardens did not suffer by frost, and with the expectation of a good catch of whitefish, they will pass a very comfortable winter. The school was reopened after the vacation in the old building used for the purpose. The cattle are in good condition; they have divided the Government cattle among responsible members of the band for keep during the winter; they have also on hand a good supply of hay, so that I do not think their cattle will suffer from an insufficient supply of food, if from other causes.

Ebb and Flow Lake.

This band appear more united than formerly: for example, when members of the band are absent, in their absence their families do not suffer, as the remaining members attend the families left alone. The cattle are in good condition, and the stables have undergone repairs, and their hay yards have been newly fenced; they have also a good supply of hay. The school was also opened with a fair attendance after the holidays.

Fairford.

This band are attending more closely to home matters than formerly and are taking greater interest in their mode of living, and are showing greater anxiety to become civilized, by attending more thoroughly to their gardens and farms and giving better attention to the public roads and fences. They have built several new houses and the old ones are undergoing a thorough repair; they also purpose having root houses, and they intend burning a kiln this fall, which will prove of great benefit to the reserve in general. I have insisted on the fall ploughing, as their oxen were in good condition for the purpose and the weather most favorable, and they promised to try the experiment, and I have no doubt we shall see a decided improvement in the reserve in general next treaty time. The schools are to open now after the holidays. I am of opinion that the members of this band have at last decided to surpass other reserves, and why should they not, having so much better advantage.

Lake St. Martin.

In my opinion this band would be more successful if they had better councillors, as they have everything in their favor, being on Lake St. Martin and near the Narrows, where the whitefish abound; they are never destitute of flour, tea and tobacco as they always have ready sale for their fish at their doors. They have promised to erect the walls of a school house, and would have done so long ago if they had better leaders. The chief tries his best, but the councillors are so lazy and do not appear to know the example required of them. Some of the members are, however, rebuilding their houses and stables and clearing bush; the school is opened. The cattle are in good condition.

Little Saskatchewan.

This band, in my estimation, are the most lazy in this district. If you advise them to try to build better houses or stables they meet you with the cry of starvation, and actually tell you they are starving, when they have abundance of whitefish at their

very doors. Their little plots of garden are kept in a shameful condition in some instances no hoeing was done nor weeding either and the fences were mere shadows, and the least touch would bring them down, in fact, they do not care the least for their reserve and as soon as payments are over they cut a little hay and they all proceed to the lower mouth of the Little Saskatchewan, where they remain until late in the fall, and I fear this will always be the result until the fishery laws are more binding, so as not to enable white men to come at all times and on all occasions to buy fish, as they like and encourage the Indians to leave their reserves for the purpose of fishing to sell to them for the trifle they chose to pay for the fish. This band are awaiting a chest of tools and have promised to build their school house. I trust they will not deceive us again. Their cattle are in very good condition. But the band generally require to be looked after during the winter, as they are apt at any moment to neglect everything under some paltry excuse.

Crane River Band.

This band have always shown an amount of energy, and since the establishment of the school they have shown their appreciation by encouraging the teacher in remaining as much as possible in the reserve and sending their children as much as possible to school; they are clearing the ground and burning the stumps; when done, I consider it will almost certainly be the best reserve in my district for situation, being on a high ridge with good soil. They are to be congratulated on the energy shown, as everywhere one looks is seen the result of their work in their nice potato patches, well fenced and kept free from weeds; their cattle always in good condition and well provided with hay; stables comfortable and warm. They have made a shelter for implements and are safely putting by their very large crop of potatoes, they have learned by experience that by farming they will always exist and therefore they have given greater attention to this than to hunting and fishing.

Water Hen River Band.

This band have at last awakened to the realization of doing more for themselves and as a result have gathered on the reserve and have shown great persistence in sending their children to the school, which has been greatly instrumental in bringing them and keeping them on the Reserve. They have paid greater attention to their gardens than formerly, and have also erected an addition to the school house for a residence for their teacher. I consider that both teacher and pupils are to be congratulated on the progress made, considering the length of time since they have begun. Their cattle are well cared for; they have made quite a quantity of hay. The school was reopened in August after hay making.

Duck Bay.

This band, though few in number, have as much progress to show in agriculture; they have much better fences, mostly composed of spruce rails, and better gardens and fields. They have also a larger yield in crops than former years; they are building a root house, to be used in common among the members of the band. They have also completed their school house. The cattle are also in good condition, and the band generally take a pride in their stock and are very careful in providing hay for them.

GENERAL REMARKS.

I would take this opportunity of remarking that the bands in general on all the reserves under my supervision are most anxious to have their fishing reservation finally located, so that they could prevent any encroachment by white men or any other parties; they are getting most anxious, as they are afraid the whitefish will soon be only of the past, at the rate at which they are killing them. Now, for an example, this fall there are over a thousand nets in use on Fairford River and Lake St. Martin.

