

sister-in-law. Then the school is closed, and in many instances, before another missionary comes along with his relative, the children have had ample time to forget all that had been taught them by the first teacher.

After settling many misunderstandings and difficulties among the Indians, I left for Cross Lake at 2 p.m. on the 5th August, and on the following day, at 7 p.m., arrived at

Cross Lake Reserve.

I delivered the supplies and implements to the band that same evening, and on the following day held an election for chief and headmen. Made the payments on the next day. I visited the reserve and had a talk with the band. I then started on my return trip, having finished the annuity payments. The band ask for three sickles, six hayforks, six iron garden rakes, two miners' picks, six each pit, cross-cut and hand-saw files. They also ask for medicines for the band; and request that the Department assist their aged, sick and destitute Indians. Their potato gardens were well attended to, but, on account of drought, they appeared somewhat backward. They received their seed potatoes and garden seeds in good time and order. Their cattle looked well, and were well taken care of. They wish to exchange an old ox for a young one. The reserve for this band was surveyed by Duncan Sinclair, D.L.S., in 1877; it has a net area of 5,760 acres. There are fifty children of school age in the band. The Government Indian school was opened by George Garrioch, in his own house, on the 6th February last. It was closed for the summer vacation at the time of my visit there. The teacher informed me that there was an average attendance of twenty-five pupils. The appointment of Mr. Garrioch is only temporary—his education being somewhat limited—but he is doing very well for the present, and the band are well satisfied with the school. The walls of their new school house are about completed, but I was unable, at the time, to find anybody who would undertake to finish it, as required by the Department.

The several chiefs and headmen, together with a great many of the other Indians in this treaty, represent that the law protecting a treaty Indian from the payment of a just debt has a demoralizing effect among the Indians, therefore they recommend, strongly urge and request, that the Government make a law whereby any treaty Indian, in this part of the country at least, may be summarily punished for refusing to pay, or defrauding a creditor out of the payment of goods obtained through the chief and headmen of the band.

The Indians under my supervision now have two hundred and eighty houses, three hundred tents and wigwams, sixty-seven stables, one hundred and seventy-six boats, three hundred and one canoes, thirty ploughs, thirty harrows, four hundred and sixty-eight hoes, five hundred and twenty-six axes, three hundred and seventeen spades, ten chests carpenter's tools, besides a number of other tools, implements, guns, traps, &c., they also have three bulls, twelve oxen, fifty-five cows, fifty-six young animals, in all one hundred and thirty-six head of cattle, and one hundred and thirty-six acres of land under cultivation. They have put up one hundred and forty-three tons of hay. There are one thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven Indians receiving annuity, and five hundred and thirty-six children of school age.

There was no real scarcity of food among the Indians in this treaty during the last year, consequently only a very trifling amount was expended in purchasing supplies for the relief of the aged, sick and destitute.

Vaccine matter was handed to me by Mr. Inspector McColl in order to vaccinate as many of the Indians as possible during my tour of annuity payments. As I was too busy at the different reserves to attend to it myself I entrusted that part of the business to my assistant, Mr. McIntyre. He operated on all that he could conveniently manage at each reserve. The Indians did not seem over-anxious to get their children vaccinated, advancing as an excuse that the children could not be kept out of the water. It may, however, be true, for out of the great number operated on it took effect only on a very small number.

The flour, bacon, tea, tobacco, twine, ammunition, tools and implements distributed this year to the different bands were supplied by the Hudson Bay Company, all of excellent quality, in good order, and as usual delivered promptly at each reserve.

On my return trip I visited some of the reserves that I could not attend to on my journey out for want of time. I arrived in Winnipeg on the 26th August. Business in connection with the annuity payments and other office work had to be attended to here which would take a number of days to finish; therefore I was advised by Mr. Inspector McColl to send back my men with the York boat to the agency and return myself later by steamer, which I did; and on the 15th September I started out for Beren's River and got on board the steamer "Princess" at Selkirk. After running into Fisher River and having been delayed by other causes on the trip out, I landed at Beren's River Agency on the 24th September. My trip in connection with the annuity payments commenced on the 21st June and ended on the 24th September, making in all 96 days. During that time I travelled a distance of about 2,020 miles, including the estimated distances, *via* boat route, between the agency and Winnipeg, the detours made on account of contrary winds, getting into harbors, visiting every part of each reserve, &c.

On the 2nd July all the Indian agents of the Manitoba Superintendency, excepting Mr. Agent Reader, being assembled at the Indian Office, Winnipeg, Mr. Inspector McColl advised us to look over our instructions regarding annuity payments and have a consultation together. We gladly accepted the offer, and although the time at our disposal was too short, yet I venture to say that the meeting was beneficial, inasmuch as the agents were allowed an opportunity to discuss for the first time Indian affairs together, and advance suggestions and opinions one to the other as well as offer their remarks to Mr. Inspector McColl.

By his careful and patient attention to his duty as assistant in making the annuity payments this year, Mr. McIntyre rendered me good service, and received that welcome and was shown that respect from all the Indians which kindness and gentlemanly conduct deserves.

At Cross Lake I met Mr. Inspector McColl, who was on his annual tour of inspection to the different agencies and reserves in the Manitoba Superintendency, and travelled in company with him on my return trip to the agency at Beren's River. I am glad to report that through his zealous supervision and management, the business in this part of the superintendency is carefully and properly attended to and giving satisfaction to the Indians.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

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

A. MACKAY,

Indian Agent.

PEACE HILLS AGENCY,
ALBERTA, 5th October, 1885.

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

SIR,—I have the honor to submit the following report on the condition of the Indians of this agency, with tabular statement for 1884-5.

I was placed in charge in November, 1884, by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Up to that date I was in charge as farming instructor.

As the spring of 1884 opened very early it enabled the Indians of Sampson's, Erminskin's, Bobtail's and Muddy Bull's Bands to seed all the land they had ploughed.

They had every reason to expect a good return for their labor, but, unfortunately, extremely hot, dry weather prevailed until the early part of July, and crops became stunted.

There was a marked improvement in the interest shown by the Indians both in seeding their crops and in hoeing and weeding them, during the summer.

The hay crop was a poor one in this locality owing to the extremely dry weather during May and June, and difficult to harvest owing to the very wet weather which prevailed afterwards.

The bands under Sampson, Erminskin and Bobtail sowed a small quantity of wheat this year for the first time. The seed was furnished them from Farm 18. Bobtail's wheat ripened fully and gave a fair return. Erminskin's was not so good.

The barley was below the average, owing, partly, to the ravages of the cut-worm, but more to the Indians not harrowing the land sufficiently after sowing; having the four bands to superintend I could not give them the attention necessary.

Turnips did not give a good return, having been cut repeatedly by the turnip fly. Potatoes yielded well and were well harvested, and I am glad to add none were frozen during the winter.

The Indians sold a good many bushels during the fall and spring, used all they required for food, furnished their own seed and had potatoes left after the new crop came in. As they will be supplied with pigs next year their surplus crops will be utilized.

The Band No. 141 (Stonys under Sharphead) removed this spring to a reserve they have selected on the Wolf Creek, where it enters the Battle River. On this reserve they have made fair progress, but raised very little. The seeding being on the sod the dry weather affected the crop very badly.

The winter was on the whole a favorable one for the Indians. The snow fell very lightly until the end of January.

Spring opened early in March.

During the spring of 1885 the acreage seeded shows a decrease of forty-one acres, Erminskin, twenty-seven less, Sampson, seven, and the Stonys sixteen acres less. Muddy Bull's band, an increase of five acres, and the Saulteaux, four acres.

This decrease was owing to the excitement caused by the rebellion.

During the month of April the Indians though working were not under the control of the instructors. The result is too much land sowed to wheat, none of it properly harrowed in and in some cases sowed too late. Barley and potatoes were put in under the instruction of the farming instructors.

The Stonys (Band No. 141) did not do any work on their reserve at Wolf Creek, but put in three acres of potatoes on their old reserve at Battle Lake.

On the whole a much better crop was seeded than I expected under the circumstances.

During the winter and spring of 1885 a great deal of sickness prevailed among the Indians, and many deaths occurred. I regret to say that Chief Sampson lost his son, and Chief Erminskin his wife.

The services of Dr. Tofield were secured. He was very successful in his treatment.

In July, 1884, a number of Indians from the bands of Big Bear and Little Pine with some Saulteaux from the south, appeared in the Bears' Hill reserves.

These strangers immediately made preparations for a third dance. The majority of the Bears' Hill Indians kept away from the dance. Sampson and Erminskin did all in their power to keep their men at home and at work.

These strange Indians exercised a bad influence over the Indians of this agency. They wintered at Buffalo Lake. From this point they had communication with the Indians of Battleford and the Bears' Hill.

The latter part of February runners made their appearance among the Bears' Hill Indians, bearing messages to Chief Bobtail from Big Bear, Little Pine and the Battleford Indians. The Indians became restless. They told me Big Bear and Little Pine were coming to the Bears' Hill to take up their reserve. After the Duck Lake

fight they became more restless. Every day brought messages from the disloyal Indians, and councils at Chief Bobtail's were held oftener than necessary, but even then I had no doubt about being able to control them. I looked forward to having a hard time to induce them to stick to their work.

Chief Sampson was absent at this time, having gone to Morleyville for his son. Chief Sampson apparently did all in his power to assist me in allaying excitement and keeping the men at work.

On the 3rd of April I was compelled to go into Edmonton to get provisions for the spring's work, as we were entirely out of bacon.

Before I got my supplies started from Edmonton, Mr. Carson, Farming Instructor from Saddle Lake, came to Edmonton with the news of the Frog Lake murders. He informed me that Big Bear's men were to go immediately to Bears Hill, and warned me that I had no time to lose, if I wished to save my family. I removed my family at once, and sent a message to the instructors to run no unnecessary risks, and a message to Chief Erminskin that I would be back in three days.

Two days after I removed my family all white men were ordered off the reserves, as they, while protesting their loyalty, declared they would be unable to protect white men from the men of Big Bear's and Little Pine's Bands, now expected daily.

The Indians made one exception. They asked John Lee, Farming Instructor, to remain, as he had been a long time among them. Mr. Lee remained a few days, but finding they paid no heed to him, he left.

I regret to say the Hudson Bay Company's store at Battle River, the residence of Mr. Glass, mission teacher, and most of the Government stores were taken possession of by the Indians. The great majority of the Indians were loyal and refused to mix or meddle in any illegal act. The Stonys, as a band, were loyal, and fearing that some of the young men might get mixed up with the disloyal Crees, removed to Battle Lake, where they remained till order was restored. Muddy Bull's Band remained on the reserve and kept at work, doing everything they could to assist the Government.

