

being detected, the amount overpaid was, upon instructions, deducted by Mr. Martineau from this year's annuity, and refunded.

The Lake St. Martin Indians are but slowly progressing in agriculture. This is largely attributable to uncontrollable circumstances, for the greater portion of their reserve is unfit for farming, owing to its marshy nature. Last season it was nearly all under water. The chief is desirous that an additional plot be given them across the narrows, where a few acres of suitable land are available. The granting of this would seriously interfere with the privilege of the fishery at that favoured locality, for it would place other parties at the mercy of the Indians, because that is the only camping ground in the vicinity outside the reserve. This band never received a pit-saw, nor a tool-chest, and is almost destitute of hoes and axes. The children are very backward in learning. Mr. Francis Store is engaged in teaching a number of them in a private house, there being no school-house on the reserve.

The Little Saskatchewan Indians are most importunate in their entreaties for a change of reserve. Their gardens were flooded with water last summer, and mostly all their potatoes destroyed. They are desirous of obtaining a dry and suitable location at Sandy Bay, a section of land halfway between St. Martin's and Fairford. The agent dismissed two of the councillors for refusing to abandon their locations at the lower mouth of the river, and remove to a place opposite their present holdings, at the arbitrary whims of the chief. An election was afterwards held, over which the agent presided, and other councillors were appointed. This proceeding, according to my understanding of the Indian Act, was most irregular, as the Governor alone is empowered to depose life chiefs from their positions, and that only for dishonesty, intemperance, immorality or incompetency.

The Crane River Indians, a fragment of the late Broken Fingers' Band, are very grateful for being allowed to retain their former holdings at the mouth of the river. They are also very thankful for being paid now their annuities on the reserve. Their improvements are unparalleled in this Superintendency, considering their limited opportunities. They had the finest crop of potatoes this year I ever saw. They request that the payments of the two councillors, still remaining, of Chief Broken Fingers, be resumed, as only five dollars had been annually received since his death.

The Water Hen Indians are progressing but slowly in agriculture. Their reserve is generally low and wet, but unusually so last season. An extension southward is asked to embrace clearings of chief's sons.

Some Duck Bay Indians complain that Joseph Bosseau, their late councillor, being accused of pawning to a trader, for a little tea, a quantity of treaty twine, enough to complete one net, and failing to redeem it, was tried by the agent, found guilty, and deposed for dishonesty. An election was held immediately to fill the vacancy thus created. Two candidates were nominated, Joseph Bosseau and Baptiste Quenezane, the one receiving six and the other seven votes, hence the latter was chosen. I take similar objection to this procedure that I have taken to the dismissal of councillors at the Little Saskatchewan, with this aggravating difference, that the party deposed in this instance appears to have been eligible for re-election.

#### THE AGENCY OF MR. MATHEWS.

In a special report, written on the 5th July last, the state of affairs in this agency was discussed, but the following details relative to the condition and requirements of the several bands were inadvertently omitted therefrom. All the chiefs and councillors complained of not receiving their last triennial suits of clothing. The Lac des Mille Lacs Indians have no domestic animals of any description, except a hungry pack of dogs. All the cattle received from the Department were killed and eaten. The only crops raised are potatoes, which are not cultivated very extensively, owing to the