With reference to the game laws as applicable to the Indians of my district, I have the honor to bring before your notice that as regards the situation here as well as elsewhere in this vicinity, there could be made an amendment to the laws to meet the requirements of the case. For example, when the law comes into force as regards duck and geese the Indians are mostly always away on their hunting grounds, and, moreover, the ice remains in the lake until the 19th of May, and is generally in an unsafe state long before that date, which oblige the Indians to abandon the fishing until the lake is perfectly clear of ice. They have, as a consequence, to subsist on game.

Regarding the amount of fish and fur caught and taken since July, I am unable to give an estimate of them until treaty time next year. I do not suppose, however, they would amount to much, as at that time the furs are not prime, consequently not in demand; and as to fish, they are so scarce that they are difficult to be had at all, keeping themselves in the deepest water of the lake during the heat of summer.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. MARTINEAU,

Indian Agent.

ASSABASKASHING AGENCY.

LAKE OF THE WOODS, 23rd October, 1884.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

Sir,—I have the honor to submit the following report and tabular statement in duplicate, with respect of the Indians of this agency since 1st July last.

Since my last report no sickness of a serious nature has appeared among the Indians of this agency.

The supplies of provisions, twine and ammunition, supplied this year for the Indians, as far as my judgment, appeared of the best quality, and were delivered in the best of condition and in good time to the different places of payment of the annuity.

During the payments the whisky traders did not make much by selling intoxicating liquors to the Indians; although I was told that a good number had well prepared to make a good haul by the arrangement that was made; the payments to take place, but their well laid plans were all destroyed by the payments being made in the usual places, where they were well watched, both by the Indians and the constable. Mr. Martin Mr. Inspector McColl appointed to accompany me during the annuity payments, who was well fitted in every respect for the duty he was appointed to perform, and obedient; only one Indian at the Rat Portage payment ground was found to have drank some liquor from some trader outside of the reserve; the constable secured the Indian, kept him in the Rat Portage gaol until sober, and when he got sober, told from whom he got the liquor, but the man that gave the liquor left Rat Portage before he could be caught.

Mr. Wright Mr. Inspector McColl appointed to assist me during the annuity payments, proved to be one of the best assistants I have had since I have had assistants appointed to me in my annuity payments—most attentive to his duties, obedient, never absented himself from duty, no drinker of any intoxicating liquors, well fitted for the duty he was appointed for.

According to instruction I received from Mr. Inspector McColl, to inspect the reserves and gardens of the Indians of my district, I started from my place on the 8th of September last, and on my trip I found the hay crop was not so good this year as it was last year. On account of the waters being low, and the season being dry in the early part of the summer, the hay did not grow well in the usual places, but grew where it was usually covered with water, and very inferior, and of which the Indians

made enough of it to winter their cattle. But I am sorry to state the heavy rains we had in the latter part of the summer have been the cause of the waters to raise to a great height in all the lakes and rivers, and overflowed where the hay was being stacked; in consequence most of the hay that has been made is destroyed more or less, and I fear greatly the Indians will lose most of their cattle, unless some remedy could be formed to save them, where they will likely all perish.

The barley, wheat and vegetables were all more or less destroyed by the rains before they could be secured. The Indian corn, the same that was supplied by the Department last spring, did not ripen in any place where it was planted. The corn appeared to be of good sort, but supposed not to be the right kind for the Lake of the Woods climate. The white corn, the same that is grown by the Indians of the Red Lake of Minnesota, United States, is the proper kind for to grow in the Lake of the Woods climate.

The wild rice grew in great abundance in every place where it usually grew in the Lake of the Woods and Shoal Lake. The Indians secured a pretty good supply for their winter use.

The two bands of Indians of Shoal Lake had the misfortune, during the last summer, to lose all their cattle, with the exception of one ox. The cattle must have gone into one of their byres for protection against flies, and when all were inside of the house the door must have closed, and in consequence the animals could not get out again, and before the Indians knew of it a storm of wind and rain came on and blew down the buildings and the animals were all killed by the falling building, with the exception of the ox, and I fear it will die also from the injuries he received by the falling building.

In my trip of inspection of the Indian reserves I measured all the gardens under cultivation, as far as my capabilities will allow in that line of business, both in the reserves, as well as those outside on islands, as follows:—

Islington band, No. 29, have thirty-one gardens on their reserves, containing thirty-one and a half acres, and five gardens, containing four and a half acres, outside of their reserves.

Rat Portage band, No. 38, have fourteen gardens on their reserves, containing sixteen and a half acres, and five gardens containing five acres outside of their reserves.

Big Island band, No. 31, have ten gardens on their reserves, containing eight acres, and eight gardens, containing three and a half acres, outside of their reserves.

North-West Angle, No. 33, have three gardens on their reserves, containing three acres. None outside.

North-West Angle, No. 34, have four gardens on their reserves, containing two acres, and eight gardens, containing three acres, outside of their reserves.

