

The agricultural fair on the reserve still continues a success. The receipts at the gates last fall were large. The entries were also large, and the quality of the exhibits excellent, horses excepted. In this class the show was very poor, very few entries being made. The Indians say that people laugh at their horses; for this reason they will not show them. I am inclined to think this a good, instead of a bad augury for the future, as a large number are already breeding a better class of horses, which, I trust, in a few years will be a credit to them.

School matters have improved very much since my last report. The average attendance is good—in fact, about all we could wish. We have appointed three trustees, members of the Indian Council, whose duty it is to visit the school as often as possible, and if they find any of the children stopping out of school without good cause, their parents are reported to the Council. They are then notified to send the children to school at once, and for every day the child is absent after receiving this notice the parent is fined five cents. This has had a good effect, and we hope to keep it up.

We have two churches on the reserve. They are prosperous and doing a good work. The Salvation Army has recently commenced to work among the Indians, the result of its labor will have to be reported later.

I cannot close this report without again referring to the roads on this reserve, as I think they are a credit to the Indians and would be to many white municipalities. They are kept up by the Indians themselves. No money has been asked from the Department for road purposes for the last two years. Every man has to do road work, and we trust, in time, that our bridges also will be built by the Indians themselves.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN BEATTIE,

Indian Agent.

NORTHERN SUPERINTENDENCY—DIVISION No. 1,
INDIAN OFFICE, MANITOWANING, ONT., 27th August, 1885.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit my report on Indian affairs within this Superintendency for the year ended 30th June last.

The condition of most of the Indians under my charge has been prosperous; their grain and root crops were of good quality and average quantity. The hay crop, however, was light, and those who followed fishing reported the take to be large and prices remunerative. Some of the mainland bands were not so well off; the unusually heavy fall of snow interfered with their hunting and they also suffered from the interference of white trappers with the game upon their hunting grounds. Assistance towards the maintenance of some of the old people of the bands of hunting Indians had to be rendered by the Department.

Owing to the long duration and extreme severity of the past winter, the supply of hay proved too short, and some loss of Indian cattle took place, but timely assistance being afforded, many were enabled to preserve their cattle, which would otherwise have perished. The loss of cattle was, however, fully as great amongst the white settlers as by the Indians. It is to be hoped that the experience of the past winter will be a salutary warning to both Indians and whites. In many cases they allowed their straw to rot in the fields, and in the fall many sold some of their hay at from \$6 to \$7 per ton, while they were glad to re-purchase in the spring at \$20 per ton.

The extreme cold during the winter having penetrated in many cases the root-houses and pits of the Indians and destroyed the potatoes reserved for seed, advances