Since order has been restored, all have worked well and seem to regret the part taken by the few in the troubles.

These Indians had no cause for siding with the rebels.

In October, 1884, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs met these Indians; listened with patience to all their complaints, real and imaginary. Where a grievance existed redress was immediately promised.

Additional cattle that were most desired and needed were given at once. The necessary implements were promised them.

During the winter I was often told by Indians that they had never been as well off as they now were as regards food; that no doubts existed in their minds of being able to make a living by farming.

All doubts of the Government's intentions towards them had been removed by the kindness shown by the Commissioner towards them during his recent visit.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

SAMUEL B. LUCAS,

Acting Indian Agent.

INDIAN OFFICE, VICTORIA, B.C., 2nd November, 1885.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit for your information the following general report on Indian Affairs in the Province of British Columbia, for the year just closed.

Reports, with tabular statements, so far as they could be compiled, from the six local agencies under my direction, have been received and forwarded to the Department at Ottawa.

Official visitations have been paid during the year to the agencies of Okanagan, Kamloops, William's Lake, Fraser and Cowichan.

The officers in charge of these localities have been active in the performance of their various duties, and have done much to ameliorate and improve the condition of the hands under their charge, and to foster their peaceful relations with the white settlers.

Throughout the interior of the mainland, where reserves were allotted by the former joint Reserve Commission, the long delay which has taken place in their final approval and confirmation has created great obstacles in the way of their improvement, and has been productive of much uneasiness in the minds of the Indians. In a number of instances the loyalty of these people has been put to the severest test by the injustice with which they have been treated in regard to lands gravely promised to them by the joint authority of both the Dominion and Provincial Governments.

The task of meeting many of them and securing their good-will under such circumstances is by no means a pleasant or desirable one. The actual sale and alienation of some of the lands which were reserved for and promised to them, has had the effect of casting more or less doubt as to their secure tenure over any of their reserves, and preventing many improvements which I am satisfied a very large number of the young and industrious natives would otherwise make.

Fortunately, the stupendous work of railway construction through the Province has afforded them, during the last four or five years, other and lucrative means of livelihood.

The extent of this aid may be imagined, when I state, that I was recently informed by the railway contractor that he had paid out nearly \$300,000 for Indian labor alone. This circumstance will not only afford you the best evidence of the industrious character of the Indians, and their desire to be self-supporting, but will enable you to comprehend their patience under such difficulties, and their hesitation in giving effect to very frequent murmurs of discontent. It should also be mentioned in this connection that while the Railway Act has been applied as to right of way from the seaboard to Savona through the lands of private property owners and compensation paid to them, so far, the rights of Indians to similar treatment on account of reserves which have been encroached upon, have not been conceded.

The Department of Indian Affairs is in correspondence with the Department of Railways and Canals on this subject, and no doubt a satisfactory arrangement will be the result.

Another very potent cause of trouble, which in the near future, will be productive of serious mischief and ill-feeling among the interior Indians, is the apparent want of security which exists as to the water rights which the Commissioners allotted for them. Without water, nearly all the large reserves would be perfectly useless for agricultural purposes, and if deprived of this when railway construction ceases and Indians are obliged to depend upon the products of the soil for existence, their suffering and consequent discontent will be extreme.

Individual water rights constitute one of the most important subjects for consideration which can occur even to the actual or intending settler. Already the courts of the Province have been much occupied in the settlement of disputes which have cropped up as to the legality of long standing records of water and the rights conveyed by them. These rights, from the difficulty of securing sufficient water for irrigation purposes, are regarded with great attention not unmixed with the jealousy and ill-feeling to which such necessities usually give rise. In many localities, settlers have encroached upon each others rights, and I regret to observe, that where an Indian's claims are jeopardized he gets little sympathy or consideration from those who have similar irrigating requirements. The apparent tendency, too, of those in authority is to push the Indian and his claims aside in favor of those whose votes

can command interest and influence. Acting, I presume on the assumption, that land in the interior without water would be of no service to the Indian, the latter being essential to enable him to utilize the former, the Joint Reserve Commission allotted both—a custom which has been continued up the present time.

Just as much care was necessary in finding water for a reserve as in the selection of the reserve itself.

Indians find it difficult to comprehend the respective rights and jurisdiction of the Local and Dominion Governments, but they look with loyal confidence to Her Majesty, and they expect that promises made publicly and in their presence by those who were authorized by her Commission to treat with them should be faithfully and honorably carried out. The preservation of water rights, duly reported to both Governments by their deputed officers, is a matter of vital interest to the Indians, and there is nothing, in my opinion, which should be allowed to create the least doubt with respect to the same. The patient submission of these people, which, by the way, contrasts so favorably with the conduct of their brethren on the eastern side of the mountains, should, at least, be rewarded by some attempt to keep faith with them, and both water and lands which have been pointed out as their own should be inviolate and safe from all encroachments. I am sorry to observe that such is not the case in British Columbia, and that the alienation and sale of some of their reserves and the questions raised in regard to the water appropriated for them rather conveys the impression that advantage is being taken of their obedience to law, and that their long continued character for peace will stand any aggressive assaults that may be made upon it.

I am aware that it has been asserted, chiefly by those who think that no allotments whatever should be set aside for Indians, that little use is being made of reserves. This, however, is not correct. It will be seen, on referring to reports of local agents that, with few tribal exceptions, Indians are making good use of their reserves. Large quantities of grain and other produce are being raised by them, while those who have grazing lands are acquiring considerable stock. The best proof the Government can have of their prosperity, under many adverse circumstances, is the fact that they are self-supporting, and the amount disbursed in eleemosynary aid is certainly not more than would be dispensed among a similar population of white people. On the other hand, when one considers the disregard which has been paid to some of the awards of the Reserve Commissioners, the insecurity and doubt consequently applied to all lands held in trust for them, and the petty acts of tyranny and imposition too often practised upon them by unfeeling and thoughtless white residents, the wonder is that Indians have been able to show the signs of progress which one can point out, or that they can be persuaded to make improvements upon holdings of their tenure to which there is really no certainty from one day to another.

Again, on glancing at the minutes of decision in respect of their reserves one may possibly be struck by the seemingly extensive acreage which appears apportioned for some of the tribes. It should, however, be understood that these acreages often include extensive mountainous tracts, of no use to Indians for industrial purposes, and which, for grazing objects, must remain as commonage, equally open to the stock of both white settlers and natives.

A recent exchange of five hundred acres of such land for fifteen of very ordinary cultivable soil will afford you an idea of comparative value, and from which it can also be understood that the liberality with which it was proposed many of the bands should be dealt, ought not to be judged by the number of acres which a reserve or the reserves of the Province, taken as a whole, include.

In some localities visited by the Commissioners the Indians are still badly off for cultivable lands, and it is to be regretted that in a few special instances where the Commission was unable to find Crown lands and which I have had the honor of bringing to your notice, that no provision has yet been made for purchasing a little land from private owners in order to make up the deficiency. The bands above alluded to are those whose settlements have been appropriated by settlers in the

early history of the Province, and who, being deprived of their old modes of gaining a living, and having to adopt the changes in their habits incident to civilization, now find themselves destitute, with little or no sympathy for their condition.

A small appropriation, comparatively, expended in the purchase of a little land in the vicinity of their old homes, to which they are much attached, would, I am certain, be attended with great benefit and soon render them independent of relief, which will no doubt soon have to be extended to them to prevent the miseries of utter destitution.

On the coast, beyond the settled districts of Vancouver, Indians have not, up to the present time, been much exercised in regard to agricultural lands. The great sea farms of the Province are of vital interest to them, and encroachments upon their favorite fishing places have not, as yet, been such as to create great alarm in their minds. If they had been free from the interference of those who have sedulously endeavored to persuade them to assume an attitude of disaffection for the reason that the Government has not yet settled with them on account of their alleged claims to the whole country, they would, no doubt, have been contented and happy. Naturally, they are well disposed towards the whites, and it is greatly to be deplored that the hurtful presence among them of mischief-makers has not been prevented.

The establishment of salmon canneries on the north-west coast, as explained in previous reports, has given abundant employment and profit to them for the last five or six years.

The two past years however have not been favorable, and those engaged in the business have suffered heavy losses in consequence. The continuation of a very low market has caused nearly all the canneries on the coast to shut down, so that notwithstanding the very large run of fish, no advantage could be taken of it. There will be considerable suffering in consequence, and it is doubtful if many of them will be able "to pull through" a hard winter without some assistance. They are not a provident people, and the "happy-go-lucky" mode of living which is characteristic with them, and chiefly incident to their nomadic habits, has serious drawbacks when they are confronted with a failure in the supply of comforts to which they have been accustomed. Large numbers from the Nass, Simpson, Metlakatla, and other places on the coast, have come to Victoria, to seek employment in the hop-picking grounds of Puget Sound.

They have found, however, a depressed hop market also, and large numbers have returned crest-fallen and disappointed.

Complaints of trouble on the Nass River, chiefly due to the contention incident to sectarian jealousies, have reached me, which will require an agent of the Department to settle. In the month of March, or beginning of April, thousands of Indians from neighboring tribes congregate there for the purpose of taking their annual supply of the delicious oolachan and its highly nutritious oil. Should the appointment of an officer for the north-west coast agency not be filled before that time, some trustworthy person, having the authority of a constable, should be stationed at this point during the fishing period, which generally lasts about six weeks.

The Act prohibiting "potlaches" and the demoralizing "tamauwaw" came into force on the 1st of January last, and is stoutly opposed in two or three of the agencies. Many Indians, especially "the old timers," are greatly exercised, and have evinced much feeling as to what they consider an ill-timed innovation upon their old habits and modes of living, to which they are much attached. I had the honor of furnishing you with a full report of a recent visit to the Cowichan Agency, where several hundred Indians had assembled from various bands, both far and near, to be present at a grand "potlach" given by a very friendly but influential chief who, with his relations, had been engaged for the last four or five years in accumulating property for the occasion. This chief did not wish to put himself in opposition to a law which he thought the Government had been premature in passing, but it was a matter of honor with him to return the goods which he owed, and he hoped, therefore, I would permit this. He was really much concerned, and took great pains to give every assurance that this would be the last gathering of the kind he would have.

Other chiefs followed, and I learned that great excitement had been manifested in the district for some time previous.

Our speech-making lasted two days, and I have no doubt there was mutual satisfaction at the result to which all concerned were glad enough to arrive.

