

is impossible to exercise much control over it; and there is no person in the neighbourhood who could be properly appointed a special Commissioner under the Act 2 Vict. c. 15.

Depredations are carried on to a considerable extent, and only last winter, timber, to a considerable amount, was taken from the reserve under a sale or bargain in property obtained from the resident missionary and some of the chiefs; there was also a large quantity plundered from the rear of the reserve.

The band is as squalid and wretched as any that have come under the notice of the Commissioners, and though occupying upwards of 25,000 acres in one of the finest districts of Western Canada, is reduced by vice, dissipation, and idleness to great misery.

The Commissioners further are convinced that owing to the religious feuds in the tribe, any attempt to negotiate through the resident missionary would fail, while the abortive attempt would rouse the suspicions and jealousy of the Indians.

They therefore respectfully suggest that the consent of the Imperial Government should be obtained in order that a surrender of such portion of this reserve not required by the Indians for cultivation, may be tried for by the Indian Department communicating directly with the tribe, so that the land now much in demand and which would realize large prices may be sold for the benefit of the present occupants with their descendants, and some more efficient measures taken for their civilization and improvement.

(signed) *R. T. Pennefather.*
Froome Talfourd.
Tho. Worthington.

— No. 3. —

(No. 162.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor General Sir *Edmund Head*, Bart.,
to the Right Honourable *H. Labouchere*, M. P.

Government House, Toronto, 11 December, 1856.
(Received, 29 December 1856.)

Sir,

(Answered, No. 6, 2 January 1857, page 39.)

I HAVE the honour to enclose the annual report made to me by the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs of the tribes under his charge.

Annexed to this document are the returns called for in your despatch of 21st February last, No. 42,* of Indians enjoying pensions from the Imperial Government, and of those aged persons who are recommended as fit objects for the bounty of a blanket annually in lieu of the presents which they have hitherto received.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Edmund Head.*

Enclosure in No. 3.

Indian Department, Toronto, 24 November 1856.

To his Excellency Sir *Edmund W. Head*, Bart., Governor General of British
North America, &c. &c. &c.

May it please your Excellency,

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency the annual report on the state of Indian affairs in Canada.

In preparing this document, I have met with difficulties arising from the short period during which I have been connected with the department, and the consequent meagerness of much of the information which I have acquired from personal acquaintance therewith. The limited time also which I have been able to devote to travelling among the various tribes has contributed to this result.

Until the Commissioners now inquiring into the state of the native tribes shall have terminated their sittings and sent in their report, I feel some hesitation in entering upon the general topics which have more particularly engaged their attention. I shall, therefore, pending these deliberations, confine myself almost entirely to such statistical and other details, as will enable your Excellency to judge of the present position of the Indians relatively to that which they held last year.

The chief subjects now under the consideration of the Commissioners may briefly be set forth as follows:

The management of the Indian lands in such a manner as to secure to the present possessors and their descendants the full benefit of such lands; without allowing them to be a check or hindrance to the settlement of the country. The demand for land on the part of the immigrants to this province is so constant and so urgent, as to render it sooner or later difficult,

No. 3.

Governor General
Sir E. Head, Bart.,
to the Right Hon.
H. Labouchere,
M. P.
11 Dec. 1856.

* Vide House of
Commons Paper,
No. 247, of 1856,
page 39.

Encl. in No. 3.

Indian Commission.