

sixty-hoes, four grooving picks, twelve hay forks, two wrenches, and two sets of harness. The Episcopal Mission School taught by Miss Budd was closed on the 1st of July last, on account of the teacher having got married. The Indians living up the River six or seven miles, at the Big Eddy had erected the walls of a school-house 19 by 25 feet in size, but as they were informed that this was all they were required to do towards the building, they are expecting the Government to complete it and send them a teacher to educate their children, as they are growing up in ignorance, never having had the opportunity of attending a place of learning. They say that the Agent made some arrangement with certain traders named Shannon and Hartman to finish the school-house in spring for \$100, but that those parties want more than that amount to be promised them before they undertake it. The chief asked for a copy of the treaty, on parchment, according to the promise made to them. He asks that liberty be granted them to sell the surplus of hay and potatoes they may have, as well as permission to sell cordwood to steamboats. The Agent refused payment of Abraham Bell's annuity when his ticket and order was presented to him by Joseph Houston, officer in charge of the Hudson Bay Company's Post there, but for what reasons I was unable to find out. Charles Buck complained that having met the Agent at the Big Eddy after the payments had been made, he was told that he would have to go up to Cumberland for his annuity, which he did, and was told there, after waiting for days for his money, that he would have to go back to the Pas for it, which he also did, and was there paid \$5, the amount due him. I went, as instructed by the Department, and examined the land outside the southern limits of the reserve, and found an extensive muskeg covered with two feet of moss underneath which in some places is sand, in others limey clay. It is covered with a stunted growth of scrubby red spruce. I consider it worthless for agricultural purposes, even if drained, and would recommend that no expenses be incurred in endeavouring to reclaim it.

#### *Cumberland.*

I left the Pas on the 11th of September and reached this reserve on the 13th. I first visited the Episcopal Mission school taught by the Revd. Mr. Davis, and found twenty pupils present, although fifty-six names were on the register yet; the majority of the children being frequently away with their parents on fishing and hunting excursions the attendance was very irregular, but notwithstanding these unfavorable circumstances their advancement in education was most satisfactory and encouraging. The teacher complained of not receiving any of his salary for the fifteen months taught, although he scrupulously complied with the requirements of the Department in mailing promptly his Quarterly Returns at the close of each term. On making inquiries of the clerks in this office, I was informed that a number of those returns were handed to them last July by the Agent, and another was left here by him in October last; that they sent them promptly on receipt to Ottawa, from which cheques were duly received and forwarded to Mr. Davis. I afterwards had an interview with the chief, councillors and Indians, and ascertained that they had forty dwelling houses, nine stables, fifteen acres under cultivation, seven ploughs, seven harrows, twenty four head of cattle, 750 bushels of potatoes, seventy tons of hay, and a school-house 18 x 30 feet in the course of erection which they intended to finish during the fall. As their reserve here is unuitable for cultivation and their other sources of subsistence are exhausted, the chief, on behalf of thirty families, asked to be allowed to remove to Fort a la Corne, where nine of their number had already settled. He says that unless their petition is granted, before long the Government will have to feed them or else they will starve to death. Factor Belanger informed me that twelve families, representing fifty-seven annuitants, were absent during the payments last August, and that the usual authority had been given him by those parties for drawing their annuities, but that the Agent refused to recognize the orders presented for the annuities of those absentees, although made out in accordance with his own instructions, from a form furnished by himself. This action of the Agent, Mr. Belanger alleges, was contrary to that adopted by him