The chief was permitted to meet his many creditors and return the goods he had received at previous feasts on the distinct understanding, however, that no gifts were to be "potlached" *i. e.*, donated with the usual custom of having them returned. Subsequently, I issued circulars for the information of the coast tribes, calling attention to the Act, and informing them that the law would not prevent Indians from meeting to return gifts due by them, but any repetition of the "potlach" proper could not be permitted in the future.

The system is one which will cure itself; there can be no doubt that great progress is discernable, both among coast and interior tribes, and the continuance of this and other demoralizing customs is fast giving way to the adoption of more civilized modes of life.

Fraser Agency.

The low salmon market applies to the Fraser Agency as well as to the North-West Coast, and most of the large canneries on the Fraser River have been obliged to cease their operations. The greater part of the labor in the business is performed by Indians, hence the very large sums paid to them will be greatly missed. The statement of Mr. McTiernan, that not less than three thousand natives visited New Westminster for the purpose of engaging in their usual work, will convey some idea of the general resulting disappointment. It is fortunate that the large run of salmon has afforded them an opportunity of obtaining a winter supply of food, and that the season has been favorable for abundant crops.

It will be noticed that the Indians on the Douglas Portages are without sufficient reserves, the Commissioner having been unable to find Crown lands there. They appear willing to work, and the difficulties encountered in cultivating the small and distant patches possessed show what they might accomplish if they had the opportunity. The Indians in the vicinity of Hope and Texas Lake have made good use of the money paid them by the railway contractor in acquiring agricultural implements, which have proved of great service.

There will still be a considerable sum to their credit, which I shall be glad to see properly utilized. Railway expenditure and the remuneration given these Indians for their labor have placed them in comparatively comfortable circumstances, from which I do not think they will recede. Mr. McTiernan reports more improvements made on their lands this year than in the ten previous years.

Okanagan and Kamloops Agencies.

During the past year, in accordance with your directions, Mr. Mackay, on his return from the North-West Coast, was placed in charge of both these agencies.

The sum apportioned to the two previous agents for travelling expenses has been allowed Mr. Mackay, and, so far as I have been able to observe, good use has been made of it. He has paid numerous visitations throughout the whole district, and has his work well in hand. His exertions to stop the liquor traffic have been effective, and in my opinion deserved greater encouragement than he has apparently experienced at the hands of the provincial authorities, who not only deprived him of the assistance of the constable stationed at Kamloops, but cancelled his commission as a Justice of the Peace because the fines inflicted by him were disbursed according to the provisions of the Indian Act, and not paid into the Provincial Treasury.

The Department has had to contend with similar obstacles in checking the liquor traffic in other agencies of the Province. I therefore sincerely trust that some mutually satisfactory arrangements may be arrived at between both the Provincial and Dominion Governments in regard to this matter. I need scarcely say

how prejudicial such a seeming conflict of authority is to the efficient administration of the law.

Much encouragement is thus given to a low class of whiskey sellers to continue their nefarious and demoralizing work. With a view of fully informing you as to the ground taken by the Provincial Government in withdrawing Mr. Mackay's commission and, generally, in refusing even indirect aid to Indian agents in carrying out the law, I herewith append communications from the provincial authorities on the subject.

In company with Mr. Mackay I visited the reserves on the Thompson River, Shushwap Lakes and Eagle Pass Landing. At the latter place, the old fishing resort of the Indians, confirmed by the Reserve Commission, has been sold by the provincial authorities. Steps were taken to recover the reserve for the Indians, but the matter still remains in dispute. I visited the Indian settlements on the opposite side of Okanagan Lake, where there is a band of Indians numbering fifty-two souls, who were passed over by the Indian Reserve Commission, and for whom no allotment has yet been made. Their settlement, consisting of some cleared fields and a dozen or more of log houses, in which they reside, with others used as barns and various outbuildings, was recently pre-empted by a white settler who owns the adjoining farm, and who ordered them to vacate at once.

A statement was received by the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, strongly urging the claim of the settler in preference to that of the Indians, alleging, among other things, that in carrying on their farming operations the Indians stole water at night from the irrigating ditch.

In one of the fields the chief pointed out a burial ground in which were interred the remains of his ancestors some generations back.

In bringing the matter to the notice of the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, he recommended that this band should join that at N-comapolia, whose large reserve is situated at the head of the lake. It must be remembered, however, that the Indians of British Columbia are divided into numerous independent bands, entirely separate and distinct from each other. It would be just as difficult to compel these Indians to leave their old homes and take up common residence with another band, by whom they would always be considered as interlopers, and subject, accordingly, to almost daily taunts, as it would be to compel a family of white nationality to join the household of another with whom they did not care to associate, and expect them subsequently to get on happily and harmoniously. The case of these Indians I consider a very hard one, apart from the claim which the local Land Act gives them to their own settlements in exempting them from pre-emption (a clause not always observed). There is no reason why their desire for a reserve of their own, where they possess considerable improvements, should not have the favorable attention and decision of the Reserve Commissioner.

The Indians in Mr. Mackay's agency living along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway from Yale to Savona, complain that no regard has been paid to the Indian Act in compensation provided for therein in cases where the road enters or damages their reserve. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company has intimated to me, through their agent, that compensation would be made to Indians in the same manner as to other persons. This course is just, and exceedingly satisfactory to the Indians, and if it be desirable to treat natives fairly, the same rule should be followed in regard to that portion of the line not yet taken over by the Canadian Pacific Railway Syndicate.

In my journey throughout the Kamloops Agency I was pleased to note the progress evinced by the Indians and their desire to improve their reserves. If the doubts many of them entertain as to their right to reserves allotted for them were removed, by the issue of actual patents, the consequent feeling of security would, I am satisfied, impart an increased desire to improve their allotments. The proceeds derived from their employment in railway construction has placed most of the bands here in comfortable circumstances, and the present is a favorable time to encourage them in every possible way to utilize their lands and make provision for their future requirements, when public works are completed and expenditure withdrawn.

Kwawkwalth and West Coast Agencies.

The isolation of these districts, the difficulty of obtaining usual means of transportation, and the insufficient funds at my disposal for procuring some special mode of visitation, have prevented any journey of inspection to these points during the present year.

Mr. Blenkinsop reports the Indians of the first named agency to be in better condition than last year, and that he has been able to check the flagrant cases of illicit whiskey traffic carried on there with impunity last year. There is more room, however, for continued reform in this agency than in any of the others. Its people are fond of old and demoralizing habits, and have successfully defied the best efforts of numerous energetic missionaries for many years past.

The Indians of the West Coast Agency, though still uncivilized, are much more industrious and tractable; they are greatly attached to such customs as potlaching and medicine work, but I am led to believe that Mr. Guillod, who has a large, isolated and important field for his work, is gaining much influence and is gradually working beneficial changes among them. The agent has now a comfortable residence, very centrally located at Uclulet Harbor.

Cowichan Agency.

The agent of this district has had considerable additional trouble in checking illicit liquor traffic, and its attendant vices, on account of the construction of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway through his agency, and the consequent presence of dissolute "camp followers."

It is to be regretted that, at such a juncture, he should have been deprived of the use of the court house and lock-up, and prevented from taking cognizance of many cases of drunkenness, which otherwise might have been checked. The appointment of native constable during railway construction will be a desirable assistance to him in the preservation of peace. It may be mentioned that many coast Indians have been employed on the railway who would otherwise have had difficulty in maintaining themselves, owing to the cessation, this year, of canning industries. The prompt measures used to arrest a threatened spread of small-pox epidemic were happily successful, as otherwise the infection might easily have made deplorable ravages among all the coast tribes, whose representatives were visiting Cowichan in large numbers. In accordance with my direction, Mr. Lomas at this time successfully vaccinated several hundred Indians.

Mr. Lomas' remarks respecting the desirableness of carrying out and upholding the promises made by the Reserve Commission, in not altering or otherwise alienating any reserve promised the Indians without their consent, are worthy of serious attention.

William's Lake Agency.

The scarcity of sufficient agricultural lands throughout this agency, excepting in the Chilcotin district, and the consequent deficiency of allotments for many of the tribes, are subjects which should have the attention of the Government, as otherwise it will not be long ere there will be much distress, creating the possible necessity of annual relief. Lands could be obtained from private owners by the expenditure of a small sum, comparatively, and some arrangement should be made between both the Local and Dominion Governments with that view. Last year I noted the purchase of two farms by two bands themselves. In fact, the great aptitude of the tribes generally in this agency and their ardent desire for cultivating lands should have more encouragement than has been extended to them. In some instances their allotments of land do not amount to more than a fractional part of an acre for each adult.

Mr. Meason refers, in his report, to the great dissatisfaction and disappointment of the Chilcotin Indians in having to wait another year for the apportionment of their lands. An unfortunate accident, however, with nearly fatal results, has con-

find the efficient Reserve Commissioner to his room for some months. It is believed and hoped that he may be able to resume his work ere long, and the Chilcotin district will then be one of the first localities to have his valued attention.

Mr. Meason's efforts to check the liquor traffic have been energetic, and as successful as the obstacles with which he had to contend would permit.

Surveys.

The sudden death of Mr. Gastineau necessitated the appointment of a successor, and agreeably to your direction this was conferred upon Mr. Ernest M. Skinner. This officer resumed Mr. Gastineau's field of last year, and has been engaged on the reserves in the region of the Shushwap Lakes. Capt. Jemmett is also continuing his work in the interior.

Both of these officers have been instructed to furnish reports of their work to the Reserve Commissioner, and receive their surveying instructions from him.

Presents.

The fund at my disposal has not permitted much expenditure under this head, but I think the cases of absolute necessity which have come under the notice of the Department have been provided for.

Medicines and Medical Relief.

Comparatively large quantities of medicine have been asked for and given to various missionaries.

Sickness, however, among the tribes throughout the Province, has not been so prevalent or fatal as last year, nor have so many instances of destitution come to my notice.

The reports of the various agents are, on the whole, very favorable in this respect.

Schools.

During the past year the following Indian Mission Schools have received the usual grant permitted by the Department, viz. :—

Lakalsap, Nass River, M.

Port Simpson, M.

Bella Bella, M.

Masset, A.

Kincolith, A.

Albert Bay, A.

Hesquiaht, R. C.

Kynkaht, R. C.

St. Mary's, special grant of \$500, R. C.

The difficulty of carrying on day schools successfully among Indians has been fully noted in previous reports.

An application from the Right Rev. the Bishop of New Westminster for aid to establish one or two boarding and industrial schools in the interior, under His Lordship's direction, has been submitted for your consideration.

