

An English missionary is here, and having acquired the language he succeeds very well. There are still some scattered Sioux along the Assiniboine River, but I hope to induce all of them to sell their improvements and move on to the reserves. The Oak Lake Sioux are getting along slowly, raising principally corn, potatoes and turnips. They support themselves, and receive only an occasional present.

They are all good hunters, and some of them are excellent workers.

The small band at Turtle Mountain, under Ka-da-mo-ree, now that they have a reserve and are getting cattle, will do well. Already they have gardens and entirely support themselves.

The storehouse at Birtle, in charge of Mr. Markle, is very well managed, and his books are very satisfactorily kept.

The only farm employes in my district, viz.: Mr. A. McArthur, at Moose Mountain, and A. Genaille—temporarily employed—at the Key's reserve at Fort Pelly, are active and intelligent, and manage the Indians well. Very little provisions are now used in my district, and the quantity required is constantly decreasing.

The chief expenditure is for ploughs, harrows, hoes, saws and other tools, all of which the Indians are eager to get, and their issue greatly tend to reduce the future expenditure and to place the Indians on a thoroughly independent footing at an early date.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

L. W. HERCHMER,

*Indian Agent.*

COUTCHEECHING AGENCY, TREATY No. 3,  
RAINY LAKE, KEEWATIN, 13th August, 1883.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR—I have the honor to transmit the following Report on Indians, under my charge and also tabular statement:—

I left Rat Portage with the tug on 9th July as I had been instructed that the supplies were to be landed on the several reserves. I notified the Rainy River and Lake bands that they were to be paid on their reserves; some of the bands consented, but others wished to be paid at the Agency. I told them they would have to abide by the instructions from the Department.

I should have paid them on their reserves in former years, but all the supplies of twine, ammunition and provisions were landed at the Agency and I had no instructions to freight the supplies back to the reserve, consequently I paid at the Agency. I arrived at Hungry Hall on the 10th, where I paid two bands. The gardens have a good appearance. The chief of one of these bands died last winter, and one of his brothers was elected; there have been eight deaths and one birth in these two bands.

On the 11th I reached Long Sault where I paid Mawintooleness' and Reshotae's bands. I met Mr. Inspector McCaul here on his tour of inspection. Both these bands have fine gardens of corn and potatoes. The constable who accompanied me from Rat Portage seized a keg of liquor on the barge which was in tow of the tug. The liquor was claimed by a woman named Gaherty and was destroyed. The case was brought before Mr. Crowe, J. P., at Fort Francis, and a fine of \$200 was imposed. The fine was to be paid at Rat Portage where she resides. Ten deaths and one birth have occurred in the two bands camped on the reserve.

On 12th the two bands at Manito Rapids were paid and received their supplies. I visited their gardens which looked well. These Indians have the largest gardens on the reserve.