
Every effort is being made to render the life of the members of the force, separated as they are by long distances from the comforts and social advantages of civilization, as enjoyable as may be. Quite a large sum of money has accumulated to the credit of the fines fund, which it is proposed to expend in purchasing books for the men, and furnishing them with the means of recreation and amusement.

The buildings at Fort Macleod are constructed upon an island, which is gradually being washed away, in consequence of which it has been decided to remove the post to the police farm, some thirty miles distant. By this change it is reported a considerable economy will also be effected, particularly in the supply of fuel.

The discovery in the neighborhood of Wood Mountain of a considerable quantity of hard timber, suitable for the manufacture of wagon wheels and other useful purposes, reported last year by Superintendent Walsh, has been fully confirmed.

The sanitary condition of the force continues to be satisfactory.

SCHOOL LANDS.

So far, no sales of school lands have been made, and the operations of this branch of the Department have been confined to preparatory organization. A large quantity of those lands in the Province of Manitoba and the adjoining territory to the west have now attained a fair average value, and it is proposed during the ensuing season to put them up for sale at public auction in the City of Winnipeg.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN A. MACDONALD,

Minister of the Interior.

OTTAWA, 1st March, 1881.