It is greatly to be hoped that a sufficient grant may be made which will permit of the establishment of at least two, if not three, industrial schools in the Province, which, I have no doubt, would be attended with practical success if efficiently managed.

Fish, Furs and Oil.

The export of furs shews a considerable increase as compared with that of last year, and a small though marked improvement in prices, with resulting profit to a large number of Indians, who are the chief producers. It should, however, be

remembered, in conclusion, that the sources of industry open to natives are, in many localities of the Province, very precarious. The small amount disbursed, however, for the relief of the indigent and destitute, and the large contributions of the natives to the general revenue, are the best proofs that can be given of their independence, their well-being, and their claims upon the country for encouragement and considerate treatment.

Furs, marine.....	\$ 166,692 00
“ other.....	332,819 00
Oil, fish	26,675 00
Salmon, canned.....	489,458 00
“ salted.....	22,399 00
	<hr/>
	\$1,038,043 00

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

I. W. POWELL,
Indian Superintendent.

VICTORIA, B.C., 27th November, 1884.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, forwarding a return of convictions for the month of October last.

It appears that the sum of \$75, out of the fines imposed by you and Mr. Murray, has been remitted to the Indian Department here, and I have to express the strong disapproval of the Government at this disposition of the money.

In future, you will be held strictly accountable for the due payment to the Provincial Treasury of all fines imposed and received by you as a Justice of the Peace, whether under the Indian Act or any other Act.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN ROBSON,
Provincial Secretary.

J. W. MACKAY, Esq., J.P.,
Indian Agent.

VICTORIA, B.C., 17th July, 1885.

SIR,—Referring to my letter of the 27th November last, which has remained unanswered, and to the fact of your persisting in imposing and collecting fines without accounting for the same to this Government, I have now to inform you that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor in Council has, by an Order of yesterday's date, cancelled your appointment as a Justice of the Peace of this Province.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN ROBSON,
Provincial Secretary.

J. W. MACKAY, Esq.,
Indian Agent, Kamloops.

KAMLOOPS, 6th August, 1885.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that I have been instructed by the Provincial Secretary to refuse the use of the court house and gaol, also the services of

provincial constables, to all Indian agents who, acting in the capacity of magistrates, refuse to pay over to the Government of British Columbia the fines imposed and collected under the Indian Act.

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

G. C. TUNSTALL,
Government Agent.

J. W. MACKAY, Esq.,
Indian Agent.

CARLTON DISTRICT—TREATY No. 6, N.W.T.,
31st October, 1885.

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

SIR,—I have the honor to submit the following report, with accompanying tabular statement, on Indian affairs in the Carlton district for the year ended 30th June, 1885.

I left Fort Macleod in the end of December, arriving at Carlton on the 22nd January; consequently, in reporting on the six months prior, the information derived is other than personal.

A large acreage throughout the district was put under crop, but owing to a variety of circumstances the yield was very small, and with the exception of a few scattered fields, was not worth harvesting. This naturally discouraged the Indians, and necessitated a call on the Department for supplies to last during the winter, which was promptly acceded to.

Fisheries were established, and competent men placed in charge to thoroughly instruct the Indians.

The schools throughout the district are making good progress, and supplying biscuits to the pupils has induced many parents to send their children regularly.

A piggery was established at Farm No. 10, in which the Indians took a great interest, and but for the subsequent troubles it would have proved a great success.

Shortly after Riel's appearance in the country the Indians held a meeting at Duck Lake, which was attended by Big Bear and other Indians from the north. This meeting concluded by the Indians of this district declaring their loyalty, and nothing transpired to excite suspicion during the fall and winter. In February the half-breeds in the vicinity of Batoche held several meetings, in none of which the Indians took part, but remained on their reserves. The excitement then prevailing was entirely confined to the half-breeds. On visiting the various reserves the Indians appeared to be perfectly contented, and expressed themselves thankful for the liberal assistance extended to them throughout the winter.

On the morning of the 18th March word was brought to me that some half-breeds were tampering with the Indians on One Arrow's reserve. I immediately proceeded to that point, passing through Duck Lake and Batoche *en route*. At both places I made the necessary enquiries, but failed to discover anything to lead to the supposition that an early resort to arms was expected. On arriving at the reserve, about four and one-half miles south of Batoche, I found, on questioning the Indians, that Gabriel Dumont had been on the reserve the previous evening and invited the band to attend a meeting the following day. I then drove to chief One Arrow's house and explained to him, as strongly as I could, the importance of keeping his band on the reserve, and not listening to any stories that might be circulated throughout the camp by outsiders. This he appeared to thoroughly appreciate, and spoke in glowing terms of the loyalty of himself and his band. On returning to Batoche, and when within a short distance of that place, I was surrounded by an

armed mob of about forty half-breeds, commanded by Riel, who gave orders to make me and my interpreter prisoners. This was done, and I remained a prisoner in the rebel camp until released by General Middleton's column on the 12th May.

The bands of Beardy and Okemases remained neutral for a few days, but were finally persuaded to join the rebels, through the influence of the half-breeds, seconded by the supplies of various kinds, such as presents to their camps, from the plunder captured at Batoche.

Chief Mistawasis and Ah-tah-ka-koop deserve great credit for the stand they took, and the manner in which they controlled their bands; situated a short distance from the headquarters of the rebels, every effort was made to induce them to take up arms. Instructor Chaffy, in charge of these bands, remained at his post, and through his influence and management the herd of cattle was saved from falling into the hands of the enemy. This was accomplished by removing the bands, with all the movable property that could be taken, to Sturgeon Lake, some 20 miles north of Prince Albert.

Shortly after my arrest by Riel, Mr. Assistant Commissioner Reed arrived at Carlton, and through his untiring energy and thorough knowledge of the Indian character the remaining bands in the district were ably looked after during the ensuing months of trouble.

On being released, at the fall of Batoche, I went to Prince Albert, (as Fort Carlton had been burnt by the rebels) as soon as practicable the Indians were all sent to their respective reserves, in order to place under crop as much land as possible, but owing to the lateness of the season and the difficulty in procuring seed, our returns are not very large.

I am pleased to report that the Indians worked well, and did all in their power to carry out the orders of their farming instructors.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. B. LASH,

Indian Agent.

MANITOBA SUPERINTENDENCY,
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR,

WINNIPEG, 1st December, 1885.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,

Ottawa.

Sir,—I have the honor to transmit herewith my seventh Annual Report of inspection of the different Indian agencies and reserves under my supervision, and to congratulate the Department upon the general prosperity and contentment prevailing among the Indians throughout this superintendency. In all my interviews with the bands visited during the year, no complaint of any importance was made to me concerning any irregularity in the payment of their annuities, nor in reference to the quantity or quality of the various supplies furnished them, but, on the contrary, they frequently expressed their gratitude to the Government for so faithfully carrying out the stipulations of their respective treaties. Their loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen is so deeply rooted in their affections that neither the signal fires of rebellion which crimsoned the western horizon and lighted the prairies with lurid flames of treason, nor the persistent importunities of accredited messengers from the insurgents, with presents of tobacco to endeavor to induce them to follow their kindred on the bloody trail of the war path, could influence them in alienating

their allegiance from their beloved Sovereign, whom they profoundly reverence with a devotion bordering on idolatry. The services as voyageurs on the Nile during the Soudan campaign rendered by Chief William Prince, and other Indians of the St. Peter's band, are abundant evidence of their fealty to that honored flag, beneath whose helterings fold peacefully repose the cherished remains of every departed chief of the numerous bands scattered between the western shores of Lake Superior and the North-West Territories.

I am happy to report that all the Indian agents are generally discharging the responsible duties incumbent upon them most faithfully. Their reports, tabular statements, pay-sheets, census, estimates, inventories of Government property in their possession, accounts, vouchers, letter books, letter files, correspondence, &c., are generally satisfactory.

In consequence of the extraordinary precaution taken in employing most reliable and efficient constables to accompany the agents during the payment of annuities to Indians living in the vicinity of white settlements, scarcely any drunkenness occurred on the reserves this year, excepting on those along Rainy River, which were flooded with abominable alcoholic stimulants, supplied by whiskey traders camped opposite the reserves across the river in Minnesota, where they carried on with impunity their vile traffic in defiance of law. Unless an arrangement is made with the American Government to appoint officers to assist our officials in prosecuting those vile wretches, it is utterly impossible to prevent Indians living in proximity to the International boundary from becoming the willing victims of those heartless ghouls.

The encouragement in agriculture given by the Department to the Indians, by supplying them liberally with implements, tools, cattle and seeds, is arousing a spirit of emulation among them to increase the acreage of land under cultivation, and to construct more comfortable dwelling houses than those formally occupied by them. Their industry was consequently rewarded by an unprecedented yield of potatoes and cereals last season, and, unless through gross carelessness and mismanagement in securing the crops, no destitution the ensuing winter is to be apprehended.

The interest manifested in education by the Indians of this superintendency is extremely gratifying. Even ignorant heathen bands who have a prejudice against the instructions of missionaries are clamoring for Government schools to be established on their reserves, in order that their children may become educated. It is, however, very difficult, if not impossible, under existing regulations, to obtain the services of competent teachers at the salaries offered them. Of the thirty-six teachers employed in conducting Indian schools during the year in this superintendency, only seven received over \$300 each, on account of their daily average attendance not exceeding twenty-five pupils, whereas those engaged in the Provincial schools are paid about double that amount, irrespective of the number of scholars in attendance. It is therefore evident, from these circumstances, that efficient teachers cannot be induced to isolate themselves from congenial society and other comforts of civilized life to undertake to teach schools among savages in remote localities, where frequently upon their arrival they would be under the necessity of erecting rude primitive log-cabins to shelter themselves and families, as no suitable dwelling-houses are available on many of the reserves, and besides, the large expenses incurred in purchasing provisions and other necessaries from traders would in all probability more than counter-balance the remuneration which they would receive for their services. Hence the majority of teachers employed have no Provincial certificates of qualification; but, notwithstanding their limited acquirements, some of them are excellent teachers, whose diligence and faithfulness in imparting knowledge are most commendable. The services of a number of inferior teachers have been dispensed with, and others are only temporarily engaged, until more qualified ones can be secured. In examining the different schools in operation under the tuition of competent instructors, I was delighted to notice the material advancement made in elementary education since my previous inspection of them. On a number of reserves within the agencies of Messrs. McIntyre, McPherson, Pither and Ogletree, the Indians refuse to assist in building

school houses, claiming that schools were promised them by treaty, and that they understood buildings for the purpose would be provided by the Government, as well as teachers, because the supplying of both are indispensable to the fulfilment of the agreement made with them.

