

vent crops being burnt up. A ditch of about five miles was surveyed by Capt. Jemmett, by which water could be brought on to this part of the reserve. There being a foot of snow on the ground, I was not able to follow the pegs of the survey, which I much wished to do, in order to estimate the amount of labor necessary to complete the work. The chief, Sam, seems to feel certain that he could, with eight of his men, finish the ditch in one summer, provided that provisions were supplied to those working, and their families, during that time. This chief is a young and very intelligent man, but unfortunately he is a confirmed drunkard, and, as a natural consequence, nearly all the tribe follow his example. There is only one respectable Indian on this eastern side, Long Baptiste, who used to be interpreter in olden times for Sir M. B. Begbie. The poor old man is, however, nearly blind, and although he does what he can, by advising Sam and the rest, he has no influence over them. On the west side of the river there is an Indian, Dominic, a sober and industrious man, to whom I gave charge of the Indians living there. He declined, however, to have anything to say to those on the eastern side, his reason being, that as he is half Chilcotin he could never have any influence over the pure blooded Alexandrians. On the western side the houses are well built and clean, showing to great advantage, compared to those on the eastern side. Poverty is, however, to be seen, in the total absence of any provisions or bedding, except skins. On the eastern side, sickness, poverty and destitution is witnessed in every habitation, for the shanties they inhabit cannot be called houses. The cause of all this is whiskey, to obtain which, they will sell everything they possess. Unfortunately the sources of supply are almost on the reserve, there being two licensed whiskey houses, each one about a mile distant (one north and the other south) from the village. I copy from my note book the exact words of the chief, Sam, regarding the evils resulting to his tribe from the proximity of these two houses to the reserve: " You must have heard that I am a drunkard ; it is true. I promised to Mr. O'Reilly that I would drink no more, but I have not kept my word. You know that even white men promised to give up drink, but break their word and take again to drinking. You cannot expect an Indian to be stronger than a white man in resisting drink. I now promise you that I will drink no more. I intend to keep my word, and, were I not tempted, I could do so. But I fear I cannot. Temptation is at our door. You see a whiskey house on each side of our village. It is only a short walk to either. So long as these houses sell liquor, so long will I and my tribe continue to drink ; for we can get all the whiskey we want as long as whiskey is there. Whiskey has killed most of our tribe ; it will soon kill what few of us remain. You see how poor we are ; whiskey is the cause. We are too accustomed to it to resist the temptation which is at our doors. I pray you, in the name of my people, to write to our Mother, the Queen, and say that we, her poor children at Alexandria, beg that she will not allow these two houses to sell any more whiskey. Then only shall we be able to become industrious and good Indians like other tribes."

I am told that Sam's fears have proved true, and that since my visit his promises and resolutions of sobriety have often been broken.

#### *Alkali Lake Reserve.*

This tribe numbers one hundred and seventy-nine, under Philip their chief, and August, second chief. The land cultivated by them is small for their numbers, containing only about ninety acres. A large body of good land was allotted to this tribe by Mr. O'Reilly, and a line of ditch has been surveyed by Capt. Jemmett, for conveying water to it. This water has to be taken from the spring overflow of a lake, and this must be retained by a dam about fifty-one yards long and four feet high. Dam building is a trade which few understand, and this the Indians are aware of; and they are unwilling to dig such a long ditch, about four miles, until a dam is built by some competent person, and has proved to be solid by resisting one spring freshet. They are most willing to supply the labor. This land is situated on Fraser River, about fifteen miles south of the present Indian village, and is now used by the tribe as a