

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR OF INDIAN AGENCIES,  
 MANITOBA SUPERINTENDENCY,  
 WINNIPEG, 30th November, 1883.

To the Right Honorable,  
 The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
 Ottawa.

SIR,—In accordance with your instructions, I forwarded to the Department, on the 31st of July, my Annual Report of inspection for the official year ended the 30th of June last, but as only the Agency of Mr. McIntyre and a portion of Mr. Donnelly's had been visited then, I now transmit my Report in duplicate, and my tabular statement of the other agencies subsequently inspected.

THE AGENCY OF MR. PITHER.

*Neckickesemnescon.*

On the 2nd of July I arrived at this reserve, which is situated on both sides of a bay extending inland in a north-easterly direction from the north-east shore of Rainy Lake. The greater part of this reserve is worthless for farming purposes owing to its sterile, rocky nature. There is a small quantity of fertile clay land, along the margin of a little stream flowing in a westerly direction into the bay where the Indian village, composed of eleven dwelling houses and two stables, is located; but across the bay, where the Indians have also gardens in two different places, along the undulating banks of two meandering streams, the soil is of a coarse sandy character, unfit for cultivation. The Chief, Misconageist, or Noctoweeomickiskung, is very desirous of obtaining an extension of his reserve in a northerly direction, so as to include within it a certain tract of timber lands. There is between forty and fifty acres under clearing within the reserve, of which about ten acres was under corn and potatoes last season. The cultivation of their gardens is entirely done with the grub hoe, so that little progress in agriculture beyond their necessities can reasonably be expected under these circumstances. The chief informed me that the plough forwarded to the agency intended for him was not yet delivered in consequence of his not being prepared to receive it. Of the 7 head of cattle supplied this band only 1 ox and 2 cows are living, the rest having died from one cause or another. The chief says that it was not from neglect they lost their cattle, and wants them replaced, especially the bull, as they have none of their own; but I reminded him that such was not promised by the conditions of their treaty. He admitted this, but appealed to the generosity of the Government to supply his wants in this respect, as he was unable to procure them himself. A number of new families formed by marriages have never received any agricultural implements, according to the representations of the chief, but it is claimed that these parties are not entitled to such articles by treaty. The agent visited the reserve in June and vaccinated the Indians, but only in about half a dozen instances was their any effects manifested. He brought some garden seeds with him there which they very gladly received and carefully planted in the most suitable places of their well cultivated fields. The chief informed me that the Rainy Lake Lumbering Company were cutting roads through the reserve for the purpose of drawing out their logs to the lake, but beyond this I found, upon a personal inspection of the localities indicated, that no trespass had been committed. The chief's son having married a widow Indian woman of St. Peter's Reserve, about three years ago, draws the annuities of himself and family here, whereas, I am informed, his wife draws for herself and two of a family at her former home, but I have not succeeded yet in ascertaining the truthfulness or otherwise of these representations, as I have been unable to find out the name under which she is said to be drawing annuity there. In 1877, when I was appointed Inspector of Indian Agencies, the number of Indians belonging to this band receiving annuities was 50, whereas, in 1883, 63 were paid; an increase of 13 in 7 years.