Many of the Indians of this superintendency are seriously affected with scrofula and other constitutional diseases, inherited from their ancestors or contracted through exposure or dissipation by themselves, and the action of the Department in appointing medical dispensers among them to alleviate their sufferings, where a permanent cure cannot be effected, is highly appreciated by them. They confess that their own medicine is not strong enough to render any benefit in such cases, but it is unfortunate that the majority of the dispensers available have but the crudest knowledge of the healing art, and consequently only the simplest remedies are supplied them.

The Indians complain that the exportation of fish to the United States is carried on so extensively, especially from Winnipeg and Manitoba Lakes, that unless restricted to Canadian consumption one of their principal sources of subsistence will ultimately become exhausted, and consequently they will be dependent upon the Government for support to keep them from starving, in case of a failure of their crops.

I started on my annual inspection of the agencies on the 11th June and arrived at Rat Portage on the following morning. After hiring a canoe and engaging four voyageurs I proceeded down the Winnipeg River to Pagonakesick's reserve, and arrived there on the evening of the 13th. All the Indians were away from home except a few families who were camped at the dalles of the river. This band, including the two fragments belonging to it, at Lake of the Woods, raised one thousand bushels of potatoes last season, but their other crops were seriously injured by early frosts. There are twenty-four cabins on the three reserves referred to, and more attention is devoted to farming than formerly by the members of this band.

I resumed my journey the following morning and arrived at Islington in the evening. The Indians having no school-house of their own, purchased the walls of a building in the course of erection for the purpose, from a trader, for thirty bushels of potatoes, and they promised to complete it at the earliest possible date. The school having been closed for upwards of two years, owing to the difficulty of procuring a teacher to undertake it, I engaged Mr. Dennis Spence, the Episcopal missionary's son, who, for several years, had been attending St. John's College in Winnipeg, to re-open it, in the chapel where formerly it had been conducted. This old settlement, in consequence of having the civilizing influences of education disseminated among them by missionaries at an early day, is gradually progressing in husbandry, having raised fifteen hundred bushels of potatoes, eighty of wheat and thirty of barley, besides having thirty-one head of cattle and twenty-four dwelling houses.

On the 15th I ascended the English River and arrived at the Grassy Narrows reserve at 12 o'clock next day, where a number of families belonging to the Mattawan Reserve reside, and have eleven houses. On the 1st of November last year a school was opened by Mr. O'Keefe, who conducted it for about nine months, when he resigned, on account of the wretched condition of the school house. Ten hundred and fifty bushels of potatoes were raised last season by the Indians at Grassy Narrows and Bichawaykung reserves.

I started onward in the afternoon and reached the Hudson's Bay Company's post at Lac Seul on the 19th, where I held a meeting with the Indians assembled there for the purpose. They asked that a number of calves and young pigs be supplied them, and that they would refund the amount of cost of those animals out of their next year's annuity, as they were anxious to have their reserve properly stocked as soon as possible. They have forty acres under cultivation, upon which they raised two thousand two hundred and fifty bushels of potatoes and other various crops. On this reserve there are thirty log cabins, which are of superior construction, and surpassing in cleanliness those of any other band under my supervision. I visited the Indian school taught by the Rev. Mr. Irvine, and

examined the children in reading, writing, arithmetic and dictation. The progress of the pupils since my last annual inspection was reasonably satisfactory, considering the irregularity of attendance, owing to the scattered condition of the Indian settlement and the great distance some of the children have to go to attend school.

On the morning of the 20th I proceeded to Frenchman's Head, where a fragment of this band are settled, and arrived there early in the forenoon. I examined the school, under the tuition of Mr. Spence, and found twenty-five names of pupils on his register, but on account of the school having only been opened a couple of weeks, no progress of any consequence could be expected. The Indians were working at building a school house, 16 by 24 feet in size, which they subsequently completed. This exemplary band is strictly temperate, and never gambles or indulges in medicine dances.

In the afternoon I resumed the journey and reached Wabegon Lake on the evening of the 21st. Next morning I visited the reserve and found the Indians there. They expressed their thankfulness to the Department for supplying them with hay last winter to prevent their cattle from starving. Nothing was done towards the erection of a school house on the reserve, but, as usual, fair promises of their good intentions in that direction were made. They raised one thousand six hundred and ninety bushels of potatoes, and have nineteen dwelling houses.

On the 23rd I started by train to Savanne, from which place I proceeded by canoe to the Lac des Mille Lacs reserve at Poplar Point, and arrived there on the evening of the same day. In visiting the Indian gardens here I was pleased to observe the encouraging improvement made in buildings and farming within the past two years, as there are eleven houses, and double the quantity of land, under cultivation on the reserve. After a protracted discussion concerning various matters pertaining to the band, I proceeded to Mr. McIntyre's agency at Fort William, and arrived there on the evening of the 24th. On the following day I inspected his office, and found everything perfectly satisfactory.

After returning to Winnipeg and delivering the amounts appropriated for the annuity payments to the different agents, writing their instructions and appointing their assistants, I went to Rosseau River reserve on the 7th of July, to attend the payment of annuities to the Indians there. In consequence of the wandering habits of these roaming bands, and the difficulty experienced heretofore by the several agents entrusted to make payments to them, in recognizing many claiming annuities, and in ascertaining the number in their families, I consider it advisable to eliminate from the pay sheets at the next annuity payments all absentees not satisfactorily accounted for, and I notified the Indians to that effect, and requested all entitled to annuities to be present on that occasion. The chiefs and councillors made patriotic speeches, expressive of their loyalty to their Good Mother, the Queen, and their brotherly feeling towards her white subjects. They regretted the action of their kindred on the Saskatchewan in waging war against the Government, and attributed the insurrection there to the Indians listening to bad counsels. Those living up the river at the rapids wish to retain their holdings there, claiming that Commissioner Simpson promised to give them a reserve there.

An attempt was made to deluge the reserve with whiskey during the payments, as on former occasions. A large number of traders swarmed around the camping ground for the purpose. Several arrests were made, and others becoming frightened suddenly decamped; hence the disgraceful scenes of drunkenness, formerly witnessed there, were happily averted, through the vigilance of the officials.

Within the last two years, owing to the assistance given by the Department, the advancement in agriculture on this reserve is most encouraging. About thirty acres will be ready for seeding in the spring. Eighteen acres were under cultivation last season, yielding one hundred and twenty bushels of wheat, one hundred of barley, five hundred of potatoes and a quantity of vegetables, but unfortunately the wheat was destroyed by a prairie fire after it had been stacked.

On the morning of the 9th I started for St. Peter's reserve and arrived there in the evening. I found the agent busily engaged in making the payments. Four

Indians were arrested the following morning for having intoxicating liquor in their possession and heavily fined. These were the only parties detected indulging in stimulants during the payments. These Indians are the most intelligent and prosperous in this superintendency. They have six hundred and twenty acres under cultivation, which yielded last harvest four hundred and fifty bushels of oats, four hundred of barley, twenty-five of corn, one thousand four hundred of wheat, three thousand of potatoes, two thousand tons of hay and a large quantity of vegetables. They possess two hundred and sixty houses, two hundred stables, twenty-six horses, fifty pigs, four hundred and eighty-seven horned cattle, and have caught \$13,000 worth of fish and \$1,000 worth of fur within the year.

With commendable enterprise they have undertaken an extensive system of drainage of the reserve, but finding, after commencing, a large ditch, and opening it for about one-half a mile long, that they were unable to accomplish the work, they applied to the Department for assistance in completing it. If the swampy lands covering the greater part of the reserve were only reclaimed, these Indians would become wealthy and independent in a few years. There are five schools supported wholly or partially by the Department, on this reserve, under the tuition of some excellent teachers whose schools, in efficiency, are unsurpassed in the Province.

At Broken Head River reserve the Indians have thirty-nine houses, eighteen stables and fifty-four cattle; raised last season twenty-five bushels of wheat, forty of barley, nine hundred of potatoes and two hundred and twenty-five tons of hay; and have caught \$4,000 worth of fish and \$1,000 of fur.

The school, under the able tuition of Mr. Black, is progressing favorably.

Upon visiting the Fort Alexander band at a subsequent date, upon my return from Norway House, I found that Father Madore and Miss McKenzie had closed their schools for the holidays a few days before my arrival, but from the reports of the agent, and enquiries made from other parties, I am informed that the progress in learning made by the children attending these schools is very creditable to the teachers. These Indians own eighty houses, thirty-one stables, seventy-one cattle and thirty-two pigs; raised one hundred bushels of wheat, thirty of corn, twenty-five of oats, five thousand of potatoes and one hundred and fifty tons of hay; and caught \$15,000 worth of fish and \$4,000 of fur.

After finishing my inspection of Mr. Muckle's agency, I hastened to the Long Plain reserve, in order to be present at the payments, and arrived there on the 13th. The same evening Mr. Ogletree examined and distributed their supplies to the Indians, except the cattle, which he refused to accept, on account of their not having been equal to the standard required. I have been informed that other animals were subsequently supplied by the contractor. Some of the Indians on this reserve excel in ploughing and fencing, which cannot be surpassed in the Province. This year the agent, by Indian labor alone, succeeded in putting thirty-five acres under crop, which yielded seven hundred and eighteen bushels of wheat, five hundred of potatoes and a small quantity of vegetables. They have sixteen houses, seven stables, ten horses, eleven head of cattle and five pigs, and secured forty tons of hay. There will be twenty additional acres under cultivation next year, as considerable breaking was done before winter set in.

No better quality of land is anywhere to be found within the Province of Manitoba than what was allotted to them at Swan Lake, where the councillors repeatedly refused to go to receive their annuities, and threatened violence to anyone who attempted to settle there. With what is under crop at Swan Lake, this band have forty-two acres under cultivation, which produced last season forty-nine bushels of corn, four hundred and ninety-five of wheat, two hundred and forty of barley, and five hundred and fifty of potatoes. They own eleven houses, ten horses and five oxen, and have secured sixty tons of hay for feeding their stock during this winter.

