

The winter seems to be the time when strict watch has to be kept over such reserves as Lake Manitoba, Ebb and Flow Lake, and Fairford, owing to their being easy of access, and much visited by white men in quest of fur and fish, for trading purposes. Three cases came under my notice last winter, and the accused parties being arrested and convicted, I fined them all heavily, with a warning that imprisonment would be added to the fine if they should be again convicted of a similar offence before me.

The work attendant upon the annuity payments was much more important this year than in the past. Instructions were more numerous and better defined; and I feel that everything possible has been done to carry them out to the best of my knowledge and ability. Apart from the usual work performed by me during the annuity payments of the past years, I had, this year, to attend to the re-election of chief and councillors, where terms of office had expired; to distribute clothing, and, as you will see by the attached list of names, to vaccinate during my visit to the different reserves, 233 adults and children.

The provisions were all inspected by me, before delivery to the Indians, and although the flour and tea were of good quality, having tested both as instructed by the Department, I found that they were not according to samples. I accepted them, however, as the chiefs and councillors of the different bands were satisfied with them, but I feel in duty bound to report upon the matter.

One ox harness and collar for the Duck Bay Band of Indians was not delivered at Duck Bay; but on my return to Manitoba Village, upon finding that it had been forgotten here, I ordered it to be forwarded with the least possible delay.

I was greatly disappointed at the non-arrival of my yacht, as I had expected to receive it in time for the trip this year. I was, therefore, obliged to hire the same boat that I had last year, the rigging of which was so poor that twice during the trip, while tacking under a heavy head wind, the blocks were carried away from the masts.

In closing my report I think it but just to refer in high terms to the assistant sent out to me this year. Having made the same trip with me last year, he proved himself of great assistance from the experience he had acquired, and greatly facilitated my labors by the readiness with which he helped me in the performance of the numerous duties of my office.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

H. MARTINEAU,
Indian Agent.

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COUTCHEECHING AGENCY—TREATY No. 3,
RAINY LAKE, KEEWATIN, August, 1884.

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

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit the following Report on the Indians under my charge, and also tabular statement, for the year ended 30th June, 1884.

I left Rat Portage on 5th July, with my assistant and a constable, as we had heard that there was a quantity of liquor on the American side. Opposite Hungry Hall Reserves, at the entrance of Rainy River, Mr. Lyons, Stipendiary Magistrate at Rat Portage, also sent two constables. We arrived at Hungry Hall on the 6th, and the following morning visited the gardens, and called a council of the two bands, and as I had received instruction to remove from the pay-sheet the names of several families who only come to the reserves at the times of payment, and as there were several families who come under this head, I notified them of the fact. Mawintoobinnesse, who was speaker, said that if all other Indians were not paid, they would not accept.