North-West Angle, No. 37, have four gardens on their reserves, containing eight acres, and two gardens, containing one-eighth acre, outside of their reserves.

Assabaska, No. 35, have ten gardens on their reserves, containing ten and three-quarter acres, and sixteen gardens, containing seven and a quarter acres, outside of their reserves.

Buffalo Bay, No. 36, have one garden on their reserves, containing one and a half acres; the rest of their gardens are in the United States territory, the same they had before the treaty was made.

Whitefish Bay, No. 32, have five gardens on their reserves, containing four acres and three gardens, containing two acres, outside of their reserves.

Shoal Lake, No. 39, have two gardens on their reserves, containing half an acre, and seven gardens, containing six and a half acres, outside of their reserves.

Shoal Lake, No. 40, have three gardens outside of their reserve, containing three acres; none on their reserves.

The two bands of Shoal Lake have their gardens of years back on their reserves, but did not make use of them this year.

Why the Indians have so many gardens on islands outside of their reserves is, they find the islands more productive for agricultural purposes than the main land,

and another thing, they were told at the treaty to keep farming on the island, where they had their gardens then, as long as they liked to farm on them; but they have all their houses built on their reserves.

In my trip of inspection I found in all the reserves where the buildings were getting worse of the wear the Indians were preparing timber to build new ones in their place, and repairing and rebuilding the old ones with new wood, where it required some.

The Islington band have a house built up as far as the upper binders, which is intended for a school house. I advised them to build up the house as far as they can manage, and let me know as soon as done, that I would write to the Department to give their promise of \$100 assistance to finish the building.

I am sorry to state that in my inspection I found that of the set of carpenters' tools that was given to each band, only North-West Angle band, No. 37, and Big Island band, No. 31, have some of the tools remaining in their possession; all the rest of the bands have none; all disappeared by being lost or broken. Such as hoes—these are better cared for, because each family has its own tool, and taken better care of them than tools that every individual has a right to use.

In my trip of inspection I vaccinated one hundred and nineteen souls, children and a few adults, and during the annuity payments I vaccinated sixty-eight souls. Most of those I vaccinated now, and during the annuity payments, were vaccinated last year, but as the vaccine did not take, I vaccinated again. Only a few families belonging to the Rat Portage band have not been willing to allow their children, as well as themselves, to be vaccinated, on account of their being affected greatly with the venereal disease.

In the later end of the last month, September, an Indian belonging to the Rat Portage band was drowned while drunk, about one mile below Rat Portage town. I could not find out the person that gave the liquor to the drowned man. Rat Portage town is really a great nest for Indians to get intoxicating liquor from, and those that give liquor to Indians very seldom are caught by the hands of the law to be punished, and when any of them are caught and fined, as soon as they get their liberty they go back to their dens and carry on their trade the same as before. The punishment is so light they soon make up their loss.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. McPHERSON,

Indian Agent.

SAVANNE AGENCY—TREATY No. 3, 6th October, 1884.

E. McCOLL, Esq.,

Inspector of Indian Agencies,
Winnipeg.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit, with the accompanying tabular statements, my special report on Indian affairs for the bands in my agency.

Lac des Mille Lacs.

I visited this band on the 28th of May with seed. They had not begun to cultivate the land. All the young men were away. Some had not returned from their hunting grounds; others were at the Huronian mine, and on the railway, leaving the old men and women to plant the potatoes. On the 7th of July I again visited this band, and paid them their annuities. This band has decreased by the transfer of sixteen families to Lac Seul, to which place they originally belonged. I refused to pay Kabagabowes' second wife, daughter of Kabiasika, of Lac Seul. This woman has not received her annuity for two years, and is going to return to her band at Lac Seul. This band is still entitled to three cows, but are not prepared to receive them.

I have done my utmost to persuade them to clear their land, raise sufficient hay for their cattle, but to no purpose. The young men are nearly always away, and the gardens are poorly kept. They will have this year about three hundred bushels of potatoes, but the corn was a failure. The lake is very high, and had they made hay they would have lost it all. The supplies were up to the samples furnished and quite satisfactory to the Indians. They are not prepared to build a school house. Eighteen hundred and eighty-five being the year for them to receive their triennial suits of clothing, they wish to have laced boots supplied, instead of long ones. We vaccinated seven, and were pleased to hear that those vaccinated last year had all taken. Deaths, two; births, three, in this band.

Sturgeon Lake Band.

I visited this band with seed on the 3rd of June, and found Kaybaigon's widow and four young girls on the reserve. I gave these some seed, and the balance took back and stored at Savanne. The men were all absent some gone to the American side, others at the mines and on the railway. They are making no progress in agriculture. On the 11th of July I visited this band with their annuities, but as the provisions had not arrived, and only two Indians being present, I could not go on with the payment. In the afternoon the rest of the band arrived from Lac des Mille Lacs, a council was held, and a chief and councillor elected. I deducted \$5 from Sheogowan, who last year drew his son's annuity. The provisions were not up to samples. The Hudson Bay Company's transports, with supplies, not arriving at Fort Francis in time, however, the Indians accepted them. I visited their gardens, and the few potatoes planted by the women were looking well. They will have about forty-five bushels. The tools were in very poor condition. I told the chief that a tool house should be built at once. We vaccinated thirteen. There were three births and one death in this band.

