

GRAND RAPIDS AGENCY,

TREATY No. 5, MANITOBA, 10th October, 1883.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit with the accompanying tabular statement my Annual Report on Indian Affairs in Treaty No. 5 for the year ended 30th June, 1883;

In my Report last year I gave an account of matters in connection with this Treaty up to the 30th September, 1882. In this Report I shall therefore confine my remarks to facts which have occurred and come under notice from that date until the 30th of June last.

After finishing the work in connection with the payments of 1882, I went to Grand Rapids, but on my arrival there I found that I could not rent a house suitable to live in through the winter, and I was therefore obliged to return to Berens River where I rented the Methodist Mission House which was vacant at the time, and I staid there until the 14th of June, when I proceeded to Winnipeg on the 20th June, and my time was then fully occupied from that date to the last of the month in making preparations for the annuity payments and answering letters which had accumulated there. It was very fortunate for the Indians that the fisheries almost without exception, turned out good last fall, they secured more than enough for winter use on almost every reserve where they exerted themselves at all.

On several reserves the potatoe crop did not turn out so well as was expected; the catch of furs was as good if not better than usual, considering that fur-bearing animals are on the decrease in this part of the country.

A number of the Cumberland Indians have left their reserve and taken up land in the vicinity of Fort-a-la-Corne expecting thereby to better their condition as the land is good for cultivation. A number of Nelson River Indians came up to Norway House to consult with the band located there; they represent that they are desirous of making a treaty with the Government, but they do not want to see any more surveyors, explorers or white men going into their country before a Treaty is first made with them. I was informed by the Island Band Indians that no seed potatoes had been supplied them from the Department, and at Norway House they stated that they had not received any seed for two years.

For want of proper care the Indians of Grand Rapids lost the last two remaining animals of the seven supplied by the Department, and only one cow is now living out of the seven animals supplied to the Moose Lake band. There is not one alive of those given to the Island bands, while very good care seems to be taken of the animals furnished to the Fisher River, Norway House and Pas bands.

Sickness was prevalent among the Fisher River, Berens River, Norway House and Pas bands last winter and spring.

No supplies of any kind, nor means to procure any, for the destitute, sick and aged Indians have been provided for this Treaty since 1880.

During the month of June last, Rev. Mr. Ross, of Fisher River had the school house at that place roofed with boards and shingles, those repairs were very much needed and they make the building much more comfortable than it was before. I am sorry to state that the teacher (Miss Lyness) has now given up the school at that place, and the teachers at the Pas, Grand Rapids, Norway House and Berens River have ceased to teach. At Fisher River, Norway House and the Pas the Indians are very anxious and urgent to have teachers sent to them immediately.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. MACKAY,

Indian Agent.