

mile from town. Running through the valley is the small stream, but here spread out into a fine sheet of water, relieving the scene and serving the useful purpose of driving the mill, which soon will be hard at work in grinding the abundant grain of Birtle district. Some of the buildings of the town are of stone, but most are wooden, and in some cases attention has been paid to tasteful ornamentation. Two or three neat, newly-finished churches give some indication of the hopes of the town, while half a mile down the valley is the public school building of some size, whose location shows a desire to give the rising generation plenty of exercise in reaching it. Birtle has a number of very energetic and enterprising inhabitants and they are justly proud of the town and its vicinity. But we have a good journey before us to-day, and so, under the kind guidance of Rev. W. Hodnett, who is an old inhabitant of the district, we are soon on the way for some ten or twelve miles to the

BIRD-TAIL SIOUX RESERVE.

The herbage is most luxuriant; the bluffs give a park-like appearance to the scene; we pass the Blenheim school house, a dark painted and somewhat uncommon looking building, which a local Irishman described as the educational "simitery" of the locality, and amid ripe wheat fields reach a beautiful sheet of water known as "Hooper's Lake." This is a large lake of sweet water, and as we refresh our "Rosinante" from its waters we see the fine sandy beach covered with a great variety of pebbles, contrasting with the miry margin of reeds so common in the prairie ponds and lakes. A most delightful morning drive brings us to the reserve, which is situated at the junction of the Bird-tail with the Assiniboine. Here the scenery is grand; yonder is the great Assiniboine valley, and we can see the buildings adjoining the well known old Fort Ellice, near which the Qu'Appelle joins the Assiniboine. The confluence of the Bird-tail and the Assiniboine lying several hundred feet below us, is well wooded with soft maple and elm, whose leaves give a beautiful contrast. The winding coulees and ravines suggest localities for robber hordes or illicit stills such as were once found in the Scottish Highlands, but probably the travellers here are not worth robbing, and the Indian is not allowed to participate in the mountain dew. Here is laid out a reserve of about one-third of a township for the band of