Wobegan and Eagle Lake Band.

On the 18th July I paid this band and distributed the provisions. At their request I reserved flour and bacon for hay-making. The cattle furnished last year look well. The Eagle Lake band lost one cow. These Indians seem industrious and are well clothed; the gardens are well attended to and will produce a good crop. There is no starvation among them and no whisky sellers heard of. I took inventory of all their tools and implements and find they are short of a good many, for which I have made requisition. The chief asked to be furnished with seven and a-half bushels of early rose potatoes to change the seed. I furnished this band with three scythes and snaths from my stores at Savanne. At the request of the chief I visited this band on the 16th of last month. They had lost all their hay (about twenty tons) by the freshest and heavy gales of wind. The Wobegan Indians have six head of cattle and the Eagle Lake band have three head. They are very anxious to save them, and wish to know if the Department will assist them. They were taking up their potatoes—a good crop, very large but of a late kind; will harvest about five hundred bushels. This band also wish laced boots instead of long ones. There were four births but no deaths in this band.

Lac Seul Band.

On the 22nd July I paid this band their annuity. They were pleased with the supplies and the seventy-one grub hoes furnished. I visited the gardens at Frenchman's Head, and was surprised at the fine fields of potatoes, barley, wheat, corn and garden produce. Last year over eleven thousand bushels of potatoes were harvested, and from the number planted this year would have about four thousand six hundred and seventy bushels. One Indian alone put in five bushels of wheat. They have no ploughs or harrows yet. The houses are well built, neat and clean. Instead of being huddled together, they are spread out like farm houses; each Indian strives with the other to see who can have the best clearing. They have a great number of

boards sawed and set up to dry in front of their new dwellings, and complain that they are short of whip-saws. This band is deserving of all encouragement they have been planting potatoes introduced by the Hudson Bay Company a century ago, and ask for six bushels of early rose for seed.

We inspected the school in charge of the Rev. James Irvine. The building is substantial, light and well ventilated. The children are making satisfactory progress, but are too far away for a good average attendance. They all show a great desire to learn even the young men wish to be instructed. Another thing against a good attendance is that the parents are unable to support the children while at school. The only solution of the difficulty seems to be the establishment of an industrial school, where the children could board and at which by their labor they might support themselves. We heard a class in the Fourth Book and also one in the Second Book read. They are able to pronounce the smaller words but the large ones are too much for them. They have great difficulty in pronouncing the letters p, b, d, l and r. They spell very well and, as was to be expected, write well, as well indeed as white children of the same age. The school itself is kept very neat and clean. The Indians in council refused to consent to Père Marcouse erecting a school house at Frenchman's Head, saying they did not wish to have different churches among them, the one pulling one way and the other pulling another. Ariguquomet, a councillor, was over paid in 1883; I therefore deducted the amount.

Kewegabowitung, belonging to this band, has never been paid his annuity. The chief and all say he belongs to the band, but as Mr. Agent Pither had refused to pay him, we said nothing could be done, except to refer the matter to you. With the consent of the band, Kirkaers' family and John Young's wife applied for commutation of annuity. This band have asked for one pair match planes, three ploughs, three harrows complete, four morticing picks, three cross-cut saws, four whip-saws, four spades and the two cows still due them. They will be at Wobegan Tank on the 5th January for the cattle. I told them they were not entitled to all these tools, but they say that the Indians are so scattered over the reserve that much time is wasted in going for the tools from place to place. There were sixteen deaths and twenty births in this band. We vaccinated forty-three, and left fifty vaccine points with Mr. Irvine to vaccinate any absentees.

Mattawan and English River.

I arrived at Mattawan on Friday night, 24th July. Next morning I called a council, and found that the chief and his councillor was absent. I sent a messenger to notify them that I would pay on the next day, 26th July, at the appointed place. After waiting all day the chief did not arrive, and as the other Indians were present, I called a council and explained that this was the place appointed by the Government for the payment, divided the provisions and distributed the annuities. I handed to the chief's son his father's share of the supplies. At their request, I reserved some flour, bacon, &c., to be used at hay-making.

