

transferred to that of Long Plain, as they have always been living at the latter place, although, by mistake, entered on the pay-sheets of the former. This statement is corroborated by Mr. Cummings, who is thoroughly conversant with everything relating to the treaty made with these bands, having been interpreter at the readjustment of the same in 1876. The chief and councillors of Long Plain Band, as well as the Agent, are in favor of the transfer asked by William, Etahwohnaguet, Mahquayweutung, Ooskenawais (widow), Kaypayashick, Anemaway, Kaachipahy ahsingkeziick and Ingekahpohweek. The amount of drunkenness among Indians at Portage la Prairie is yearly increasing in consequence of the facility in obtaining intoxicating liquors from unscrupulous dealers. A great deal of sickness, attended with some fatality, caused by measles and eating the carcasses of diseased horses, prevailed among them.

*Swan Lake Band.*

This band is composed of fifty-five families who subsist chiefly by hunting, and therefore are averse to farming. The chief, Yellow Quill, and several families have gardens on the north-east quarter of section eleven in the ninth Township of the ninth Range, west of the principal meridian. This place has been cultivated by themselves and forefathers for a great number of years, and, consequently, they are exceedingly reluctant to abandon it, and settle on the reserve. They raised about seventy-five bushels of corn and a large quantity of potatoes on it this year. The Agent caused ten acres to be broken last spring on the reserve, but no cross-ploughing was done. Last summer, the majority of the band decided, in council, not to go to Swan Lake for their annuities, and insisted upon being paid at their gardens, believing if they succeeded in the undertaking it would have a tendency to establish their claims to a reserve there but when they saw that the Agent, notwithstanding their remonstrances, was determined, in accordance with his instructions, to make payments at the former place, they took forcible possession, at "Hamilton's Crossing" of the following provisions, twine and ammunition contracted for them, viz.: 17 sacks of flour, two of bacon, half a chest of tea, three bags of shot, one keg of powder and some twine. The chief, who has the reputation of personally being a most reliable and honorable man, alleges that, before the seizure took place, he retired to his wigwam some distance away, and took no part in the proceedings further than to accept his share of the spoils. He informed me that a number in council proposed to seize the money also, but that the majority over-ruled them. He is apprehensive of serious consequences unless their claims to their former possessions are immediately recognized by the Government, and the compensation of land promised in lieu of wagons is granted them. He does not, however, want to relinquish the reserve at Swan Lake, but wishes to obtain an additional grant to the gardens to cover those promises made to him at Long Plain in 1876. He says, after the readjustment of the treaty, when he was asked to go to the reserve, he obeyed and remained there a couple of years, but that his people refused to follow him there, and so he deserted it, and returned to his former home. His principal councillors having been absent, he was unable to lay before me any definite proposition that would be acceptable to the band, as a final settlement of their contentions. I consider that as their gardens are on a school section, and therefore not interfering with the claims of any settler, it would be advisable to adopt a conciliatory policy towards them by acceding to their request as far as granting the school section referred to, or a portion of it to them in addition to the Swan Lake Reserve, to satisfy the promises made with regard to the wagons. The Agent proceeded to the reserve, followed, as far as the Indian gardens, by a few families living at Portage la Prairie, who were prevented by Pookoo-kat and another councillor, from going any further by threatening to shoot them. These families and several old women were the only parties paid. I would strongly recommend that these two councillors, who took an active part in the robbing of the supplies from the freighter, be not only dismissed from their positions in the band for dishonesty, according to the 72nd section of the Indian Act, but also committed for trial for the graver offence of robbery.