

saying the cows given to his band under the treaty were held by the main portion of his band at Saddle Lake.

At Victoria I found our stores in charge of Mr. Edward McGillvary, a late officer of the Hudson's Bay Company's service. I took an inventory and inspected his books. I found them in good order, and the balance of stores on hand agreed with the balance shown on his books.

At Saddle Lake are the main portion of the band called after the late chief, Little Hunter, and unless a chief was elected at the last annuity payment they are still without one. Ka-kake, a prominent headman, was a candidate, but from all sides I hear accounts of him, which, if true, go to show that he will not make a desirable chief. This band occupies that portion of country commencing at the Snake Hills, on the north side of the Saskatchewan River, following along Saddle Lake creek to the lake. There is no better tract of land in the North-West. Along the Creek is abundance of spruce for building purposes, and on the beach there is plenty of cotton wood for fuel and rails, and openings of prairie for farming purposes. No wonder, then, that these Indians have done so well with all these advantages. This summer they have sold fallen wood to the steamboats to the amount of several hundred dollars' worth. As there is a good landing place on the river at Snake Hills, I would recommend that arrangements be made to have the treaty supplies, &c., left there instead of Victoria, for the following reasons: The direct road from Victoria to Whitefish Lake and Lac de Biche is impassable for wheeled vehicles in a wet season, whilst the road is both direct and good to those places from Saddle Lake. If the stores were all kept at the latter place, Blue Quill and Muskega-awah-tick and their followers might be induced to go there. At present it is not considered either expedient to have a man permanently as storekeeper at Victoria, or to do without one altogether. Both ways have been tried, and neither give satisfaction. As it will be necessary to keep a man at Saddle Lake, he could combine the two positions of storekeeper for the district and farmer, and with very little expense a small building could be erected, in which to receive the supplies at Snake Hills wooding-up station on the river.

Our farm at Saddle Lake is about eight miles from the river and in the heart of the reserve. The buildings are excellent, particularly the barn, which is 30ft. by 40ft. with threshing floor and shingled roof.

The crops are good this year, as they have always been in this locality. The working of this farm may be discontinued, but, being so far from the Agency headquarters, I think the services of the Instructor should be retained. The following bands of Indians are directly and indirectly under its supervision:—Little Hunter with its head men, Blue Quill and Muskeg, Awah-tick-seenum, Peesysees, Beaver Lake and Hart's Lake.

I arrived at Frog Lake on the 13th September. Mr. Delaney, the Instructor, had only been back a week from Ontario with his bride. During his absence the interests of the Department had been well looked after by his assistant, Mr. Mann. The crops on this farm, No. 15, though of limited acreage, turned out very well. It was all in stacks; they filled a good sized yard and promised an excellent yield when threshed.

The Indians adjacent, Nepowhabous' Band, have a poor outfit and have done little in farming. Pus-ku-hah-govin, an old chief, whose followers are mostly on the plains with Big Bear, has elected to settle upon this reserve instead of upon his own, which lies immediately to the north of it. The Catholics have a mission here, and the priest has just completed the erection of a school house immediately outside the reserve and adjacent to the farm. The Indians were mostly away fishing.

The bands under the direction of this farmer are:—Nepowhuyhow's, Ketreewin, Machaoo, Kinoosayoo and Puskabahgovin. I examined the books and found them in good order, and upon taking an inventory found his supplies correct.