On my way to Grassy Narrows I was informed that the son of the Eagle Lake chief had whisky, intending to trade. We gave chase, but he escaped among the islands. The gardens at Grassy Narrows were found in a satisfactory condition. Several new houses were going up. Peter Oohuk has erected here the frame of a school house. It is 16 by 13 feet; inside 7 feet high; windows, 2 ft. 8 in. by 2 ft. 8 in.; doors, 2½ by 5½; ceiling, poplar poles. The building is put up in a very inferior manner. Père Marcouse wishes to have the Government grant sent to P. Oohuk, but I heard that the money he received from the priest to aid in building this school he appropriated to pay a portion of his debt to the Hudson Bay Company. I think it would be more advisable to give the money to Père Marcouse to purchase what was necessary. There are thirty children here of an age to attend school. I furnished this band with three scythes and snaths, purchased from the Hudson Bay Company at Rat Portage, and sent them in by Peter Cameron. This band ask for one plough and one harrow, twenty grubbers, one morticing-pick, one single yoke,

and the two cows still due them. They wish to have the cattle delivered to them at Rat Portage on the 4th January, and they will be there to receive them. Last year, when their cattle were delivered at Rat Portage, the season was too far advanced, and they could not go for them. Births, three; deaths, three; vaccinated, eight.

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

JOHN MCINTYRF,
Indian Agent.

BERENS RIVER AGENCY—TREATY No. 5, 1st October, 1884.

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

Sir,—In accordance with instructions received, I have the honor to submit, with the accompanying tabular statement, my report on Indian affairs in Treaty No. 5, from 1st July to the 30th September last.

On the 5th July, I started from Winnipeg in order to make the annuity census. Le témoignage donné relativement à ce sujet :—
" Q.—Voulez-vous dire si, depuis l'arrivée du prisonnier dans le pays, jusqu'au temps de la rébellion, le Gouvernement a donné une réponse favorable aux demandes et aux réclamations des métis ?
" R.—Oui, je sais qu'il a acquiescé à certaines demandes relativement à ceux qui n'avaient pas de scrip dans le Manitoba. Un télégramme fut transmis le 4 mars dernier, accordant le scrip.
" Q.—A-t-il été payé ?
" R.—Il a été payé à la date de mon départ.

La proposition de l'Archevêque relativement à une réserve, fut condamnée par les autres autorités mentionnées et toutes les recommandations tendaient à faire placer les métis sous la tutelle du Gouvernement, ce à quoi ce dernier ne pouvait guère consentir. Ce conflit des recommandations fut la cause réelle du délai. Malgré cela, le Gouvernement ne s'est pas résolu à se débarrasser de ces réserves, et a aussi settle many other matters and troubles amongst them, both of a private and public nature. Thus every moment of the short time allowed me at each reserve is fully occupied. After travelling days and nights, on the morning of the 8th July I arrived at

Black River Reserve.

I immediately commenced to hold an election for chief, make the annuity payments and take statistical and other information from the band. Isaac Passage, the chief of the band, died during last winter, therefore, it was necessary to elect another in his stead.

The Indians informed me that they had enough food to meet their requirements during the last year. Their potato gardens were not looking as well as usual. They have been supplied with their full complement of cattle. They lost one cow in 1880. One was breachy and killed herself in getting over a hay enclosure. The other two cows starved to death in 1881, on account of scarcity of hay, caused by the flooding of the lake over their hay meadows. The bull died from sickness in 1879. They exchanged a useless ox for a bull this year. The other ox broke through the ice last spring, and got drowned. Thus they lost all the cattle given to them by the Department, and they now ask for more. Their reserve was surveyed in 1878 by J. L. P. O'Hanly. It has a net area of 2,000 acres, well wooded and good land. Their buildings are good enough, but, instead of increasing, I find a decrease of two this year; and only one acre of new land broken. They seem satisfied with the management of the school by David Prince, the Government school teacher, who was sent to them last spring. He was absent during the time that I was at the reserve, therefore I had no opportunity of examining the school, nor of personally ascertaining anything in regard to the progress made by the pupils, nor of the method adopted by the teacher. I was informed by the Indians that he was obliged to teach in a tent, on account of the school house being unfinished. The walls are up; its dimensions are 16 by 22 feet, with a wall 9 feet high. I failed in getting anyone to

undertake to finish it for them. They are fixing up the house formerly occupied by the late chief for the purpose. This band, as well as all the other Indians in Treaty 5, who are within the Province of Manitoba, regard the game law as a hardship to them. I informed the Indians of this reserve, as well as all the other Indians in this treaty, that it was not the intention of the Department to supply seed to them every spring, as heretofore. They expressed themselves satisfied, but hoped the Department would yet assist them in the event of a failure of their crops.

On account of stormy weather, I was unable to move out from this reserve before the morning of the 10th. The wind being favorable, on the same day at 5 p. m., I arrive at

Hollow Water Reserve.

I commenced immediately to make the annuity payments, and took statistical information that night, and on the following morning I proceeded to visit the reserve. I found no improvement whatsoever, but on the contrary their gardens appeared neglected, consequently little to be expected from that source this year. Their homes were abandoned; they had left them in the early part of spring, and had gone into camp on a point along the lake. They informed me that fish had been plentiful during the winter and spring, therefore they had plenty of food and no sickness in the band. They get all the work that they want from Messrs. Dick & Banning, who have a saw mill at this place.