Upon getting through with my inspection of this agency I returned to Winnipeg, and, after attending to some important correspondence, I proceeded to the agency of Mr. McPherson, and arrived there on the 24th, when I examined his office and storehouse and found everything strictly correct. On account of the rocky

character of the reserves in this district, the land available for cultivation is very limited, and consequently it is impossible for the Indians to make much advancement in agriculture. They have, however, notwithstanding these unfavorable circumstances, one hundred and seven dwelling houses, thirty-two stables, one hundred and sixteen head of cattle, nineteen horses, and one hundred and eighteen acres under cultivation, upon which they raised last season eighty bushels of wheat, thirty of barley, seven thousand six hundred and fifty of potatoes, and a quantity of vegetables. They caught during the year \$5,440 worth of fur, and made \$3,280 worth of canoes, but their hay and wild rice crops were a total failure, owing to the unusually high level of the waters of the lake. They desired me to convey their thankfulness to the Department for the very superior quality of supplies furnished them, and for the protection afforded them in preventing alcoholic stimulants from being introduced on their reserves during the payments of annuities, inasmuch as the measures adopted were so effectual that no drunkenness occurred among them at that time.

The Lake of the Woods bands are desirous of having their children educated, but they represent that in consequence of the scattered, fragmentary condition of the reserves which had been allowed to them, a sufficient number of children cannot be obtained at any place to justify the starting of a school on any of the reserves, but they are anxious that the Government will establish an industrial school at their camping ground, near the agency, where some of their children from the different bands can attend and acquire knowledge, not only of books but also of farming. They are opposed to any religious instructions from missionaries, as they wish to perpetuate their own peculiar form of worship, which had been practised from time immemorial by their fathers.

I arrived at the mouth of Rainy River, in the agency of Mr. Pither, on the 25th and at a meeting held in the evening with the Hungry Hall Indians, Chief Mawintopenesse being visiting them and attending their medicine dances, was appointed speaker. After the customary salutations (before commencing his eloquent harangue) were concluded, he said we beseech you, Father, to grant our requests, and to redress our grievances, for we believe you have the power to do so. We buried the hatchet twelve years ago at the North-West Angle, and promised our Mother to live in friendship with all her children, white and red. We do not complain of not receiving our annuities correctly, nor of the quality of the supplies distributed yearly to us by the agent, but we object to whiskey traders being allowed to ruin our foolish children with their poisonous drugs, and we implore you to stretch your hands across the river and protect us from the iron clutches of those robbers. We want our relatives at Red Lake to receive their annuities, as formerly, along with us, and I ask, on behalf of a few families living here belonging to Powawasin's band, that they be transferred to the Bishop's at the upper Hungry Hall reserve, as they frequently imperil their lives in going to the camping ground in their canoes to receive their money. I ask payment for the trespass committed by lumbermen, in cutting timber and erecting houses on our wild land reserve, as no consent had been obtained from the several bands interested.

Next morning I started up the river, and inspected the reserves at Long Saalt, Manito Rapids and Little Forks. The appearance of the crops generally was very promising, and the increased interest manifested in husbandry was most commendable. Schools have been opened recently at the above mentioned reserves, but as the buildings were being repaired when I visited them, I am unable to report on the manner in which they are conducted.

I arrived at the agency of Mr. Pither, at Coutcheching, on the 28th, and after examining his office and storehouse and finding everything satisfactory, I made an inspection of the reserve on Rainy Lake. The Indian gardens are smaller here than along the river, but this is accounted for by the rocky nature of this section of the country, which is not well adapted for farming. The school at Coutcheching was closed for the holidays, and therefore I was unable to examine or report on its condition. The Indians of this agency have one hundred houses, twenty-one stables, forty-six head of cattle, one hundred and fifty-three tons of hay, and have caught

during the year, fish to the value of \$5,700 and fur to \$6,530. The corn, wild rice and vegetables were not so large a crop as usual, but from the quantity of fish and game available I do not apprehend any destitution in this agency during the present winter.

Starting from Winnipeg on the 10th of August, I arrived at Norway House on the 15th, by the steamer "Colville." I then visited the Rossville mission school. The teacher, Rev. Mr. Semmens, having gone into the settlement, had engaged temporarily Alex. Kennedy, an intelligent half-breed, to conduct the school until his return. According to the register, seventy pupils were in attendance during the quarter, who had made considerable progress, since my last annual examination, in writing, reading, arithmetic and grammar. The teacher of the other school, Mr. A. A. McDonald, having resigned, the agent appointed Edward Papanakis, a clever Indian of limited acquirements, as teacher, until a more qualified one could be obtained. There are thirty-one children in attendance, pursuing the usual course of studies. In the evening I held a meeting with the Indians. The chief requested that a medicine chest be supplied them, which has been done since my return. He stated that one of their oxen is blind and useless. He wishes to be informed what quantity of land they will receive at Pine Creek, and also if their fisheries will be protected from speculators trespassing upon them. This band have forty acres of land cultivated, with crops under the average yield. They have eighty-four houses, twenty-five stables and own fifty-eight head of cattle, which were in fair condition. The school at Cross Lake reserve is taught by Chief Garrioch, who has been a missionary in that northern country for many years. He has an average attendance of twenty-five pupils, who are making fair progress in reading, spelling and writing. There are twenty houses, one stable, nine head of stock and five acres of land under cultivation. I reached Beren's River on the afternoon of the 19th. The crops here were promising, and the cattle, eleven in number, looked well. The agent was away, having gone into Winnipeg with his pay-sheets. There was a good deal of contention between the agent, missionary and Indians, over the employment of a teacher and the erection of a school house, which I succeeded in settling satisfactorily to all parties concerned, and forwarded the necessary furniture for the completion of the building. I arrived at Dog Head the same night, where I met Councillor James Sinclair and other Indians of the Island bands, who reported that the appearance of the crops was excellent. The fragments of this band living at Jack Head, Loon Straits and Hollow Water River, received, this summer, the remainder of the cattle to which they were entitled and for which they appeared very thankful. Large fisheries are carried on at Dog Head, and the Indians everywhere protested strongly against this wholesale slaughtering of one of their principal sources of their living.

The Fisher River Indians are industrious and manifest encouraging indications of future prosperity, possessing fifty-eight houses, twenty-seven stables, sixty-four head of cattle and forty acres under cultivation, from which an average yield was expected to be realized. The school is taught by Mr. Lyness, a teacher trained at the Normal School, Toronto, who has an experience of several years in the profession. He has an average attendance of twenty-four children, progressing favorably.

The Black River band, although small, have twelve houses and three stables, and cultivate thirteen acres of land, to which they attend fairly well. The teacher, David Prince, having been conducting the school for upwards of a year, abandoned it last summer, and consequently it has been closed ever since; but I engaged a teacher to re-open it on the first of the year. The Indians agreed to finish the school house in course of erection, but have failed to do so yet, although the furniture was sent to them last fall, at their own request, for that purpose.

I left Winnipeg on 1st September, in the steamer "Princess," for Grand Rapids, where, after a stormy voyage, I arrived in the evening of the 6th. I found the gardens here in better condition than in previous years. I crossed the river to inspect the new school house, and found that the Indians had erected a fairly good log building, which was neatly whitewashed, but the

inside furniture being very crude, I informed them that I would expend the balance of the money allowed by the Department in sending out proper furniture from Winnipeg, which subsequently had been forwarded, but owing to a severe storm, in which the boat was stranded, the cargo was thrown overboard and lost. A teacher was sent out from Winnipeg during this month, with a proper supply of books, &c. I do not find the houses in this reserve so good as they might be, the band enjoying, as they do, the many examples of civilization accruing from their intercourse with white people. Accompanied by Mr. Agent Reader, I left in the steamer "Marquis," on the 10th, arriving at Cumberland on the 15th. The Government school house not being completed, the school is still held in the mission building. It is one of the best I have inspected, many of the pupils writing excellently. The dictation and arithmetic classes are about the average, their reading and spelling being also good. The gardens have yielded a good crop of potatoes. Two or three years ago several members of this band, accompanied by their families, left this place and settled near Fort à la Corne, where they asked for a portion of land to be allotted to them for a reserve, which the Department has recently granted.

Leaving for Birch River on the 16th, I arrived the same evening. Although this portion of the Pas band had not yet completed their new school house, they intend to do so this fall, and requested that a teacher be sent them, in order that their children might attend school the coming winter. This, I told them, would be done, if possible. This band have some splendid soil, and asked that they be supplied with a hand mill, fanning mill, reaper and mower, and that their annuity money be kept back until those articles were paid for. I advised them not to purchase these articles until they become more experienced in agriculture, and that cradles, scythes and a hand mill would be more suitable at present, in which they concurred. They also requested to be allowed to cut cordwood on the banks of the Saskatchewan, the frontage of the reserve, and one chain in depth, the proceeds to be devoted towards improving their reserve. I subsequently instructed the agent to give them the required permission.

I reached Big Eddy on the 17th and inspected the school, which, although a new one, is making comparatively more progress than any in the agency. The teacher, Mr. Ahenakew, an Indian, is well educated, and is rapidly advancing the children under his charge. I reached the Pas reserve the same evening. The school here is held in the building belonging to the Church Mission Society. It has a large attendance, and the pupils are making fair progress. The cattle were in good condition, and some of the houses are well and substantially built. There are a large number of gardens on this reserve, which, in some instances, are indifferently cultivated, being overgrown with weeds. A number of this band are moving further up towards the northern extremity of their reserve. The gardens in this portion are well cultivated and neatly fenced. The houses also show a decided advancement, compared with their old habitations. The band expressed themselves as being very thankful for the liberal supply of twine and ammunition that had been given them during time of payments. There being a large amount of provisions distributed to this band last year, I strongly impressed upon them the necessity of securing an ample supply of food during the fishing season, for use in the coming winter, and told them that the Department having distributed this extra supply of twine in order that they might be enabled to do so, they must now depend upon their own efforts, which they promised to do. In my interview with this band they complained of a want of sufficient seed potatoes for next spring, and I consented to supply a few to those whose crops were a failure. They also requested to be supplied with a yoke of oxen, as those given them this year were for the Pas Mountain portion of the band, who desire that their annuities be paid them at that place, it being a long distance for them to travel to the Pas. Arriving at Chemawawin on the 19th, I visited the school. The building, which is 16 by 18 feet, is in bad condition, being poorly roofed, ill-fitting windows and a general appearance of dilapidation about it. I found that the scholars had only made poor progress during the year the school

has been in operation. The gardens looked well, although only small in extent, but they seem to have bestowed a little more care than formerly on them, and promise to still more improve them. This place being a good locality for fish and game, the Indians, perhaps, depend less upon the cultivation of the soil than would otherwise be the case. The gardens at Moose Lake are large, and have yielded a better crop than formerly. This fragment of the band have erected a school house 30 by 20 feet, built of square spruce logs, thatched, floored, ceiled, and mudded, having a door but no windows in it, the apertures being covered with cotton. Requisition has been made upon me for furniture, but owing to the close of navigation it could not be forwarded until next season. Fish is plentiful here, and with the extra amount of twine supplied them, they promise to lay in a good stock of food for the winter, so that I do not apprehend there will be any necessity for rendering any assistance in provisions to the band. There are a few new houses in course of erection here. Complaints being made by the chief that the councillors who reside at Chemawawin failed to go to Moose Lake when called upon to attend council meetings on occasions of important business, I reprimanded them, and said that unless they attended the council meetings I should recommend their dismissal from their positions, and they agreed to attend in future.

