

6. During the winter of 1886 and 1887, between the Peace and Athabasca Rivers, on account of starvation and consequent cannibalism, a party of twenty-nine Cree Indians was reduced to three.

In the Mackenzie River district there were several cases of death by starvation, and one or more of cannibalism.

7. During the last winter of 1887 and 1888, amongst the Fort Chipewyan Indians, between twenty and thirty starved to death, and the death of others was accelerated by want of food.

A party of about twenty Beavers had to be conveyed from Grande Prairie, near Dunvegan, Peace River, to Lesser Slave Lake, to prevent their starving to death; some of them died after arriving there.

Within the personal knowledge of the undersigned, many other Indians, Crees, Beavers and Chipewyans, at almost all points where there are missions or trading posts, would certainly have starved to death but for the help furnished by the traders and missionaries at those places—furnished very often at great personal inconvenience,

8. Owing to the above facts recorded and previous mortality, a great number of widows and orphans are left without natural providers.

9. Owing to strong competition in the fur trade and other causes, the Indians cannot now look to the Hudson Bay Company for help as they used to do.

In face of the above facts and with the prospect, at no very distant date of this country forming a valuable and important portion of the Dominion; and as we understand that Parliament has already taken action by granting a committee of enquiry on this country and its resources, we would respectfully press on the Government the urgent necessity of rendering speedy help to preserve the survivors.

(Signed,)

RICHARD YOUNG, Bishop of Athabasca.

MALCOLM SCOTT, Incumbent of St. Luke's, Vermilion.

G. HOLMES, C.M.S., Missionary, Lesser Slave Lake.

W. E. TRAILL, J.P., Vermilion.

A. C. GARRIOCH, C.M.S., Missionary, Dunvegan, P.R.

E. J. LAWRENCE, Principal of Irene Training School.

WM. J. MELROSE, Farmer.

A. J. KNEELAND, Mechanic, Vermilion.

W. D. REEVE, Archdeacon of Chipewyan and Secretary of Synod.

#### RESOURCES OF THE GREAT MACKENZIE BASIN.

*Answers from Magnus Anderson, late of the Hudson Bay Service, teacher of the Presbyterian Mission School on Stoney River Indian Reserve, near Edmonton.*

##### SERIES A—RELATING TO NAVIGATION AND COMMUNICATION.

1. The following answers are from the personal knowledge of Mr. Anderson acquired during his service in the Hudson Bay Company.

2. The Mackenzie is navigable from its mouth to Fort Smith. It is there unnavigable for about 12 miles, where it passes through a spur of mountains. Above these rapids it is navigable to Fort McMurray. The Hudson Bay Company have ten steamers running respectively above and below the obstruction spoken of. They draw about 2 feet of water when loaded.

The Hudson Bay Company is now building a steamer at the Athabasca Landing to run to the head of the Lesser Slave Lake, from whence there is a portage of 64 miles to Peace River. She will also run down the Athabasca to Grand Rapids, some 80 miles from Fort McMurray. On the portage to Peace River waggons are used, as also on that at Fort Smith. At the Grand Rapids York boats are run down with light loads and men pack the remainder along the bank for upwards of a mile. The York boats run