

mission by the arrival of His Excellency the Hon. Alexander Morris, Lieut. Governor of the Province of Manitoba and the North-west Territories, on the first steamer ever seen in these parts, "the Colville."

The object of his visit was in response to the pressing representation of the wants of our people who are now thrown out of employment, without any means whereby to procure the necessary things for themselves and families.

A Reserve was given them at Fisher River, a place situated about twenty-five or thirty miles north of the "Grassy Narrows." The "Grassy Narrows" has to be given up to the Icelanders, who had secured the place from the Government before our treaty was made, so that the families who have gone to "Grassy Narrows" from this place will have to remove to the Fisher River next summer, to join about forty families from here who will go to the Reserve the first open water next season. The Reserve is for ninety families, which will provide farms for all of our Christian Indians. The Government has given three years for the transfer, after which no more can go, so that our people, as near as I can find, will all make that their future home.

The yearly grant from the Government is five dollars per head to every man, woman, and child, "as long as the sun shines or water runs."

The Government is very strict in locating the Indians and keeping them on their proper Reserves, so that of the twenty families who left here for "Grassy Narrows" last July thirteen will have to make St. Peter's, in Manitoba, their home, where they have already been treated with.

I need not urge the necessity of supplying a minister for Fisher River next year. Only this morning I read a letter from a Church of England clergyman to David Rundell, the Chief of our people, stating that he earnestly wished all the Indians of our mission who will move to Fisher River to join his Church.

He said he had no objections to the Methodist Church, but stated that it

was through his instrumentality that the present treaty was brought about. He therefore thinks that they should leave our Church and join his. Now, the fact of the whole case is this: He is trying to catch our people with guile. I am quite sure that he has not done as much to bring this treaty about as he takes credit for.

The present treaty has been brought about, as the Hon. Alexander Morris stated the day before the treaty was made, through the letters and personal representations of the Missionaries, and the necessities of the case arising out of the fact that our people are thrown out of employment, by steam navigation, and this country not being able to sustain in any possible way the large numbers already living here while engaged in tripping or boating for Hon. H. B. Co.

Norway House Fort, which heretofore has been the most important one in the Hon. Hudson Bay Companies' business, is now reduced to a mere trading post with two or three minor branches. And where formerly from sixty to eighty white servants were in constant employment, after this will only give employment to a few of the natives, who will meet all the requirements of the place, and consequently the Rossville Mission, which has been the most important and best Indian mission in the world, will be merely of secondary importance.

I have now fully stated the case in a few words. I hope you will gather a correct idea of what has been done, and also of what will be done.

Our Church certainly will not do her duty if she allows nearly four hundred members, the result of much hard toil, and the blessing of our gracious Master, to go forth to their new home as sheep without a shepherd; and if she does so, another Church will be more faithful to them in providing them with a shepherd, though he may not be just after their own choice.

I need not turn your attention to the future history of Fisher River. I hope it will be a record worthy of our dear people who have been such a noble band at Rossville hitherto.