

Department of the Interior
Ottawa, Jan'y 1st 1874.

Sir,

I beg leave to lay before you the following observations with regard to the Indians in the North-West Territories.

At present a large majority of these Indians rely entirely on the chase for food. The minority, the *Shickom* Indians near Fort Pelly, &c., cultivate a few patches of ground, and grow thereon potatoes and grain which supplement the produce of the chase and enable them to live. The animals on which they formerly subsisted are becoming rapidly extinct. This is more especially the case with the Buffalo, (the sole support of the Plain Indians), which are only found at present in the Far West hundreds of miles from the country in which they formerly roamed in countless numbers. It is allowed by all who, from their knowledge of the facts in the case, are best capable of forming an opinion on the subject that in a few years the Buffalo will be almost exterminated. Opinions differ as to the time which may probably elapse before

The Honorable
The Minister of the Interior.