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NOTICE.

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal Saturday, 29th April, 1876.

INDIANS OF THE NORTH-WEST.

The Indian population of Manitoba and the North West is estimated at over 30,000, but no correct information on this point is yet obtainable. In Manitoba, reserves to the extent of 73,534 acres have been set apart and secured to them by treaty: together with an annuity of \$5 per head. Six reserves have also been set apart in the North West Territories; and five smaller reserves of farming lands of a square mile each on the Rainy River, besides a tract of 36 square miles on that river to be sold for the benefit of the Indians. On the reserves where the surveys have been completed, the Indians have for the most part settled, and are beginning to adopt agricultural pursuits.

The band at St. Peters is one of the most numerous, best settled, and most progressive. It numbers 1,943; and the reserve is 51,200 acres. About half are half-breeds, who have for many years been settled on the banks of the Red River. In the band are 130 proprietors of 15,000 acres of land, of which 2,000 are cultivated: 120 houses, and other buildings, altogether valued at \$58,500. 55 families are settled outside of the reserve, having farm houses, &c. There are two schools, and a third is to be opened this summer.

The Fort Alexander band, at the mouth of Winnipeg river, numbers 506, and their reserve embraces 7,500 acres. They have 45 houses, well and strongly built, valued at \$12,000, and farm 1000 acres of land. They have had a school for many years, under the care of the Church of England, now assumed by the Indian department. 36 children attend it, and the Indians have built a schoolhouse for a second school for 30 more children, hoping the Department would assist in paying the salary of another teacher.

The Fort Garry band, now called the Broken Head River band, are settled on a reserve of about 11,000 acres on the shores of Lake Winnipeg, and number 439 souls. The land being swampy and mostly unfit for cultivation, it will be necessary to make a new limitation so as to secure a sufficient portion of arable land. This band had always been roving, but for the past year they have remained on their reserve, have built 10 houses and show a disposition to improve their position. They are altogether Pagan and much opposed to the establishment of schools.

The Pembina bands, at the time of the first Treaty in 1871, numbered 480. Some of them have since returned to the United States. They have a reserve of 13,554 acres on the Red River, and 11 houses. They are docile, well-conducted and anxious to improve, and have applied for the establishment of a school. The Portage Indians number 738 on the Assiniboine. They live chiefly by hunting and fishing, game being yet plentiful on their reserve. Another band of 180, claiming to be a separate band are at Whitehind river, S.

E. of Lake Manitoba. They have devoted themselves to farming for several years, and have built 12 houses. Some difficulties had arisen about the reserves of the Lake Manitoba Indians, but these have all been satisfactorily settled. One band is on the Fariford river, and has several houses and gardens, &c. Another is on the shores of the Lake St. Martin. The two only number 386. Some 15 families settled at the mouth of the Little Saskatchewan, erected 10 houses, and were sanguine of success. The other bands in that vicinity number in all 645, and pay little attention to agriculture.

The Sioux Indians have been granted a reserve of 7,936 acres, at the mouth of Oak river. 5 or 6 houses have been built and a few of them seem inclined to become permanent settlers. Another reserve of 6,885 acres, near Fort Ellice, was also surveyed for them, and they commenced at once to build houses and make gardens. It is hoped that in a year or two they will have become settled on their lands, and the White settlers will be free from their depredations.

The Indians, under Treaty No. 3, amount to 2,700. Up to the present time they have lived by hunting and fishing, but they are manifesting more disposition for agriculture. Their main settlements are on Rainy River, White Fish Bay, and Lone Lake. So far they have only raised corn, potatoes, and garden vegetables, but this spring the larger part of their reserves will have been surveyed and put in a position for actual settlement. Their behaviour has been at all times satisfactory. Schools are being asked for, and three or four teachers are to be appointed this year. Among all the Indians coming under the Superintendence of the Indian commissioner and agents' drunkenness has very greatly diminished, and for the last year no case of illegal barter with the Indians has been brought to light. The Superintendent presses strongly the importance of a local agent being in every place settled among them, "watching their progress, ready to give advice, and in a position to give encouragement and information," as the very best measure that can possibly be taken in the interest of the civilization of the Indians. The hunt is rapidly decreasing, and with the era of steamboat navigation, a great many are thrown out of employ as canoe-men. The necessity for instruction and help in agriculture, &c., is therefore very great.

CANADIAN SALMON.

The Commissioner of Fisheries has some very authoritative and sensible ideas on the reduction of our salmon stands, and it is proper that his views should be more widely circulated than is possible through the medium of a blue-book. He states that these stands are so numerous and are placed in such situations as seriously to obstruct the passage of salmon into the rivers. The natural consequence has been a steady decrease in this fishery. If these stands were thinned out, it would no doubt cause some temporary discontent; but ultimately the whole neighbourhood would be benefited. The fairest way to reduce them would probably be by associating together the owners of different stands and granting joint licenses for a reduced number of places. This plan would save the fishermen the greater expense of each man fishing a separate station; and the cost being divided among several would result in the fishery being worked more profitably. In some districts within the Province of Quebec the salmon fishery has increased in yield since 1868, nearly three hundred per cent., resulting from reducing the nets used in the estuaries and rivers, and protecting the fish whilst breeding. This improvement is most noticeable in the Restigouche and Moisie districts. After removing nets from the islands at the head of Chaleur Bay and from the channels of the estuary of River Restigouche, the salmon fishery in that district began immediately to improve. The same effect was observable in the River Moisie. At both places it is now clearly proved

