

He attended a meeting I held next morning with the chief councillors and other members of the band, whereat I succeeded in settling satisfactorily to all parties concerned, a contention among them over the location of a school house, by persuading them to agree to dispose of the two buildings already erected for that purpose, to private individuals, and to erect another in a central place, with the proceeds, for the convenience of the majority on the reserve.

The teacher, Mr. Sanderson, was absent on his holidays, and, therefore, I was unable to examine his school, but Mr. Martineau informed me that the pupils were progressing favorably under his tuition, as manifested in the examination of the different classes in reading, writing and spelling.

There are fifty-one children of school age belonging to this reserve, eighteen of them being Roman Catholics and the rest Protestants and heathens.

The agent purchased certain supplies for completing and furnishing the school-house in accordance with the regulations of the Department.

The Indians in this reserve complain that the enactments in reference to the protection of game, enforced by the Local Government of Manitoba, are incompatible with the promises made them by Commissioner Simpson when they surrendered their country, as it was distinctly understood then, that the Indians would be permitted to exercise their former privileges in fishing and hunting whenever and wherever they desired, and that consequently they object to the intolerable restrictions placed upon them by those regulations, which absolutely deprive them of their principal source of subsistence during the close season, while sportsmen, traders and others are allowed to slaughter indiscriminately during the open season. For several years farming was neglected owing to the flooded condition of the reserve from the encroachment of the lake upon it, but the waters having retired the Indians returned and commenced to cultivate their gardens, which were larger and promised a greater yield than I ever saw before.

Ebb and Flow Lake Reserve.

I arrived at this reserve about noon, on the 14th of July and found the agent engaged in giving out the provisions, the payments having been made the previous day. I visited all the gardens, and found them somewhat backward on account of the dryness of the season, but notwithstanding this, the general appearance of prosperity prevailing was most encouraging. I examined the school conducted by Mr. Asham, and found thirty children on the register, twenty-three of them being present. I was favorably impressed with the proficiency of the pupils in their respective studies.

The writing in their copy-books presented a most creditable appearance, and the exercises pleasantly closed by all the children singing several hymns very sweetly and correctly.

Before leaving, I called a meeting of the Indians for the purpose of making enquiries of them in reference to various matters.

The chief on behalf of the band requested oxen, instead of the cows promised to be given them, and also, to be supplied with a chest, of tools, a brush, plow, and spades. They suggested that the school teacher be instructed to take his vacation in the fall, instead of the summer as at present, because then the children are absent, with their parents at the fisheries.

The agent vaccinated twenty Indians here who had never subjected to the operation before.

The Fairford Reserve.

I arrived at this reserve on the 15th of July, and noticed a marked advancement in agriculture. The crops were greatly in excess of those of previous years, and consisted of wheat, potatoes, oats, barley and hay.