In consequence of the representations of Mr. Reader, that it would be impossible for the Indians of his agency to save a sufficient quantity of potatoes for their requirements for seed the ensuing season, I instructed Mr. Reader to make arrangements with the Hudson's Bay Company for delivering the following quantities at the different reserves on the opening of navigation, and requested him to distribute it to only those Indians who had not succeeded in raising sufficient for their use:

Cumberland, seventy-five bushels; Birch River, seventy-five bushels; the Pas, one hundred bushels; Pas Mountain, twenty-five bushels; Chemawawin, twenty-five bushels; Moose Lake, twenty-five bushels; and Grand Rapids, twenty-five bushels.

I arrived at Duck Bay *via* Mossy Portage on the 23rd, when I was informed that there had been a serious case of poisoning by an Indian woman. One of the councillors had improper relations with her, and she attempted to poison his wife. The former was apprehended, her medicine bag, containing a large rattlesnake skin, serpent teeth, &c., taken, and she was committed by the agent to Brandon for trial, where the case was afterwards dismissed by the judge for want of evidence. There are fourteen houses on this reserve, sixteen head of cattle, including the two oxen and two cows supplied this year, and the band have about eight acres of land under cultivation upon which they raised one thousand one hundred and seventy-seven bushels of potatoes and a small quantity of wheat and barley. I examined the school taught for the past two years by Willfred Adam, and found it well conducted, the English reading exercises and spelling being nearly faultless; the Bible class exercises very creditable; the exercises in French books very superior, for not only was the text book read fluently, but readily rendered into Ojibeway; and the arithmetic and writing classes unsurpassed. The school furniture is nearly worthless.

Leaving Duck Bay I arrived at Water Hen River reserve and was greeted with salutes of guns. Proceeding to the school house I examined the scholars, who commenced by singing "God Save the Queen" very enthusiastically. This was followed by a French *chanson* and Indian hymn sung with great taste. I found the reading and spelling very correct; the writing class very superior; recitation and arithmetic very good. The reading, spelling and dictation in French were also creditable and the examination closed by the pupils singing in latin "God Save the Queen" most exquisitely. The gardens are much improved since my last visit, about nineteen acres being under cultivation, giving about three hundred and twenty bushels of potatoes and a few bushels of barley. The chief asks that a farm instructor be allowed them for about fifteen days in the spring to show them how to plough.

Arriving at Crane River reserve on the 28th, I found their potato crop was excellent. They have twelve acres under cultivation, which yielded eight hundred bushels of potatoes, and three bushels each of corn and wheat. The cattle, thirty-one in number, looked well, also the horses, of which they possess twenty. One of the

oxen and also the bull is lame. They complained that the oxen are not tractable for working, and the bull being old and worthless they ask permission to kill. The school taught by Wm. Anderson, at Lower Fairford, was closed for vacation when I arrived there on the 29th. I then proceed to Lake St. Martin, where I also found the school closed for the holidays. Their gardens are well fenced. The returns from the potatoes planted were very small, only two hundred and twenty bushels being raised, and the corn and vegetables had been a failure. There is on this reserve eighteen houses, seven stables, three horses and twenty-nine head of cattle and nine acres of land cultivated. The members of this band live chiefly on fish. The same afternoon I inspected the reserve of the Little Saskatchewan band, who are located at Sand Bay, on Lake St. Martin. The school house is well finished, the walls are high, well plastered within and without with a mixture of lime, sand and clay, the roof covered with hay and the same plaster, but the inside furniture is inferior. Colin Sanderson, who has been teaching six months, has an average attendance of fifteen pupils, who are doing fairly. In my interview with the band they stated that their oxen were too young for ploughing. They possess twelve head of cattle and have ten or twelve acres cultivated, yielding only a poor return, viz., seventy-five bushel of potatoes and a few bushels of barley. My next visit was to the school at Upper Fairford, which is most excellently conducted by the Rev. Mr. Bruce. The reading and spelling in all the classes were very good, and the dictation classes were the best I have yet examined. The grammar class was very superior, arithmetic fair, writing in all classes neat and well formed, the history and geography classes most creditable, showing thorough familiarity with their lessons, and a large class in composition bore evidence of careful training. There are thirty houses on this reserve and over twenty stables. The members of the band own twenty-one horses and one hundred and sixty head of cattle, most of them in fair condition. They have under crop about thirty-six acres, giving in return for their labor seven hundred and thirty bushels of potatoes, forty-two bushels of barley and twenty-nine bushels of wheat.

On my arrival at Ebb and Flow Lake at 8 o'clock on the morning of 4th October I held a meeting with the chief and councillors. This band have twenty houses, thirteen barns, twenty horses and seventy-two head of cattle. Their gardens are substantially fenced, and they have twenty acres under cultivation, which only gave them two hundred and eighty bushels of potatoes. Arriving at Manitoba House the same day, I held a meeting by appointment with the Lake Manitoba band. There was a dissention among the members of the band about the location of the new school house, and I requested the agent to select a suitable place, centrally situated, to enable all the children to attend. They have under cultivation fourteen acres, from which they obtained four hundred bushels of potatoes and some vegetables. Their fences were in good order, and their cattle, sixty-four in number, were in excellent condition.

I arrived at Sandy Bay in the evening of the 5th, when I examined the school taught by Robert Tweddell. I was much pleased with the progress made since the opening of the school in January last, a large number of the children read well in the 2nd part of the First Reader. Their writing was excellent, and the arithmetic class was making splendid progress. I find this band have forty houses fairly built and several in course of erection, twenty-five stables, twenty-three horses, sixty-nine head of cattle and twenty acres cultivated, from which they raised two hundred bushels of potatoes and a few bushels of corn.

The cattle contracted for in this agency did not arrive at the times specified, and consequently were not inspected by the agent at the date of my visit to the reserve.

The following summary of tabular statement herewith inclosed carefully compiled approximately represents to the Department the actual condition of Indian affairs in this superintendency up to the present date, viz.: The value of land improvements on the reserves is \$20,599, and of personal property, including movable effects, animals, boats, &c., is \$120,587. The number of horses on the reserves is one thousand three hundred and twenty, and the number of barns and stables five

hundred and thirty-nine, valued at \$75,058. The area of land under cultivation is nine hundred and twenty-three acres. The number of agricultural implements in possession of the different bands is two hundred and eighty-two ploughs, two hundred and sixty-five harrows, one hundred and thirty-four wagons and carts, six fanning mills and six thousand two hundred and twenty-six smaller articles. The number of horses is one hundred and eighty-six, of cattle one thousand four hundred and ninety-two, and of pigs ninety. The number of bushels of corn raised last season was one thousand and six, of wheat eight thousand one hundred and thirty-three, of oats six hundred and forty-five, of peas thirty-five, of barley nine hundred and ninety-two, of potatoes forty-three thousand nine hundred and ninety-four, and of tons of hay three thousand nine hundred and seventeen. The value of fish caught during the year is \$75,254, and of fur \$75,254.

I would also beg to state, that notwithstanding the increased amount of business falling upon this office, the work has been performed in a satisfactory manner.

The number of letters received during the year at this office was three thousand two hundred and forty-five, an increase of one thousand two hundred and eighty-five over the preceding year. These letters are officially stamped, registered, filed and indexed on the day of receipt, and when practicable, are also answered on the same day.

I would here state that eighteen months ago, finding that the system of filing official letters then in use becoming cumbersome and somewhat confusing, I had the letter-files remodelled, adopting the system of having a separate and distinct file for the business of each agency and one for general correspondence, each file of which has its own index, in which the letters and papers, after being numbered, are entered under classified headings. This reduced the number of our files from over two hundred to eleven. I find that these files, from the experience of the past year, are much better for easy reference than the preceding system.

The number of letters written during the past year at this office was two thousand seven hundred and fifty, covering four thousand four hundred and twenty pages of foolscap, showing an increase of five hundred and sixty-four letters and five hundred and thirty-four pages over the preceding year. There were, in addition, a quantity of circular letters sent out.

The copy letter book is indexed every day, showing to whom the letters are sent, office number, date and purport of letter.

The "letters received" register is also carefully entered up, showing the date of letter, date when received, the action taken and reference number of all letters received.

The books of accounts are balanced every month, and a trial balance sheet taken off, a copy of which is forwarded to the Department monthly.

There has been, and is, a considerable amount of additional work in this office, caused by these applications of withdrawal from treaty by half-breeds who are electing to take scrip in place of annuity money.

Their applications of withdrawal, when received at this office, are examined, and their cases fully gone into, and on being found correct, certificates of withdrawal from treaty are issued, in accordance with the instructions received from your Department.

The additional work entailed by these applications can scarcely be computed, so many applicants filing notices that are of no avail, many not being entitled to withdraw, many wanting to withdraw, but wishing to leave their families still in treaty, others wishing to withdraw their children and remain on themselves, many wishing to locate their scrip on the land occupied by them inside the several reserves, with other complications that ensue, causing much correspondence and a great number of interviews.

Since the annuity payments the pay sheets have been called over, every name and family checked with the pay sheets of preceding years, and all errors that were found, which were few in number, have been corrected, and the agent's attention directed to the same.

The estimates for 1886-87 have also been examined, the column of supplies the Indians are entitled to by treaty filled in, and, where necessary, corrections made in red ink. I am sorry to say that in three instances the estimates could not be properly completed, for want of information on the part of the agents as to the numbers of implements, tools, &c., at present in the hands of the Indians.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

E. McCOLL,

Inspector and Superintendent of Indian Agencies.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,

QU'APPELLE, 20th November, 1885.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—It is now a year since I took charge of this institution, opened in October, 1884, although the building was not finished and delivered by the contractor until January, 1885.

This school is very conveniently situated on the Qu'Appelle Lake, four miles from Fort Qu'Appelle, and in a central locality. So far as the reserves of Treaty No. 4 are concerned, the numerous visitors we have had during the summer seemed well pleased with the location.

