

harrows, 95 waggons and carts, 497 head of cattle, 25 horses, 5 sheep, 70 pigs, 245 dwelling houses, and 183 stables. Last summer the Indians performed statute labor, and cut nearly all the Canada thistles growing on the reserve. The animosity engendered against white settlers in consequence of their encroachment upon the reserve is becoming more implacable every year. This disputed land question is the most difficult problem to solve in this Superintendency. A great number of the Indians are employed and earn considerable money, as voyageurs, boatmen, loading and unloading steamboats, barges, and railway cars, making ties, chopping cord wood, cutting saw logs, working in saw-mills, as farm laborers, &c. The afternoon of the 10th of August and the following night was occupied in investigating charges preferred by the band against Chief William Prince, and his councillor John Flett, for destroying the usefulness of some of their cattle, for taking away oxen from parties who were ploughing with them, contrary to the distributions made of those animals by the Agent, for granting permits to non-treaty men to cut hay within the limits of the reserve, on hay lands previously belonging to them, and not accounting to the band for dues collected therefor; for engaging David Prince as a government teacher of the South St. Peter's school upon their own responsibility without consulting either the band, agent, or mission in the matter, and for granting a piece of land within the reserve, for mission purposes, to Father Allard, illegally, as the agent did not preside over the meeting held for that purpose, as provided by the Indian Act. I am fully satisfied from what was elicited at the investigation, that these complaints, although somewhat exaggerated, are not altogether unfounded, therefore it would appear necessary that the chief and councillor referred to be instructed not to repeat such actions, and to be guided entirely hereafter by the agent in such matters. The number of annuitants paid seven years ago was 1,783, whereas only 1,393 were paid this year, but the total number on the pay-sheets then, including those who were marked absent, was 2,231, whereas the total number now is only 1,531, a decrease of 700 fraudulent annuitants, struck off the pay-sheets, representing an annual saving to the Department, in this single instance, of \$3,500.

Broken Head River.

I left St. Peter's on the 11th August and arrived at this reserve on the same evening. An attempt was made here also to traffic in liquor during the payments last summer, but the agent having taken the precaution to have one of the constables to accompany him prevented it. One party suspected of coming to the reserve for that purpose was pursued, but he managed to escape into a marsh at the mouth of the river, where an Indian afterwards found ten gallons of whiskey which he delivered up to the agent, who destroyed it. The potatoe crop suffered from the dryness of the season, but the corn, wheat and barley crop was very good. They raised this year 22 bushels of corn, 180 bushels of wheat, 85 bushels of barley and 900 bushels of potatoes. They have twenty-six dwelling houses, twelve stables, ten ploughs, nine harrows, one horse, and thirty-six head of cattle. The school taught by William Dennett is closed, as he found it impossible to persuade the Indians to send their children to it. One of their oxen died last summer from injuries received from another. The councillors having been detected in fraudulently obtaining larger amounts than they were entitled to, were dismissed and others are to be elected in their places by the band. This will be a wholesome warning to others not to commit similar offences. All the thistles growing on the reserve were cut last summer. The number paid in this band in 1877 was 552, and this year 253, a decrease of 299, effecting a saving annually of \$1,495, by striking from the pay-sheets fictitious and fraudulent names from Red Lake, the Rosseau River and other bands.

Fort Alexander.

I started for this reserve on the 12th, and arrived the following day. This band is progressing favorably, having seventy-three dwelling houses, thirty-two stables, seventy-five acres under cultivation, twelve ploughs, twelve harrows, thirty-