Their school house had been completed by Mr. G. Dick. He put in a good floor, ceilings, three large windows, one good door, the roof shingled, walls mudded inside and out. He put in one table, two desks, sixteen feet long, by two feet wide, also four benches for seats, each sixteen feet long, and one large stove, with pipes complete, for \$100.00. The Indians request that the Department send a teacher there as soon as possible. Their implements and tools are not properly taken care of, but left lying about their houses and little gardens. They complain that timber has been cut on what they claim as part of their reserve. After having delivered the supplies, tools and implements, and having had a talk with the band, I started for Loon Straits on the morning of the 11th, but did not proceed very far, when I was obliged to put on shore on account of the strong head wind. The storm lasted for four days when I again started at 4.30 a. m., and arrived at Loon Straits at 11 p. m., that night, and at 6 a. m., the next morning (15th) arrived at

Loon Straits Reserve.

I immediately commenced to make the annuity payments, took statistical information and delivered the supplies, tools and implements to the band. They informed me that they did not suffer from any want of food during the past winter and spring, and that there was no sickness among them during the past year. Their potato gardens had been well attended to and looking well, but very little land cleared since last summer. They have put up two new houses. While some of the Indians were clearing land for a garden they accidentally set fire to a portion of their reserve, thereby destroying a quantity of good wood. The land in this reserve is good for planting purposes, with good hay meadows in the immediate vicinity.

The school house was, in a way, finished last year by the Rev. A. W. Ross, of Fisher River; but I must say that it is hardly fit for occupation yet.

The band is without a school teacher, and they ask the Department to send one there as soon as possible. The Indians were very much pleased and thankful for the receipt of a very complete and useful chest of carpenters' tools.

At 7 p. m., on the same evening (15th) I again started out against a head wind. The men rowed on until 11 p. m., then camped for the night, and at 10 a. m. on the next day arrived at

Blood Vein Reserve.

I delivered the supplies and implements, made the payments, visited the reserve and had a talk with the band.

Their little gardens look neglected, and the two tumbledown houses abandoned. Their tools and implements, not taken care of, were lying about their little gardens and old camps. I notified the chief to take proper care of them. The majority of these Indians go away hunting in the fall of the year, return in the springtime and live in birch bark and brush tents, scattered along the banks of the rivers and lake, fishing for a living. They generally collect together—Island bands—only at the time of the annuity payments, and in order to celebrate their medicine dances. The chief, Peter Stoney, is the leader and most prominent Medaw of them all.

There are 33 children of school age in this band, but no move has been made as yet in getting a school house built.

The cattle supplied by the Department to these Indians (Island bands) have been allowed to stray away and die for want of proper care.

On the same evening (16th) I started back for Fisher River, at 4 p.m., and camped for the night at Dog Head, at 11.30 p.m., and on the following morning moved out of camp at 5 a.m., with a favorable wind; and at 4 p.m. that same evening arrived at

Fisher River Reserve.

I delivered the supplies and implements that evening, and on the following morning proceeded to make the annuity payments as quickly as possible, but was very often interrupted by difficult questions arising out of misunderstandings and misbehavior on the part of some of the Indians. Some of these questions were of a private and others of a public nature, which required immediate attention and settlement. Therefore some delay was occasioned thereby, and in consequence payments were finished very late on Saturday night. As I had no time to spare, I was obliged to visit the reserve on Sunday, which took me all day to get through. On Monday morning I had a talk with the band as usual. The reserve for this fragment of the Norway House Band was surveyed in 1878 by Duncan Sinclair, D. L. S. It has an area of 9,000 acres. They claim that the reserve was not surveyed as they wished; that they did not intend to permit that their reserve should be cut in half, as it now appears on the plans of the survey.

The band do not wish that the Department should regard or treat them as a fragment of the Norway House Band, they ask for the privilege of having a chief and three headmen of their own, and protest against the voice of the Norway House Band at any of their elections for chief or headmen. They also ask for a constable to be appointed out of their band. The cattle supplied to them by the Department in 1879, are well taken care of; the chief on behalf of the band requested that the Department grant them two oxen, as they had too much work in the springtime for only one yoke of oxen, and could not get along fast enough with the planting, consequently some were very late in getting their seed in the ground. They again ask for a steel grist mill; they also request to be supplied with two bush breaking ploughs, two iron harrows and four set of strong chain traces, as those previously furnished were worthless. They have erected twelve dwelling houses and nine stables during the past season. The seed potatoes and garden seeds were delivered here in good order, and were all planted. The appearance of their gardens was very good when I last saw them in the latter part of September. The men get employment at the different saw-mills about this part of the lake, and I am informed that they work well and give general satisfaction to their employers. They had no trouble from any prevalent sickness in the band, and did not suffer for want of food. The school which is conducted by and under the management and control of the Methodist Missionary Society, had been closed for about ten months, consequently the children must have forgotten a great deal of what they had learned before another teacher was put in charge by the Rev. A. W. Ross. Complaints were made by the band regarding him. They stated that they were not willing to send their children to the school, but that they were told by Mr. Ross that in the event of their not sending their children to the school the Department were going to close the school for good. They ask for a teacher

appointed by the Department, and that the school be solely under the control and management of the Government and not the Missionary Society.