The contractor built, beside the house, a stable, and a storehouse, and since then authority has been granted for the erection of a milk-house, ice-house and closets; authority has also been granted to build a bake-oven, all of which were much needed. Next year we will require a root-house, and a workshop in which different trades may be taught.

The pupils came in gradually, from October, 1884, to the present time. I went to the different reserves, with Agent McDonald, who spared no trouble to secure the proper pupils. We could have completed the number sooner than we did, had we accepted all who were offered, but we considered it proper not to accept more than two from each reserve, the number of boys being limited to thirty, and Treaty No. 4 having about that number of reserves. From eight or ten reserves we got no pupils, which I attribute to their not being christians. On the reserves where they were christians, they appeared to wish more for education, and we had to refuse pupils, as too many were offered.

Two only of the pupils have deserted, and these left eight days after their arrival. I could possibly have recovered them, but as neither of them were desirable, one of the boys being much too big for the institution, I allowed them to get free. Another was away for a month and a-half during the rebellion. He came back to the school, and seems now to be as happy as the rest. One girl was taken away by her mother, and we experienced inconvenience from parents who reside near the institution.

Except one pupil, who is only five years old, the ages range between six and fourteen years. The most suitable ages, I consider, to be between eight and twelve, although it is advantageous to have a few older boys for the different works, when they are not too hard to be managed.

All the pupils seem well pleased with their new home, and do not try to escape the routine or regulations in any way. These are so arranged as not to leave them more than one hour and a-half at the same exercise.

Except one case of inflammation of the lungs, in the spring, all the pupils have been very healthy, and the case mentioned was a boy who had always been delicate, and inclined towards weak lungs. He is now better than he has ever been at home.

I must say that the reverend Sisters take very good care of all the pupils, keeping them clean, well clothed and well fed; and one of the Sisters has a sufficient knowledge of medicine to make her valuable in a sick room.

The pupils are taught to read and to write in English. They have, every day, five hours of school and three hours of fatigue. During the summer months they have a little more fatigue.

The progress has been very good. A number of the boys read and write English remarkably well, considering that they hardly understand it. To obviate this, I give them, each day, lessons in translation from their own language into English. It is not easy to teach them this, as they speak, amongst them, four Indian languages, all entirely different. These languages are Cree, Otchipway, Sioux and Assiniboine, and I have not heard of any book that embraces these languages with English.

The greatest difficulty in teaching these boys the English language is the tenacity with which they adhere to their own tongue. In conversation during play hours they invariably use their own language, and the only way to counteract this is to introduce four or five English-speaking boys, pupils, who would become leaders amongst them in their different amusements, and who could be divided so as to have one in each gang during fatigue. I believe these four or five boys would teach the remainder more English in a week, during play and fatigue, than they could otherwise learn in a year. A few years would suffice, when there would no longer be any necessity to admit others than Indians. At Hampton, V., U.S., they have no difficulty in teaching the Indians English, on account of the greater number of their pupils being English-speaking blacks. It certainly is more than half the battle in the education of Indians in that institution.

I could find these boys around here if they were admitted free into the establishment.

The fatigue for the pupils has been to cut fire wood, weed garden, work on farm, clean stable, wash their own clothes. They have done a considerable lot of work on the farm, clearing brush, planting and cleaning potatoes, ploughing, under the direction of the Farming Instructor, almost without any outside labor. We had on the farm this summer, thirty acres broken, about fifteen acres cropped and backset for next spring. The first year we raised enough vegetables to supply the wants of the institution. We had a fair crop of barley and peas. The wheat, through not being put in the ground soon enough, is a little touched by the frost.

Some of the boys have the care of the cattle in the stable. One of the boys is learning carpentry, from the carpenter of the school, engaged since the 10th October last. I shall have two or three boys more taught by him this winter.

Beside the thirty boys, we have now nine girls, under the charge of the Rev. Matron, who teaches them English and housework.

The parents of the pupils seem to be well pleased when they come to see their children so clean and so comfortably dressed and fed, contented and happy looking. I may observe here, that the clothes supplied have been of very good quality, both for boys and girls.

Visitors, of whom there have been a great number, have expressed much satisfaction with this institution. Among them I may mention His Excellency the Governor General and the Honorable the Minister of the Interior.

I feel glad to be able to recognise the great interest the employés of the Indian office take in this institution, and the efforts they make in every way to ensure its success.

I feel certain that this school will be a great success, and that it will be a chief means of civilizing the Indian; but to obtain this result, accommodation must be made to take in more pupils, as now we can only take in but one out of each reserve.

A school for Indian girls would be of great importance, and, I may say, would be absolutely necessary to effect the civilization of the next generation of Indians. If the women were educated it would almost be a guarantee that their children would be educated also and brought up christians, with no danger of their following the awful existence that many of them ignorantly live now. It will be nearly futile to educate the boys and leave the girls uneducated.

This institution has been a heavy expense already to the Government, for the comparatively small number of pupils. I have endeavored to curtail the expenditure as much as possible. It must be expected to be heavier the first year than ever afterwards, unless the number of pupils is greatly increased, and then the average rate of each pupil will decrease in proportion as the number of the pupils increase.

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

J. HUGONNARD.
Principal.

OFFICE OF THE INDIAN COMMISSIONER

REGINA, NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES, 17th December, 1885.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR.—I have the honor to submit my ANNUAL Report on Indian matters in the North-West Territories, for the year 1885.

During the winter of 1884-85 arrangements were made that promised active and effectual agricultural work would be done this season; and I am pleased to be able to state that in the south-eastern, south-western and north-western portions of the Territories they have not been futile.

In the east, owing to exceptional climatic causes, the crops of the Indians were not, on the whole, as successful; and in the north, seeding was interfered with by the rebellion until so late a date that little could be hoped for from it. Nevertheless, as willingness to amend their ways was shown by the Indians in the disturbed districts, by immediate application to work, after giving up their arms, a good deal of seeding was done at a late season—the employment tending to settle the Indians and allay the excitement still naturally existing—whilst valuable fodder was afterwards obtained from the straw grown.

That seeding was prevented in the Carlton, Battleford and Victoria districts is greatly to be regretted, for adequate preparation had been made for agricultural work. We had the reserves in these districts in a better state for early seeding than at any previous time, almost all the old land having been broken the fall before. Had not the complete machinery that had been organized, for quick seeding under close supervision, been disturbed by an event so unfortunate, yet so impossible to prevent, my belief is that at least one-half of the food supplied for the north would have been raised this year.

It will be unnecessary for me to touch upon the Indians' participation in the half-breed revolt, except to point out how they became implicated therein, and what effect its suppression, and the punishment of the criminals it developed, will have upon the future relations of the insurgent tribes to the Government.

When it became necessary to move to the north Big Bear and those wandering Cree discontents who had frequented the southern plains since the treaties were made, it was recognized that a dangerous element was being introduced amongst the Saskatchewan tribes. But this had to be done, sooner or later, in order to prevent international complications arising from their bad conduct along the border, and it was considered that their mischievous propensities, after they were placed amongst settled and well-disposed Indians, might be counteracted or at least controlled. That this anticipation would have been justified there can be but little doubt, had it not been for the unfortunate circumstances that resulted in drawing them into action with the misguided half-breeds, for arrangements had been made, in which they concurred, which would have settled almost all wandering Indians upon reserves this summer, had the rebellion not occurred to disturb them.

During the summer of 1884 the bands in the Carlton and Battleford districts had stated openly and frankly what they wished the Government would do, over and above what it was then doing for them—their requests not being great—and at the same time they had expressed their satisfaction with the progress they were making in search of a livelihood, their confidence in the good intentions of their Great Mother, and the assurance (received from their rapid advancement in it) that through agriculture they would soon be able to support themselves.

Communications were held between Riel and certain Indians from shortly after the time that the former arrived in the country, or about July, 1884. Much that passed between them was made known to me. The Indians stated that they had no serious causes of discontent, and did not entertain an intention of joining the half-breeds in agitation. It was natural, when overt acts were once committed by the young, ill-disposed men, that loyal and well-disposed Indians should fear that vengeance would be wreaked upon them—the innocent suffering as well as the guilty—and that this feeling, coupled with the necessity—after some of the officers of the Department, who had supplied their wants, had been made prisoners by the half-breeds—of obtaining food, prevailed upon them to gather about rebel headquarters, where, when the latter were attacked, they became more or less involved in the skirmishes that ensued, from various motives, ranging from sympathy with the half-breeds to self-protection. It may be fairly presumed, therefore, when regarding the matter without prejudice, and in the light of Indian utterances before and after the rebellion, that their participation in it sprang, not from universal race hatred, from the existence of grievances, discontent or general malignity, but rather from a feeling that the action of a few Indian discontents, who were influenced by the half-breed movement, and of their young men, who, when excited by these, lost their heads and commenced raiding, committed them to association with the rebels in order—after the sources of supply from the Department were closed to them, from the causes before described—to gain the necessities of life and protection against individual white men, which the law at the moment was unable to afford. We may rest assured, I think, that the past policy of the Government was not to blame, as none of the Indians, when spoken to of their conduct on the reserves, have pleaded grievances in extenuation of it.

The punishment that has overtaken the worst spirits amongst them will tend to preserve order, as it has already re-created confidence in the disturbed districts. Had greater clemency characterized the Executive's action, the country along the Saskatchewan, in the opinion of residents in it, would have been unsafe to reside in.

The loss suffered on the reserves that were exposed to damage by the rebels was not, except in the Fort Pitt district, as complete as might have been anticipated. At both Onion and Frog Lakes entire destruction of Government property reigned—even Indian personal property was destroyed—and all buildings, including churches and stores, were razed by fire.

Some raiding was reported in the File Hills district during the summer; so the offenders were apprehended, and sentenced to punishment according to their various misdemeanors.

Complaints of Indians killing cattle in the stock districts have been received, but our advices seem to show that most of such acts were committed by Cree Indians, who were lurking about the plains, afraid to go to reserves, and unable to join the insurgents. Our Indians are aware of the penalties attaching to crime, and are not driven by hunger or necessity to risk incurring them. In several instances of especial investigation in the matter of horse stealing, it has been shown that white men or American Indians have committed the crimes charged to ours.

It is pleasant to be able to record in the North-West Territories, where our relations with the Indians are of comparatively short existence, that loyalty has been met with hardly less marked than that of your Indian allies, in the older Provinces in the past, and to mention, in connection with such records, the names of Chiefs Pecan (or Jas. Seenum), Mistowasis, Atah-ka-koop and Mitosomin, who, though typical Indians, preferred to abide by their treaty-pledged faith to sacrificing it to