that immoderate netting is a serious hindrance to the restoration of the salmon fishery, and a positive disadvantage to the fishermen themselves. It also is quite as clearly established that a moderate quantity of nets, judiciously situated, render at once a far more profitable return to the owners and admit of maintaining a permanent stock of mature salmon. This fact has a peculiar bearing on the regulation of the salmon fishery. The occupancy of salmon stands under formal titles enables the occupiers to economize both their own capital and labor and the public property in salmon. Where the fishery is carried on in a desultory and improvident manner, under such incitements to excess as are created by contentious rivalry and the prospect of mere temporary gain, it is extremely difficult to control fishery operations within reasonable bounds. But, on the other hand, where occupants can rely on the permanence of their holdings, and enjoy in successive years the benefit of their own moderation in each preceding season, the Department finds very little difficulty in controlling the pursuit. It is not easy to convince fishermen how much cheaper and more profitable it is in their own interest to conform to the same principles on which legal protection is founded and the departmental regulations are enforced. Nothing short of the plainest examples appears to be sufficient to attract their earnest attention. In the year 1859, when about 15,000 fathoms of nets were placed in the River Moisie, the salmon fishery yielded about 75,000 lbs. of fish; and in 1875, with only 2,500 fathoms of nets in use it produced 204,000 lbs. The yield has been increasing each year while the netting was in course of restriction. These examples forcibly illustrate the difference between the results of excessive and moderate netting in salmon rivers, and should commend themselves to the people of Gaspé.

THE BITER BIT.

We learn from the New York papers that the book publishers of that city have sent a memorial to the House of Representatives, in which they ask for the restoration of the old rate of postage (one cent for every two ounces) upon all printed matter. They set forth the reasons upon which they ground their case so clearly and logically that a wayfaring man, though a member of Congress, cannot err therein. They show in the first place, that the "spread of intelligence" plea, upon which the "penny dreadfuls" and "weekly wash-tubs" are carried at a merely nominal rate, is as justly applicable to books as to any other kind of printed matter, and especially so in view of the fact that school books and others of an educational character constitute three-fourths of all the books published in the United States. They show pretty conclusively, too, that the transportation of books at the old rate was never a source of loss to the department. They argue, in the second place, that the cheap distribution of circulars, advertising-sheets, and other printed matter tends directly to increase the correspondence by letter, and thus adds more to the revenues of the department than it takes away. The appeal for relief points out anew the fact that, if the Senate bill upon this subject shall become a law, Canadian merchants can send circulars from Montreal or Quebec to Galveston, Savannah, San Francisco, or any other Post-office in the United States for precisely one-fourth as much as it will cost American citizens to send theirs from New York to Brooklyn or Staten Island; and, further, that the Canadian publisher can send his books to any point in the United States under a similarly favorable rule, the Government protecting the foreign publisher at the expense of its own citizens. Finally, the publishers ask no special favor for themselves or their business. They ask only that the wholly absurd distinction which the Senate has made between occasional newspapers and magazines and other printed matter may be removed, and that the old rate may be restored to all mail matter of this kind. It is needless

to say that the American publishers are justified in their complaint, and that we trust they will succeed in having it attended to, but it does look like a satire, and a stroke of retributive justice, that men who have lived so long, and are still living, upon the fruits of foreign literature, should be thus sensitive about the very little competition which Canadian publishers could offer under the circumstances. Would that we were as jealous of our rights, in this and other commercial respects, as our American neighbors are.

SNOW BLOCKADES.

A correspondent writes us from Gaspé: "The whole village is buried in snow; nothing doing: not a living soul to be seen moving. A violent snow-storm set in on Sunday evening, with half gale from E. S. E. It snowed all night and all day; and such an amount of snow has never been seen here before. In some places, people have to get out of two-story houses by the upper windows, the snow being piled around them fifteen feet high. We have to use snow shoes altogether, and the drifts in some places are from 20 to 30 feet deep. All traffic on the roads is utterly stopped. Up the Metapedia Valley the snow-banks are something tremendous. The people have to climb out of top windows and shovel up in the air to get out of their houses. All along the coast the people are literally snowed up." We learn from the latest telegraphic advices from Gaspé that there is great distress on the coast, flour being very scarce. The roads being rendered impassable from the snow blockade, unless the navigation opens very early, there will be suffering it will be impossible to alleviate. People are destroying their horses and cattle as they have no means to feed them. In this connection, we may mention, there would have been actual starvation at the Moisie among the people left there by the stoppage of the Iron works, had not the Quebec Government come their aid. Deaths, probably, will take place and very great suffering that must, under the best circumstances, now be inflicted. The facts disclosed by this terrible visitation naturally make us say that if Mr. SEWELL'S steamer had only been built in time, it might have afforded most valuable aid. The necessity for having such a boat is very strongly demonstrated. These frightful snow-storms do not appear to be simply local. We have heard of the Union Pacific Railroad, many degrees down South on this continent, blocked up for weeks, to the depth of twenty or thirty feet; nor does the visitation seem to be confined to this continent, for railways in Scotland, within a short time, were buried to a depth of fifteen feet, causing much suffering.

FORT CHAMBLY OR PONTCHARTRAIN TRAIN.

We have been favoured by Charles Walkem, Esq., C. E., formerly of the Royal Engineer Staff in Canada, with a sketch and description of this very interesting and historical relic, (the only one of its kind in North America) erected in the days of its earliest settlers to protect them from the constant attacks of the aborigines of the country, as well as for offensive operations in later stages of its history. Could its old and crumbling walls speak of the scenes of horror and tragedy that have taken place before them under the continued assaults of an implacable foe, the crafty and revengeful Iroquois—they would furnish material for a romance equal to (and perhaps truer to life) than has ever been pictured to us in the most vivid lights by America's greatest novelist in his best romances of Indian Life. Such relics of a bygone and eventful era certainly should not be allowed to go to ruin. Five hundred years hence, if in existence—this old fort will be a hallowed spot to all tourists and antiquarians when this Dominion will be one of the powerful countries of the world.