The teacher closed the school on the day of my arrival there. I requested him to open it for my examination and inspection, but he refused to do so; therefore I was unable to ascertain personally anything regarding the teaching or progress of the pupils. On the 22nd September I again visited this place, but again found that the school was closed. I was informed that the teacher was away on a visit to Winnipeg. There are 76 children of school age in the band, but I am unable to state the number attending school nor the average attendance, as the mission teachers do not send in their quarterly school returns through me, as the Government teachers do, but through the Secretary of the Methodist Missionary Society at Toronto.

Immediately after the business in connection with the band was finished, I started for Jack Head, at noon on Monday 21st. A storm broke out shortly after leaving, and I was obliged to run into harbor, where I remained all night. On the following morning, at 3.30 a.m., I started against a strong head wind, and at 9 p.m. arrived at

Jack Head Reserve.

I delivered the supplies, implements and tools to the band, had a talk with them, then proceeded to make the payments, and finished at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, 23rd July. The gardens at this reserve were looking well enough, but not as well as usual, on account of the drought during the early part of the season. No progress has been made in building, clearing or breaking new land. The band complain that their reserve has not been surveyed for them yet, and they request that it be done as soon as possible, as there are some timber limits being surveyed in the immediate neighborhood, and they are afraid that they may be encroaching on what they claim as their reserve. One cow and one ox were allotted to this fragment of the Island Bands in 1879, and while they were away at Dog Head receiving their annuity payments in 1881 the cow strayed away, and the following winter was found by two Fisher River Indians near White Mud River, where they sold her to an Icelander. The headman, James Sinclair, has since tried to get another cow instead from the man who sold her, but he failed to make a settlement. In 1882 the ox died suddenly, while in good condition. The band ask the Department that they see fit to replace these animals. They received their seed potatoes in good order; they say that they planted them all. They ask for a grindstone, two spades, one wrench, one sawset and two grooving picks. They also ask the Department to allow them a chief and headmen for the band.

The school was closed when I visited the reserve. The teacher had left in the early part of the spring. I was therefore unable to ascertain what progress the children have made since the opening of the school. The band were not satisfied at the way the school had been neglected. They request that another teacher be sent in his place. There are 26 children of school age in this band.

After having completed the business at this reserve I started out for Beren's River at 7 p.m. I travelled all night and at 7 the next morning (Thursday, 24th) I arrived at

Beren's River Reserve.

After storing away my supplies at the Agency I distributed the supplies to the band and then commenced the payments. On Saturday I had a talk with the band and finished about 9.30 p.m. They expressed their satisfaction and gratitude for the supplies, implements and medicines received from the Department. Complaints were made by the band against fishermen who are making a business of fishing and trading for fish at this reserve. The Indians ask the Department to put a stop to such business in the neighborhood. They say it will destroy their fisheries and be the means of causing starvation among the bands. They also stated that the Manitoba game laws will be a hardship to the Indians in this part of the Province. They ask assistance from the Department for the relief of the aged, sick and destitute of

the band. They want a chest of carpenter's tools, a grindstone, a pit and cross-cut saw for the Grand Rapids (B. R.) band, six sickles, six hay-forks, six scythes and snaths and one grooving pick for the band. They also request that the survey of their reserve be corrected, and that it be sub-divided into lots for each family. They represent that a great number of the Indians in the different bands are under the impression that law cannot be enforced in this part of the country, consequently crimes of a serious nature, such as stealing, house-breaking, assault, drunkenness, poisoning, rape, and even murder has been committed with impunity. Therefore the band request the Department that they get a lock-up or gaol built at this place, wherein may be summarily confined any such person disturbing the peace. They ask for two constables appointed from the band. They want permission to sell the wood cut in the reserve while clearing land for planting purposes.

There are one hundred and fifty-two children of school age in the three reserves of the Beren's River Band, forty-nine each at Grand Rapids and Poplar River, and fifty-three at Beren's River. Through the Methodist Missionary Society a show of teaching the Indian children was kept up for a while at Beren's River Reserve, but through neglect and mismanagement it turned out to be a failure, the children forgot all they had learned, consequently nothing has been done in that branch of their mission work to benefit one child in the reserve. Miss Jane Flett who was recently appointed by the Department as school teacher for this place, has opened the Government Indian school. She has forty-four names on the school roll, and a fair prospect of having about thirty of an average attendance at the end of the quarter. I was present on the day Miss Flett opened the school, and must say that there was not one Indian child there who could read the alphabet, it therefore needed no words to prove how little the Indians had been benefitted by the Mission school at Beren's River. But now that the band have got what they long have asked for—a teacher appointed by the Department, who can speak the Indian as well as the English language, and the school solely under the supervision and control of the Department—I have no hesitation in predicting that there will be a great change for the better. The band disagreed and divided in opinion and a bitter feeling arose amongst them on the question of giving consent to a grant of a piece of land in the centre of the reserve to the Methodist Missionary Society, and one of the reasons for objecting advanced by some of them at the time, was on account of their school. They said they did not want it to be under the management of the mission, and they feared that an effort would be made to get the control of the school if they got the grant of land from the Department and established themselves near the school site. But on this one point they were unanimous in objecting to their school being under the management of any society or party other than the Department.

