

at Norway House and other places this year, and different from that practiced by him here in former years.

*Birch River.*

I started for this reserve on the 15th of September and arrived in the evening. This fragment of the Pas Band is progressing favourably, having 15 houses, 7 stables, a school-house, 20 x 30 feet in size, partially completed, 13 head of cattle, 1,450 bushels of potatoes. As directed by the Department, I made enquiries regarding the quality of the land up the river, as to its adaptability for agricultural purposes, and was informed by the Indians conversant with the locality indicated that it is very low and marshy, except some narrow ridges along the banks of the river, which are covered with balm, poplar and spruce, but that beyond the southern limits of the reserve there are better and wider ridges of farming lands. I distributed, according to instructions, the 1,000 points of vaccine matter received last summer, to the different Hudson Bay Company's officers, clergymen and school teachers to vaccinate all the Indians in their respective districts throughout this agency as well as that of Mr. Martineau. The Indians universally expressed their unbounded gratitude for the generous consideration of the Government in protecting them from the dreaded ravages of small-pox, and in providing medicine chests at the different reserves for their sick. One aged chief, upon hearing about these gratuities they were receiving, exclaimed, with tears of gladness streaming down his deeply furrowed, swarthy cheeks, "Now I know that our Great Mother, the Queen, regards us, and that her chief councillor in Canada wishes us to live. The Great Spirit has heard the cries of our afflicted people, and has given them good medicine." The pay-sheets of this agency are as usual very neatly executed, but they do not furnish any information regarding those "other persons" mentioned therein, as to what families they formerly belonged, and how they happened to be adopted in others. It is not mentioned in the column for remarks to whom payments of annuities are made in every instance. The "tabular statement" is very incomplete, as only about one-half the columns in it are filled out. The number of Indians belonging to this agency, paid in 1877, was 2,962, and the number paid this year was 3,155; an increase of 193 in seven years.

THE AGENCY OF MR. MARTINEAU.

*Duck Bay.*

I left on the 16th for this reserve, but I did not arrive until the 24th of September, owing to the unusually tempestuous weather encountered in which my canoe was again swamped near the southern shore of Cedar Lake. This fragment of Kizickouce's Band of Swan River, received one bull, two cows and one calf from Mr. Indian Agent McDonald. Last fall they killed the bull, as he was cross and they were afraid of him. One of the cows died at Pine Creek four years ago from sickness. They have fourteen dwelling houses, five stables, seven acres under cultivation, one plough, one harrow, thirteen horses, eighteen head of cattle, four bushels of corn, eight hundred bushels of potatoes and fifteen tons of hay. They received five bushels of wheat, five of barley and some garden seeds from the Agent last summer, too late for sowing, which they still have on hand for next year's use. They received also from the Agent four scythes and six whetstones. As the lake is several feet lower this year than it has been for a number of years, there is plenty of dry land in the reserve for all the agricultural requirements of the band. Joseph, son of Pelican Quill, living on this reserve, but belonging to the Fort Pelly Band wants payment here in future for himself, sister and old blind mother who is dependant upon him for support. Joseph Beauchamp complains that he did not receive his last triennial suit due two years ago. A school has been opened last fall, in a private house until they build a school-house. I consider that Poplar Point a fertile narrow Peninsula extending for about four miles parallel to the reserve across a deep bay two miles wide, should be added to this reserve, as there are some families living on it already, and as it is better adapted in all seasons for farming than where they are now cultivating.