

NATASHQUAN.

I met with 18 families and two widows, 83 souls in all.

While passing there on the 16th June for Grande Romaine they were all in the greatest misery, some of them had not eaten flour this Spring, they were dejected, badly clothed, and it was painful to see them; I at once distributed the \$75 that you had given me, in provisions, powder, shot, caps, and some clothes, which made them more cheerful and pleased with the assistance coming at that time. I went on to Grande Romaine, and on my return to Natashquan I visited all these families and took the census, as above; they had no chance during the winter of hunting for furs and game, nor for seal on their return to the sea, which was the cause of their suffering from hunger. At present there is nothing for them to do at Natashquan. They say they are too many white settlers on their hunting grounds. I think that this is the case. They have two useless boats, no house nor chapel, and the Hudson Bay Company have withdrawn their stores on account of the traders, which is an additional misfortune. They all wish to leave the place, and to settle with those of Grande Romaine. After having seen their great poverty, I have advised them to go to their brothers at Grand Romaine, where they would have game and seal while waiting to return to the woods, and they could fish for cod next year, unless your Government will give them the River Natashquan for salmon fishing; I know that it is your intention. I will be very glad to fish the river on their account, or lease it, for they are incapable of utilizing the product of it. If I had the river I would take a Reserve for them next year, wood is convenient, and they could remain in their respective places; but there is no farming to be done, the land is unfit for cultivation, the climate is cold.

There is no sickness, nor have I been able to learn of any serious cases of drunkenness amongst them, for a very good reason—they have no money to buy liquor; yet there, as elsewhere, traders of that class are not wanting.

MINGAN.

I met with 32 families, 9 widows, 3 of whom had children, 1 orphan boy, 5 orphan girls, in all 145 souls. Minthemum is under Chief.

Mingan, one of the oldest posts of the Montagnais, has a good harbour. I visited this post the 25th of June, and immediately went over the place for land for a reserve.

They had a middling catch of furs; there is little distress amongst them, with the exception of the aged, widows, &c., to whom I made the payment of the grant in provisions.

There is no contagious disease, only ordinary complaints. They live in cotton tents, and wigwams of birch bark; they have a good chapel. Formerly they lived in two log cabins (or rather camps); at present these are no longer serviceable.

These Indians go early in the fall to the woods, and return late in the spring. They are now all in the woods for the winter, with provisions advanced them by the Hudson Bay Co. They have no land at all; besides, the land is unfit for cultivation. They much prefer the woods, it is their nature.

Following your instructions I counselled them to fish, which they are disposed to do; they have two boats, but there are no cod at Mingan; they all wish to fish for salmon, had they a river; they address your Government to give them the River Mingan.

The Hudson Bay Company have a good store there for the necessary requirements of the Indians, if they wish to profit by it. At Mingan, as elsewhere, they spend too much of their time with traders, which is bad for them; it is one of the causes of their present poverty.

At the time of my visit I had not a single case of drunkenness to deplore; all the traders were on their guard, but in the absence of the agent they always find the means of bringing in these wretched liquors, for what reason? to attract the sympathy of the Indians so as to be able to deceive them, and to obtain their furs at a small price