The reserve for this band was surveyed in 1878 by J. L. P. O'Hanly, and laid out in a large block, with a net area of 7,400 acres; and another at Poplar River by the same party and during the same year, for a fragment of the band living at that place. This was also laid out in a large block, with a net area of 3,800 acres. There are two other fragments of the band; one party living about Grand Rapids (B.R.) and the rest at Peek-ange-Kum, about eighty-five miles further up the Beren's River. No reserve has been laid out for either of these bands; in fact, there is no necessity for doing so at present, as it is not at all likely they will be disturbed by other people for many years to come. At Beren's River a few old houses were pulled down and others put up instead, during the spring and summer; otherwise, there is no improvement to be seen in this reserve. There were no new houses put up at Poplar River or Grand Rapids this summer. There are twenty-four houses at Beren's River reserve, fifteen at Poplar River and one at Grand Rapids.

Their potato gardens looked scorched and neglected during the summer, but they turned out good enough when dug up this fall, so that with care they will manage to save enough for seed for the next spring.

On Monday, 28th July, I made a start for Norway House, but the wind being unfavorable I was obliged to put ashore upon an island, shortly after starting, where I

was obliged to remain until the following evening, when the wind shifted a point to the west. I then started out, pushed on day and night, and on Friday, the 1st August, arrived at

Norway House Reserve.

On the same day I delivered the supplies and implements to the band; and as the three years' term of office for which the chief and headmen were elected had now expired, I proceeded to hold an election. I found that they were unwilling to act in the matter, as the chief and headmen of this band received no pay from the Department. After a great deal of talking and advising, they however consented to elect a chief and two headmen for a term of three years. The old chief was again elected by acclamation. One of the former headmen refused the office, and two others were elected. The election lasted until 9 p.m., so that the payments could not be commenced that day. The following day payments were made until 10 p.m., and finished at 6 p.m. on Monday the 4th. I then proceeded to Norway House, in order to get ready for a start to Cross Lake on the next day.

A deputation of Oxford Indians, consisting of the chief and eight principal men of that band, met me at this place. They requested me to inform the Department once more that they were willing to make a treaty with them for their part of the country, but that they would no longer allow any party exploring to travel through their hunting grounds without the right to do so, that they claim the sole right to their country as long as the Queen did not make any treaty with them.

The reserve for the Norway House Band was surveyed by Duncan Sinclair, D.L.S., in 1877; it has a net area of 1,840 acres.

Their potato gardens were not thriving as well as they might, for together with the effects of drought some of them showed evidence of neglect on the part of the people themselves. I am, however, informed since that, when dug up, they yielded an average crop. The band had enough food during the last year, neither did they suffer from any prevalent disease.

The band request that the Department recognize and pay their chief and headmen, as other chiefs and headmen. They request that the Department supply them with the following implements and tools: twelve hay forks, twelve iron garden rakes, two miner's picks, one grindstone, also, pit, cross-cut and handsaw files. They request that the sick, aged and destitute be supplied with food, and that medicine be furnished to the band.

The full complement of cattle has been supplied by the Department to this band, and are well taken care of, and have raised five young animals from them.

John Menow was temporarily teaching in the Government school since last February. There was an average attendance of twenty-six pupils. In September last, the Department appointed Mr. A. A. McDonald to take charge of the school in his stead, and I am informed that on the return of the Indians from their fall fishing, he intends to open the school in the new building, which is now about completed. Miss Parkenson, who had been teaching school for the last winter in the Methodist missionary school at this reserve, left the place along with her brother-in-law, Rev. E. Langford, about the 25th June, so that school is again without a teacher. Rev. J. Semins is now in charge of the place, and he informed me that he had asked the Methodist Missionary Society to send a teacher out there, but that in the event of no teacher being sent, he would open the school himself. I have been since informed that he is teaching, when his missionary duties do not call him away. I believe that he is a very zealous and hard working missionary, and I am sure that he will do good work at this place. I am only sorry that the Methodist Missionary Society have no more such men among our Indians in this part of the country.

I must say that I believe the greatest cause of irregular teaching at the mission schools, by the parties sent out by the Methodist Missionary Society, is that the teacher, in almost every instance, is either a nephew, niece, sister-in-law or some such relation of the rev. gentleman sent out as missionary. These men are often removed from one mission to another, and, of course, along with them go the niece or