

drinkers, and being too old to take the law into his own hands, he had lost courage to combat the evil. He was much delighted to find that he had now a powerful helper to back him in punishing liquor-givers, and I think that he will not, in future, fail to be helped by his men in detecting and bringing to punishment all such.

The town is situated three miles from the reserve, and any Indian seen drunk there is immediately taken to the lock-up by the vigilant Government agent and constable, Mr. St. Laurent, and there introduced to a dark cell, the sight of which soon helps to quicken the inebriate's memory regarding the person who supplied him with liquor.

The law requiring *two* J. P.'s to try an Indian whiskey-giver, is the great loophole through which such offenders escape. In this part of British Columbia Justices live far apart—fifty miles, as an average. There is no law to compel a Justice to attend the summons of another J. P. Nor is it sometimes possible for him to leave his home at a day's notice. And in all cases the delay is such, that the offender generally hears of the information having been laid, and has ample time to "move off" to a distance until the matter has "blown over." Even here, at Quesnell, there is only one J. P., and to form a court for the trial of such offenders, a second J. P. has to come from Williams' Creek, a distance of over sixty miles. The expense is, of course, great to the Government.

I found some sickness in this tribe, and many cases of old and destitute persons. Hitherto, all such have been maintained by the charity of some of the inhabitants of the town.

This reserve is liberally supplied with good land, requiring only the clearing away of light bush to obtain as much as the tribe requires. Hitherto, nothing has been raised here, not even potatoes; the reason being, the want of necessary tools. Such have now been supplied by the kindness of Col. Powell, Indian Superintendent, and I hope that my next report will show a good beginning in agriculture. The young men find employment during the summer in boating, and at good wages, and the rest still adhere to their old occupation of hunting and trapping. It will be long before this tribe takes to agriculture, beyond raising potatoes and root crops on a small scale. The climate is not adapted to wheat, neither is there a grist mill near, and the demand for hardy crops, such as barley and oats, is more than supplied by the numerous farms in the vicinity.

The value of the furs brought yearly to Quesnell from the north is estimated at \$100,000; 80 per cent. of that amount is paid to the Indians in goods which have paid an average of 20 per cent. of duty, the balance being paid in flour and other provincial productions. *None of this trade would exist were it not for the Indians.* Reducing this to figures, shows \$16,000 of duty paid into the Dominion Treasury by the labor of those Indians alone, whose furs are brought to this place. The above figures were given to me by the gentlemen at Quesnell who are engaged in the fur trade, and show that the often heard of complaint, that the Indians of British Columbia do not contribute anything towards the Dominion revenue, is by no means correct.

Alexandria Reserve.

I arrived here 5th December, remaining until the 9th. The tribe numbers sixty-one. Part of the reserve is on the east and part on the west side of Fraser River. There is some good land on the western side, but no water, nor means of obtaining any. Here, however, there are some seasons when there is sufficient rain to raise a partial crop, where the soil is not too light. In fact, the farmers around depend altogether on the rain, none having water for irrigation. Although, therefore, this place is a partial exception to the general rule requiring irrigation, still such farming is by no means remunerative, taking one season with another.

About one half of the tribe live on the west side of the reserve. These are all partly Chilcotins, being the descendents of men of that tribe who had married Alexandria women. On the east side no crop has ever been put in, as, from the sandy nature of the soil, no season, however rainy, would afford moisture enough to pre-